



Remembering Refuge

Between Sanctuary and Solidarity

What are Provocations?

Provocations are the questions that lie at the heart of conversations about migration and borders, but that often are not made explicit. The provocations emerged from the overarching themes that developed out of the team's engagement with the oral histories. They are points of entry that both inform and are informed by the oral histories and are meant to provoke critical thinking and engagement.

Provocation: What does refuge look like?

At its core, the term 'refuge' implies the provision of shelter or protection. This provocation encourages you to ask: What does seeking refuge look like for different people? It might be about finding physical safety or the absence of harm, but it can also be about finding a place of acceptance or comfort or being able to provide for oneself and one's family. (Implied in the term refuge can also be the meaning of 'home'.)

- What does the word 'refuge' mean to you?
- Where do you find home?
- What does seeking refuge look like to you?
- What does seeking refuge look like for different people?

From the Remembering Refuge Archive

At rememberingrefuge.com/oral-histories, you can explore a collection of oral histories where individuals share their experiences of crossing the Canada-US border to seek refuge, along with accounts from advocates in border communities. The following excerpts have been chosen for their relevance to the provocation “What does refuge look like?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Key moments from the oral histories:

Jose - Text-only, Chapter 9 “Making Home”

Pablo 00:29:11 - 00:39:41

Karla 00:58:44 - 01:09:22

Antonio - Text-only, Chapter 13 “What does refuge mean to you?”

Juliana 00:43:15 - 00:46:28

To access the key moments, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Oral histories”.
3. Scroll to find the oral history you’re looking for, and click on it.
 - a. Note: Some oral histories may include a trigger warning. Click the play button to continue.
4. Inside the story, click “Explore X’s story” located at the top of the page to view a list of Key Moments from the oral history.
 - a. Note: Jose and Antonio’s oral history does not have this feature. To explore their story, scroll horizontally through the chapters to find the one you’re looking for, then click on it. Inside the chapter, you can access the transcript and Key Moments.
5. Scroll through the Key Moments to find the timestamp you’re looking for and click on it. This will take you to that moment in the audio.
6. To play the story, click on the play button in the bottom-left corner.

Education Resources

At rememberingrefuge.com/education, you can find education resources designed to activate the counter-archive by encouraging learners to engage with the stories meaningfully and consider how the knowledge can be applied beyond the classroom. The following materials were selected for their relevance to the provocation “What does refuge look like?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Education Resources:

Push & Pull Factors

Human Smuggling and Trafficking

To access the education resources, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Education”.
3. Scroll to find the education resource you’re looking for, and click on it.
4. Once inside you can view the online version or download the PDF.

What have other people said about this question?

Cathrine Brun and Anita Fábos, *Making Home in Limbo? A Conceptual Framework*, 2015
<https://refuge.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/refuge/article/view/40138>

Marta Bausells and Maeve Shearlaw, *Poets speak out for refugees: 'No one leaves home, unless home is the mouth of a shark'*, 2015
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/16/poets-speak-out-for-refugees->

Warsan Shire, “*Conversations About Home (at the deportation centre)*”, 2009
<https://vimeo.com/164022700>

Warsan Shire, “*Home*”, 2015
<https://www.amnesty.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/home-by-warsan-shire.pdf>

Want to learn more about the project? Visit rememberingrefuge.com