

Learning About Refugees

The Past, the Stories, and
How We Can Make Things Fair



Can be used for World Refugee Day and beyond

Terminology

What does 'refugee' and 'asylum seeker' actually mean?



'Asylum Seeker'

Think 🤔

Pair 👤

Share 📢



'Asylum Seeker'

- **Definition:** An asylum seeker is a person who has made a claim for protection to a state which has signed the UN Convention on Refugees 1951 and **is waiting for a decision**
- **Example:** A person arriving in the UK from Afghanistan and applying for asylum due to fear of persecution.



'Refugee'

Think 🤔

Pair 👤

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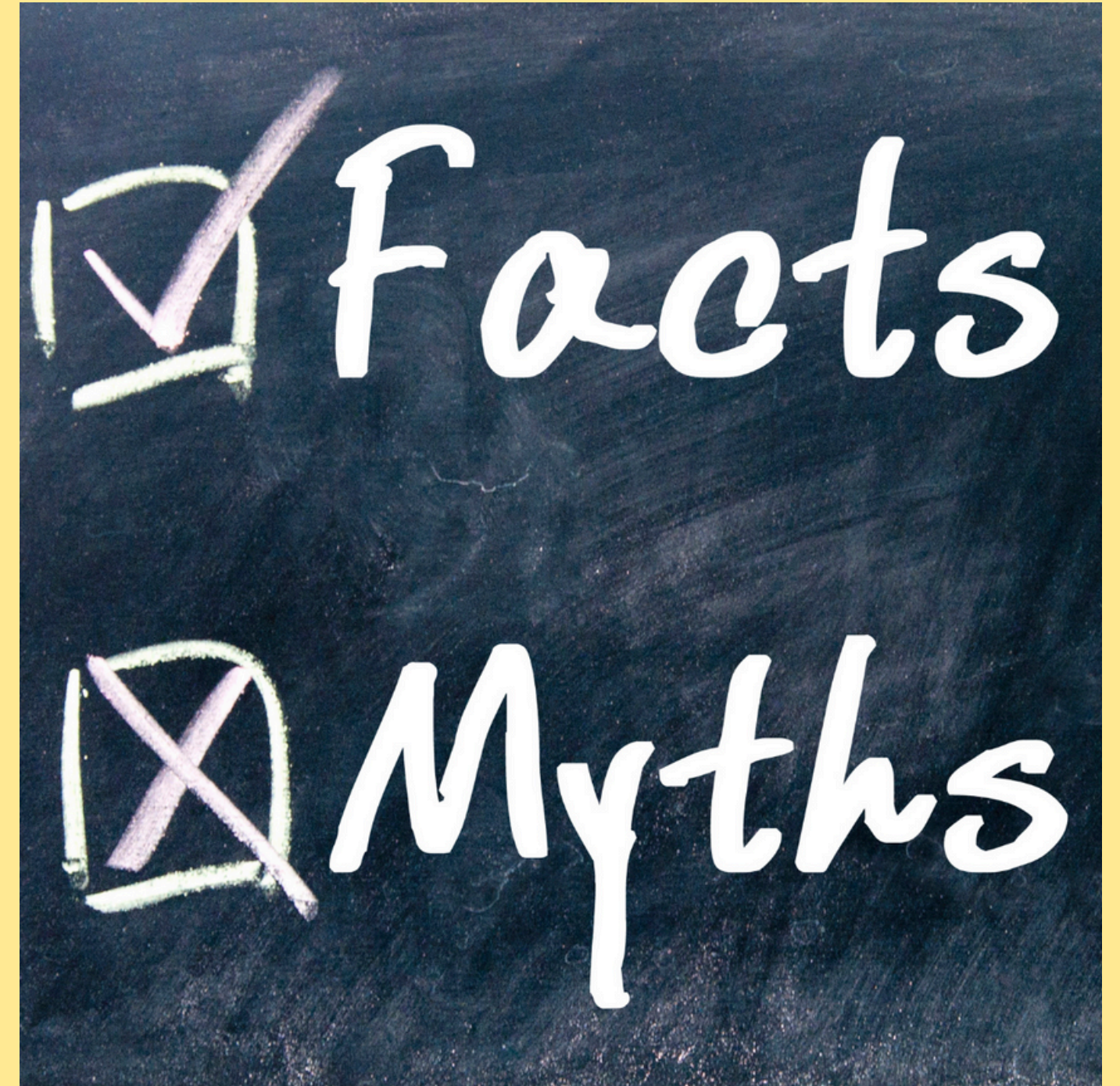


'Refugee'

- **Definition:** A Refugee is a person whose application for protection **has been recognised** under the UN Convention on Refugees 1951 and therefore has been given protection from a country.
- **Example:** a person fleeing armed conflict in Syria and unable to return due to ongoing danger.



