

Build a Home of Hope

Christian Aid Week churches campaign action

How to use this resource

This action can be taken by any group of people before or during Christian Aid Week. We suggest you include it in your service on Christian Aid Week Sunday (13 May 2018) as a collective response. It will take 8-10 minutes including a worship song.

Give each person a paper 'brick of hope' and a pen, either as they walk in, or on their seats. The session includes a short prayer. Read the prayer aloud, project it on a screen or print it in your church notice sheet.

Invite everyone to sign the campaign petition at the end.



Brick by brick...

Follow these three simple steps to prepare to build your Home of Hope.

- Draw a house shape with tape on a table or wall at the front of church.
- Photocopy the brick template, and get plenty of pens so everyone can write a message.
- Give people tape or glue sticks to stick on their brick.



Marcelin and his three daughters lost their home in Haiti.

1. Reflect

Read this script to your church or group.

Today we join thousands of others in support of Christian Aid Week. As followers of Jesus, we are called to step out in mission and prayer with the world's poorest people. This year, we walk in solidarity with our global neighbours who are forced from their homes.

Our neighbours like Marcelin. He lost his home in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew tore through Haiti. Marcelin and his three teenage daughters are now living in a 2x2m block of concrete, which used to be a communal shower. There are no windows, and the only furniture is a single bed. It's a tiny, claustrophobic space in constant, sweltering heat.

Marcelin works hard to raise his children alone, cooking, cleaning and caring for them. He can no

longer afford to send all his daughters to school, and it's a struggle even to provide enough food. Sometimes they go hungry.

This hard-working father is worried about his daughters all the time. He's anxious that their hunger could lead them to be exploited by predatory men in exchange for food. And his daughters worry that his hunger puts him at risk of serious illness.

Marcelin calls on God to give him faith and strength to care for his children. But although he's strong, he can't take much more. When we asked what would happen if another earthquake struck, he replied: 'We'd die.'

Marcelin is a short distance from his old home. Like Marcelin, millions of people who have lost their home are still in their own country.

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Seeking safety but unwilling or unable to cross a border, they are largely ignored by the international community and denied the official protection afforded to refugees.

If we knew all their names, it would take us well over a year to read them aloud – even without stopping to sleep. The reasons for their displacement are many: conflict, flooding, drought, fear. The poorest face the hardest challenges. Displacement increases the chances of people losing out on jobs and education, and it puts them at increased risk of violence.

The United Nations and its member states are working on two new agreements on refugees and migration, but neither will help people displaced in their own country. The world can and must do better. All people on the move should be protected from

harm and have a chance to rebuild their lives, not just survive.

We can help bring hope to our sisters and brothers. I invite you now to take your 'brick of hope' (*hold up template*) and write a word, short message or prayer for people who have been forced from their homes. These bricks will build a Home of Hope; an act of solidarity with displaced people around the world. (*Everyone writes on their brick.*)

After the service, please sign our petition to the UK Government. We're asking our government to support better protection for all people on the move. The Home of Hope that we build today, together with our petitions, will be presented to the government, to ensure no one is left behind.

2. Build a Home of Hope

Either play or sing *The Song of Kingdom Come* (or another suitable hymn) and ask each person to place their brick and build a house together. Find *The Song of Kingdom Come* video, sheet music and words at caweek.org/resources

3. Pray

Finish by saying this prayer:

Give us, Lord God, a vision of your Kingdom as your love desires it,

a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry,

a world where life is shared, and enjoyed by all,

a world where all races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and respect,

a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love,

and give us the inspiration and courage to build it.

Amen.

4. You have a voice – now make it heard!

- Take a photo of your Home of Hope and share it on social media. Use the hashtag #caweek We'll use your photos to show solidarity with displaced people and call on our government to protect the rights of people on the move.
- Ask your community to sign the enclosed petition to the UK Government. Make sure you have enough copies for everyone to sign. The petition can also be signed online at caweek.org/petition
- Send your bricks and petitions to The Campaigns Team, Christian Aid, 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL. The bricks will be delivered, with your petitions to the Prime Minister, ahead of the UN General Assembly in September.



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