

faces



How much can you tell about someone by looking at their face? Look at these six faces and try to match each one with the jobs below. Then turn the page to find out if you were right and to discover what the people all have in common.

Journalist
Sex therapist
Human rights campaigner
Writer
Singer
Model



US ● ● ● WHY DID YOU LEAVE?

How did you leave? Who helped you? What has been a positive aspect of your experience? These were some of the questions answered by refugees and former refugees in a survey organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as part of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on Refugees.

What is a refugee?

Refugees are people who flee their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group. A refugee either cannot return home or is afraid to do so.

Why is 2001 special?

This year is the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, which defined the legal status of refugees, including their rights and obligations. All countries that have signed the Convention (there are currently 139) promise to respect the basic human rights of refugees.

What's the message?

The theme of this year's events is *respect*: respect for the values of the Convention, and respect for the people today who have to leave their homes as refugees. In the heat of the current debates about refugees and immigrants, one factor that people often forget is the huge contribution refugees can make and have made to the countries where they go to live.

What do I do?

We have included some extracts from the biographies of refugees on these pages, but we have mixed up their pasts and their presents. See if you can identify the refugees and put their stories back together again.

aWorkInProgress

Presents

A) She is a famous writer and novelist. Her books have been translated into more than 27 languages and two of them have been adapted into films. She works with many charities and provides scholarships to under-privileged women and children. She has received many awards for her life's work.

B) She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation based on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples. She works on projects in education, health care, community development, and human rights. She participates in conferences all over the United States and in Europe.

C) He is now a Canadian citizen. He has finished high school and is a popular singer and songwriter. He has inherited the poetic skills of his ancestors. His songs speak for young people, using rap and hip-hop to sing of their alienation and confusion.

D) She is America's most famous sex therapist. She has written several books on human sexuality, hosted a popular radio show, and become a well-known TV personality and lecturer as a professor at New York University.

E) He worked both as a journalist and a public information officer for the United Nations Information Center until his retirement. He has his own radio show and volunteers at the *Ateneo Español*, a Spanish exile organization in Mexico.

F) She lives in Manhattan and works for a modeling agency. She is one of the most popular models in the fashion business. She has appeared on the catwalks of New York, London, Paris, and Milan. She has been on the cover of *Elle*, and received the MTV award for model of the year. She has also campaigned to raise awareness about other refugees from her country.



As part of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, the UNHCR has set up a Web site (www.unhcr-50.org) with information about events happening around the world. The site also includes a Gallery of Prominent Refugees, "a work in progress" where refugee biographies are posted online every week. These are only a sample of the stories at the site. Visit the Gallery to see other life stories both past and present.

MATCH THE PRESENTS WITH THE PASTS

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE CORRESPONDING PICTURE

SEE THE EXAMPLE

Pasts

1) **FELIPE DE LA LAMA-NORIEGA** left Spain the day Barcelona fell to fascist forces in 1939. He was nine years old. His family first went to France, and then to Mexico in 1942 with other Spanish refugees. He studied psychology at the National University of Mexico and acting at the Fine Arts National Institute. In 1989, he won a prize for a story, "We, the Refugees," which he wrote for a local television show.

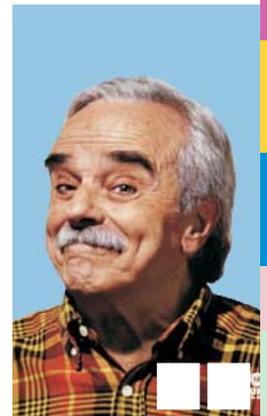
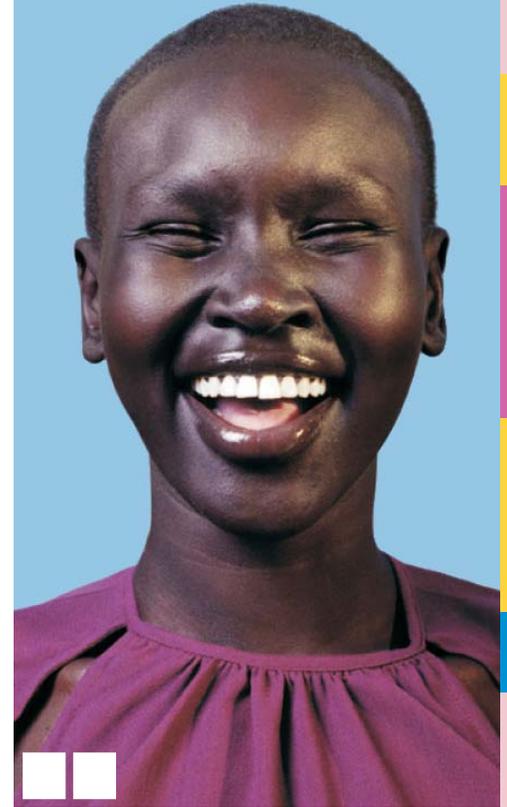
2) **KEINAAN** was born on April 16, 1977, in Mogadishu, Somalia. However, the civil war in Somalia forced him and his family to flee on the last plane out of the city in 1993. They landed in Toronto and, with the support of family members, were granted refugee status.

