

NAME:

St Vincent de Paul Society – Asylum Seekers and Refugees

COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

Read 'The St Vincent de Paul Society' (page 36) section of the factbook and complete the activities below.

1. What services are provided by the St Vincent de Paul Society to assist refugees? Give some explanation of how these services help refugees.

2. Why does the St Vincent de Paul Society help/support refugees?

3. What are the key recommendations made by the St Vincent de Paul Society with regard to Australia's refugee policies?

4. What are the elements of the 'common good'? How would implementing 'Vinnies recommendations' (page 37) for asylum seekers achieve the common good?



Teacher Guide – St Vincent de Paul Society

– Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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1. What services are provided by the St Vincent de Paul Society to assist refugees? Give some explanation of how these services help refugees.

The St Vincent de Paul Society provides financial and information support through avenues such as home visitation, food and financial help, visits to detention centres and the establishment of homework centres. In addition, SVDP Queensland runs the VORTCS refugee support program. Also, SVDP Settlement Services helps with housing support, education enrolment, employment and more.

2. Why does the St Vincent de Paul Society help/support refugees?

The St Vincent de Paul Society believes that refugees are valuable in Australian society with the potential to contribute wonderful skills, gifts and talents to our community. They deserve to feel safe and supported when arriving in Australia and assisting refugees furthers the Society’s vision of providing a hand up, not a hand out.

3. What are the key recommendations made by the St Vincent de Paul Society with regard to Australia’s refugee policies?

Some of the key recommendations made by the St Vincent de Paul Society are:

- Increasing the number of places allocated to the Refugee Resettlement and Special Humanitarian Programmes.
- Have an annual offshore resettlement program of at least 30,000 places.
- Change the policy of linking the offshore and onshore humanitarian intake numbers.

4. What are the elements of the ‘common good’? How would implementing ‘Vinnies recommendations’ (page 37) for asylum seekers achieve the common good?

The three elements of the common good are respect for the human person, social well-being and development of the group, and peace. Implementing the St Vincent de Paul Society’s recommendations would mean respecting the dignity of asylum seekers. It has also been proven that refugees bring positive effects to societies as a whole. In addition, helping refugees escape persecution allows them to live a peaceful life.