Are you ready to join us in a global effort to walk 1 million kilometres in solidarity with migrants and refugees?

**Share the Journey Solidarity Walk Guide**

Caritas’ Share the Journey campaign is encouraging communities around the world to spend time with migrants and refugees, get to know them and walk and live in solidarity with them.

Our global walk is an opportunity to stand together with migrants and refugees and to spread a message of hope, love and solidarity in a world which really needs it. We are all called to be part of this moment in history. Which story do we want to be part of: one of despair and paralysis, or one of global hope and solidarity?

By walking with migrants and refugees, we not only form a bond of friendship and understanding but we send a message to world leaders that walls, barriers and a narrative of fear are not where our future lies.

“Hope is the force that drives us to share the journey, because the journey is made jointly” Pope Francis

Share the Journey responds to Pope Francis’ call to promote the “culture of encounter”. By opening our hearts and minds to others, we strengthen our relationships and communities. We make our journey side by side and we also journey towards each other.
HOW TO ORGANISE A WALK IN FIVE EASY STEPS

You can organise a walk in any part of the world and make your kilometres count as part of a truly global effort.

1 GET INFORMED

Think about who the migrants in your family are or were. Take a look at your community and see who the migrants are. What makes people take the decision to leave their homes? Take a look at the Understanding Migration pages on our website journey.caritas.org and think about the narratives you hear in the media about migration versus what you know first-hand and what people say they have experienced.

2 FORM YOUR WALKING GROUP

Talk to people in your community including migrants and refugees and young people and see if they’d like to join you for a solidarity walk. Think about inviting community leaders and notable figures to walk with you. Give everyone the solidarity walk FAQs on journey.caritas.org/walk and tell them that it’s their opportunity to take part in a global initiative aimed at bringing people closer together to build stronger communities. Show them some videos from the Share the Journey campaign to inspire them to take action.

- Be inspired by this video which shows how the shoes of migrants can tell a story.
- See how communities around the world “reached out” along with migrants and refugees as a gesture of friendship.
- Listen to what Pope Francis said to launch the Share the Journey campaign.

3 WHERE-WHEN-HOW?

Choose a time and a date and a place to walk to and from. The walk can be in your local area or around a school field or else you can choose a place that’s significant to migration and decision-making. You could consider walking to a port or along a border. You could take your voices to parliament to raise awareness about the need to stand together with migrants. Do what is possible within your limits. See here the story of a tenacious gentleman who offered solidarity with migrants and refugees by walking up and down the hospital ward where he was being treated.

Consider printing out coloured t-shirts with the Share the Journey logo to add an element of fun and so everyone has a sense of belonging. Can you think of other things to make the walk a memorable experience? Could you sing songs as you walk? Fly flags and hold banners with the Share the Journey logo or with other messages? Remember to take water and snacks and to cover up well if it’s a sunny day.

4 COMMUNICATE!

Make sure people are invited to your walk through social media. The more the merrier! You could ask your local paper to put the walk in its events section and put up flyers in local shops a few weeks before the walk.

Post photos, videos and quotes from your walk on social media using the #sharejourney hashtag. Get 20/30 second clips from the migrants who are participating in which they talk about their hopes, fears, joys and why they came to a different country. Share widely!

5 ADD YOUR KILOMETRES TO THE GLOBAL TOTAL

Once you’ve completed your walk, calculate the number of kilometres (number of people who walked multiplied by the number of kilometres walked) and insert into our totaliser on journey.caritas.org/walk. The kilometres you and your group walked will be added to the global total that will help us reach 1 million kilometres.

In the words of Pope Francis, remember that “the future most of all is in the hands of those people who recognise the other as “you” and themselves as part of “us”. Watch video. By walking together, we build our lives and face our future together.