Myths vs Reality



“Seeking safety is illegal..”

Think 🤔

Pair 👤

Share 📢



Myth

“Seeking safety is illegal...”

Reality

- **Everyone has the right to ask for safety** in another country. This is called seeking asylum, and it's a human right.
- No matter how someone travels to the UK, it is not against the law if they are coming to ask for protection

**“The UK is already doing more than
its fair share...”**

Think 🤔

Pair 👤

Share 📢



Myth: “The UK is already doing its fair share...”

Reality

The UK is home to just 1% of all the refugees in the world. It's not one of the top 10 countries helping the most.

The countries that have the most are:

- Iran – 3.8 million
- Turkey – 3.3 million
- Colombia – 2.9 million

**Most refugees
– about 75 out
of 100 –
stay in
countries next
to their own.**

“Refugees do not make a positive difference in society...”

Think 🤔

Pair 👤

Share 📢



Myth: “Refugees do not make a positive difference in society.”

Reality

Refugees contribute in various ways through their skills and talents. This includes businesses, community initiatives, working in the NHS, schools, and more, making the UK a more interesting and diverse country.

Other contributions from refugees include music, food, art and languages.



Accountability



Colonial Legacy

In the past, Britain ruled over many countries in places like Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. This was called **colonialism**.

During that time, Britain **took control of land and resources** and **drew borders without thinking about the people who lived there**.

This caused **problems and unfairness** that still affect those countries today.

How can you take action?



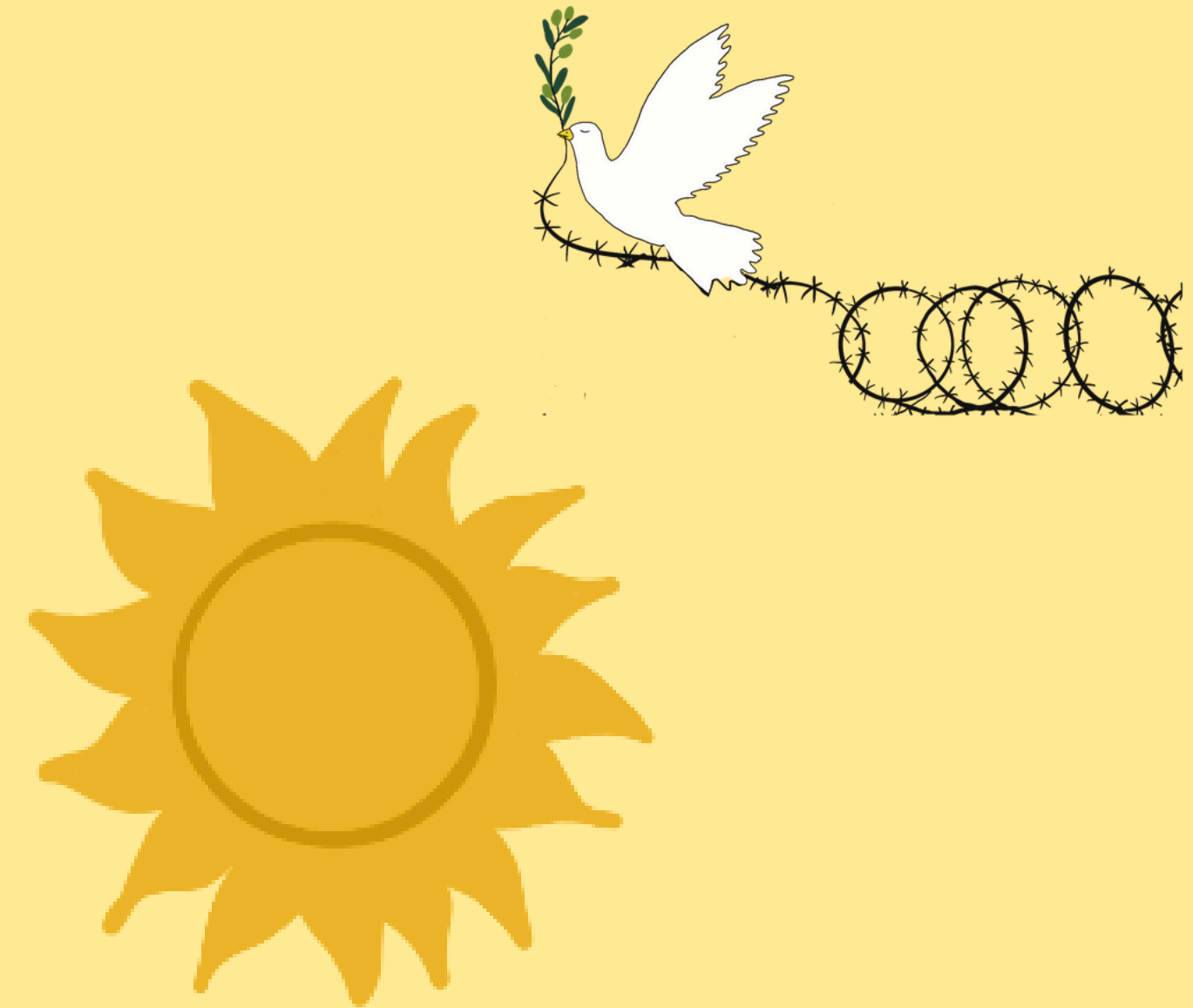
Take action on World Refugee Day!