3) **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM** was born on January 9, 1959, in the Guatemalan peasant village of Chimel. While she was growing up she was very active in defending the rights of her people and culture, the Maya-Quiche. During the military oppression of the Indian population in the 1980s various members of her family were tortured and/or assassinated by the armed forces. She had to flee to Mexico, but she continued to organize resistance to oppression in Guatemala and the struggle for Indian peasant peoples' rights.

4) **ISABEL ALLENDE** went into exile after her uncle, who was president of Chile at the time, was overthrown in a coup d'état on September 11, 1973. She and her family received death threats, and they went to Venezuela. In Venezuela she continued her career as a journalist by writing for a local newspaper. In 1998, she moved to the United States to take a post as a visiting professor in literature. She continued to write and publish books. In 1990, after 15 years in exile, she returned to Chile after democracy was re-established.

5) **ALEK WEK** was born the seventh of nine children in Wau, southern Sudan. She escaped the war in her country when she was 14. She left alone with only the clothes on her back, and convinced a military plane to take her to safety. In 1991 she was given refugee status in London with her sister. Her mother joined them later. The rest of the family also escaped, but has never been reunited. She was discovered by a modeling agency at a street fair in London in 1995.

6) **DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER** was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1928. During her childhood, her synagogue was burned, her school was shut down, and her father was taken away by Nazi officers. Soon after this her mother sent her to a children's refugee camp in Heiden, Switzerland. After the war she emigrated first to Israel and later to France before finally going to the United States in 1956. In the United States, she obtained her master's degree in sociology from the New School of Social Research as well as her doctorate of education from Columbia.



a Refugee recall

The sentences below are all about the six refugees in the magazine feature. Write the name of the correct person next to each sentence. Do this as quickly as you can. Look back at the feature again if you need to.

The refugees: Felipe, Keinaan, Rigoberta, Isabel, Alek, and Ruth

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 She has worked in TV, on the radio, as a writer, and as a university lecturer. 2 Two films have been based on her books. 3 He used to work for the United Nations. 4 He is a rap and hip-hop singer. 5 As a child she was the victim of Nazi persecution. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Her father was president of his country. 7 She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. 8 He has lived in Canada for the last eight years. 9 He has a degree in psychology. 10 She was in danger in her own country and escaped to Mexico. |
|---|---|

b Word building

Complete the table with the correct verbs. An example has been done for you.

NOUN	VERBS
alienation	alienate
confusion	
contribution	
defense	
development	
discovery	
information	
immigration	
organization	
participation	
persecution	
respect	

Now complete these sentences with words from the table. You may need to change the form of any verbs that you use.

- 1 Refugees are people who flee their country because of a fear of _____ for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion.
- 2 While she was growing up, Rigoberta was very active in _____ the rights of her people.
- 3 When she escaped to Mexico, Rigoberta continued to _____ resistance to oppression in Guatemala.
- 4 Alek was _____ by a modeling agency at a street fair in London.
- 5 In his songs, Keinaan sings of the alienation and _____ of young people.
- 6 Felipe worked as a public _____ officer for the United Nations.
- 7 Rigoberta _____ in conferences all over the USA and in Europe.
- 8 It is easy to forget the huge _____ that refugees can make to the countries where they go to live.

c Acronym

An acronym is a word made up from the first letters of the name of something such as an organisation. For example, USA is the acronym for the United States of America. How many of the following acronyms can you identify? What are they in your language?

