

# THE MANIFESTO

## Stand up for refugees

### I want:

1. **I open my eyes to reality** because I want to be sensitive to the world around me. I see people running away from violence and people using violence to stop them. That disturbs me. Yet I will stand up and help wherever and whenever I see a need that I can handle.

... I am *not* naive, but realistic. I will neither exaggerate nor belittle any problem.

2. **I open my heart** because I believe that God created all people in His image and in His likeness. Unique beings, each of them with his or her own story, all of them longing for a meaningful and joyful life. Trusting God, I will not be afraid but be available for people in distress, just like Jesus Christ was.

....My heart will be controlled not by fear but by love. Because true love casts out fear.

3. **I choose meekness** because I believe that the meek shall inherit the earth. When people choose strong language, rejection, or even hatred towards refugees, perhaps out of a loss of control, I will respond calmly and sensibly.

... I do *not* believe in hatred. Therefore I do not repay violence for violence and I do not retaliate when reviled.

### I do

4. **I pray for those who hate** because I believe in the power of prayer. Even when I face people full of hatred towards the Western world, Christians, or refugees, I will pray that they may learn to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the source and destiny of their life. I do so because I know that I live by God's grace every day of my life also.

... I seek *not* to curse but to bless. For God's Kingdom is established not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit.

5. **I promote justice** because it is not my own merit that I live in a free and prosperous country. I am aware that God makes His sun shine on everyone. Therefore I will protect the rights of my displaced neighbour as secured in our Christian tradition and our Constitution. I seek to promote the fair and just treatment of every person in our country.

...I do *not* believe in survival of the fittest. We have to love our neighbour as ourselves and bear one another's burdens. That is God's view of justice.

6. **I help** because every smile and every small gesture can make a difference to a person in distress. I seek to share what I have received with gratitude. I am prepared to sacrifice part of my wealth when that contributes to the hope of a refugee.

... I do *not* believe in dependence. I want to give what is most needed: respect and hope for the future, either here or in their homeland.

### **I stay**

7. **I am patient** because many refugees bear internal scars from violence, loss and fear. We rightly request their effort to learn our language and culture and to contribute to society. But I will be patient with them when they need more time, rest and space.

... I do believe *not* in unreasonable demands, but in mercy and loving care.

8. **I am faithful** because I believe that it is necessary to support each other in difficult times, even when cultural differences will cause misunderstanding. Therefore I will be faithful in my walk with refugees and I will encourage them to accept a unique place of their own in our society.

... I do believe *not* in uniformity but in a colourful diversity that reflects God's character.

9. **I testify** because Jesus Christ alone saves and heals people's hearts and minds. It is God's love I will proclaim. My testimony is like a seed that is being planted, grows and bears fruit in the lives of refugees.

... I do *not* want to be ashamed of the Gospel, even though I realize that it takes courage to speak out.