On **World Refugee Day (20 June)** we invite schools to **make placards/postcards/videos**/etc responding to the phrase:

'On WRD I wish for...'

which can then be posted on social media using the hashtag

#AyeWelcomeRefugees



How to take action: more ideas

You can do lots of things to show support – here are some ideas:

Welcome children from a refugee or asylum seeking background who are new to your school

Make posters or leaflets with positive messages and facts (e.g., “Refugees are just like us!” or “Don’t believe everything you see online.”).

Create a school assembly with songs, poetry, or drama showing real refugee stories.

Run a “Myth Buster” campaign in school—
where each week a new myth is busted on a wall display or in the newsletter.

Write welcome letters or cards to refugees in the community or local shelters.

What other ideas do you have?



How to take action: creative projects

Here are some examples of projects from different schools in Scotland developed to raise awareness about different causes:

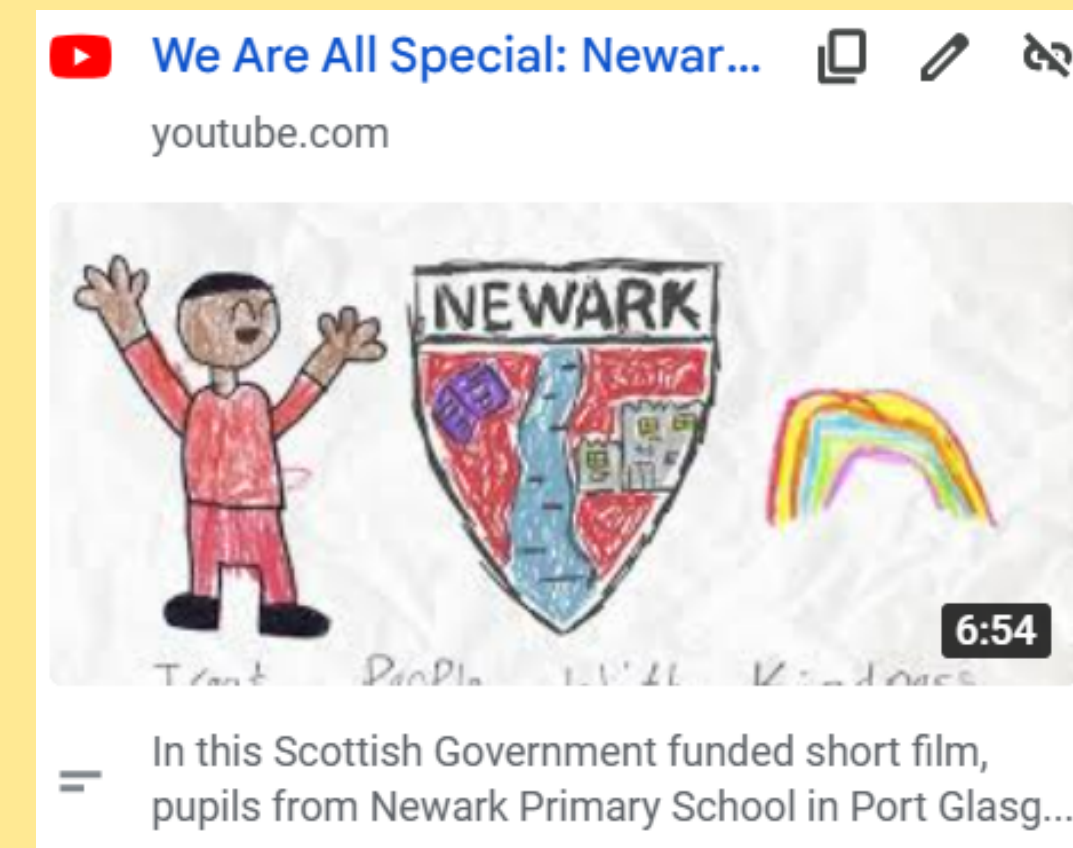
Designing billboards

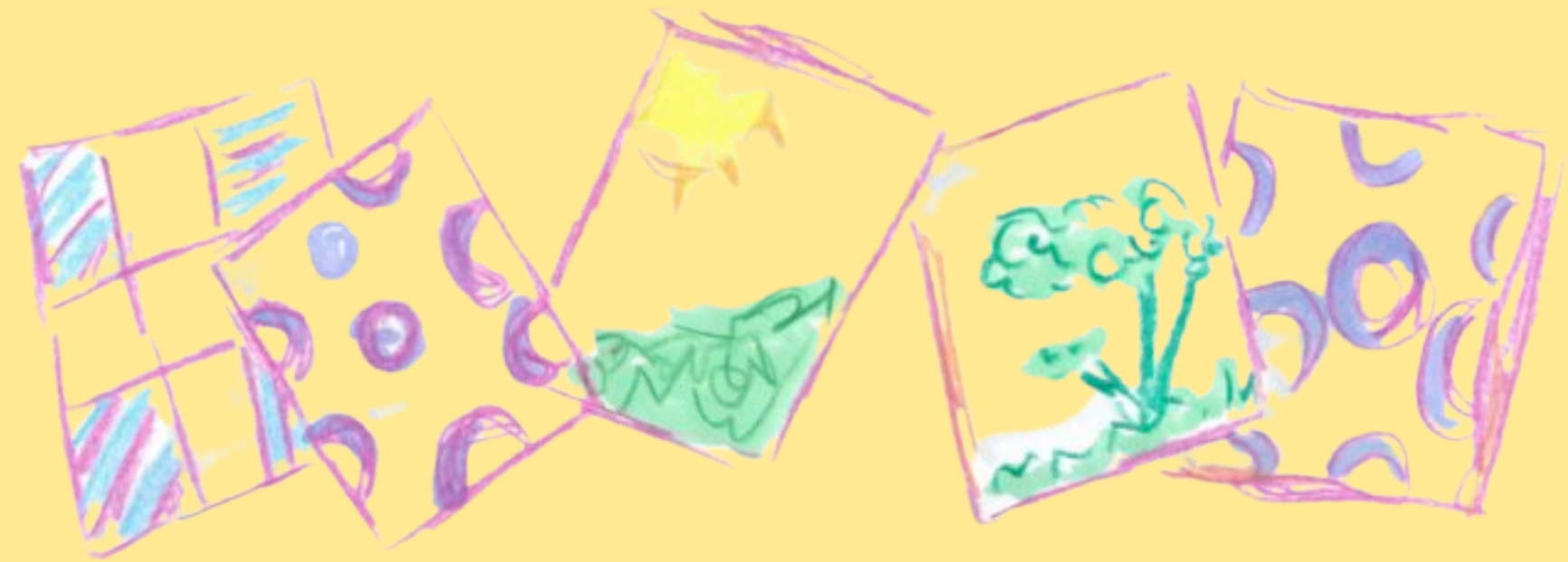
Newark Primary (Port Glasgow)



Creating a film

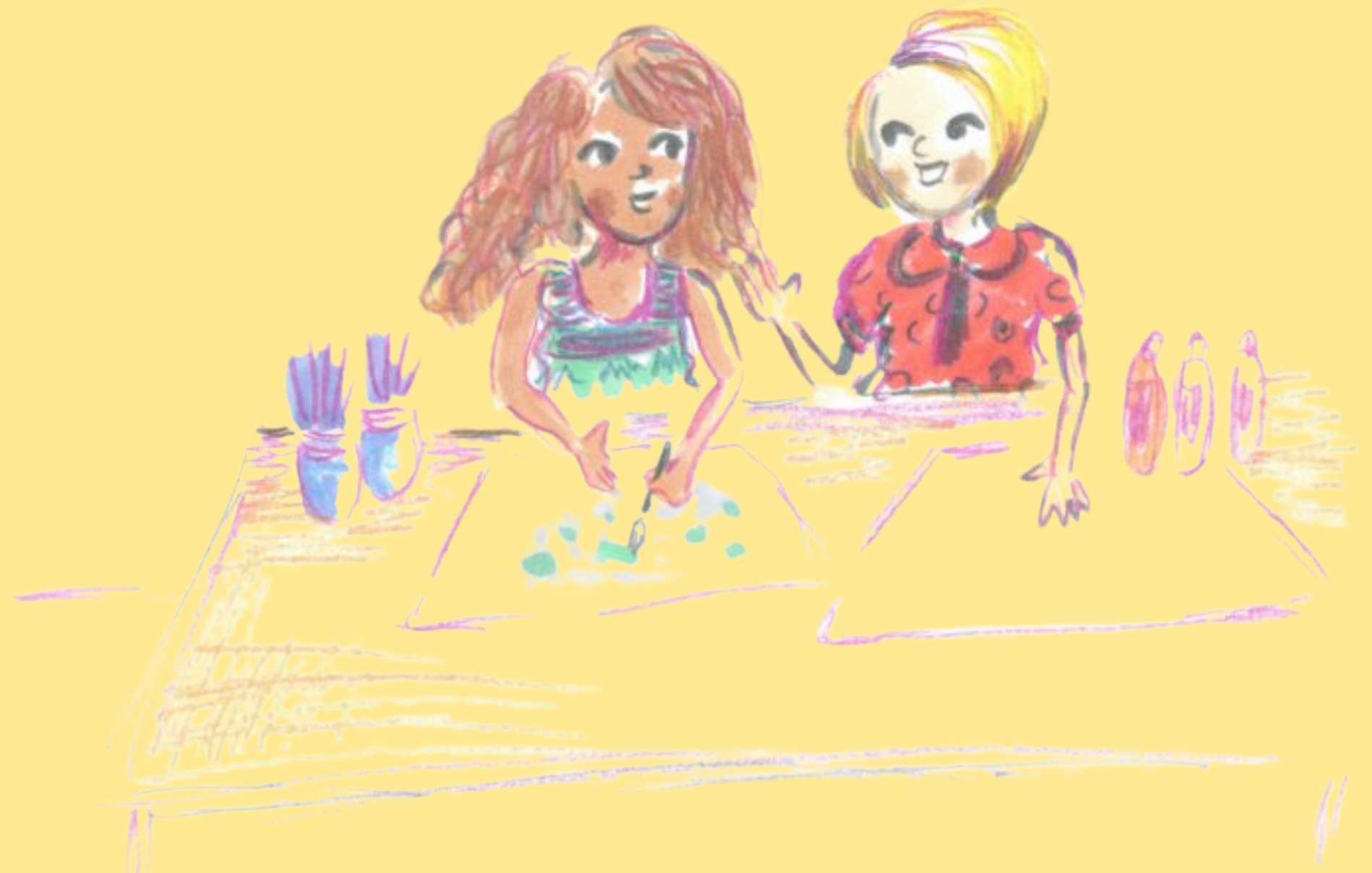
Newark Primary (Port Glasgow)





Writing your own book

St Albert's Primary (Glasgow)



Building a better
future with refugees
for forty years

