

JORDAN - Bayan

Case study and activities



“School has the power to lift us up, so we can reach our goals and learn quickly.”

– Bayan



Bayan is a 12 year old Syrian girl, living with her family in Jordan. An ambitious student, Bayan has her sights set on a career as an ophthalmologist. As a quiet, young refugee she struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone and faced the prospect of missing out on schooling. Now, Bayan is an academic high-achiever who is flourishing in a stable school environment.

A just future for Bayan has begun...

Bayan grew up in Syria's capital, Damascus, living with her parents and six siblings. Her father was a construction worker and her mother a housewife.

“Before the war in Syria, we were safe. We lived a comfortable life,” says Hanan, Bayan's mother. “Everything was all right in terms of living expenses, and the availability of education for the kids.”

The Syrian conflict turned their lives upside down.

“I do not recall anything before the war broke out, as I was very young,” says Bayan. “I only recall missile attacks. We used to think we were already dead, with each bomb that was dropped.”

The devastating crisis has claimed over 400, 000 lives and uprooted more than half of Syria's 22 million people. It has severely impacted young Syrians, disrupting schooling and leaving deep emotional scars.

“We lived in a constant state of anxiety, tension and fear. The children were very scared and could not sleep through the night,” says her mother, Hanan.

However, they were reluctant to flee their family home. They were eventually forced to evacuate as the situation became too dangerous, leaving by night on foot. Fearful for their lives, they finally made it across the border into Jordan.

“We left all of our belongings, including our toys and our photographs, back in Syria,” says Bayan. “We thought that we would go back after four months, or even after a year. We never thought years would go by.”

As their time in Jordan extended, Caritas Australia and its partners, Caritas Jordan and Catholic Relief Services, stepped in to provide vital academic and psychosocial support through the Caritas Education Program.

Bayan started attending one of Jordan's Caritas Schools which operates on Saturdays, providing tuition to disadvantaged students. The school enables young people like Bayan to catch up and integrate into the Jordanian school system, providing them with the opportunity to further their education.

“There are 8000 refugee students who study in our 25 schools,” says Abeer, Caritas Education and Protection Co-ordinator.

“The school brings them back to a normal life, as they start to dream again.”

Bayan's mother says school changed Bayan's psychological state, giving her a sense of tranquillity.

“I would not be able to read and write,” says Bayan. “I would feel lost, as if I knew nothing about the world. School has the power to lift us up, so we can reach our goals and learn quickly.”

Bayan's teacher says many of the refugee children are thriving in the school environment.

“We have a group of students who need

us. They love the school, were afraid but found safety, security and tranquility,” Butheina, her teacher, says. “At first Bayan was quiet... and did not have any participation. Afterwards, she has become active and has given her best.”

Caritas provides a broad range of other education services, including preparing pre-school children for school and supporting students who have missed out on schooling to return to the education system. The program includes counselling and nutritious meals and snacks whilst students attend school.

It also funds the bus which transports the children safely to school. The drivers and bus monitors are trained in how to protect the students – and the children enjoy the journey, singing and talking along the way. Without this service young people like Bayan would not be able to attend school.

Bayan's father has been unable to work due to a back problem and although life in Jordan is better, their financial situation is difficult. When it is safe, the family hopes to return to Syria.

Bayan would like to continue her studies wherever she is.

“I would like to become the best ophthalmologist, as sight is the most important thing in our lives. If it wasn't for sight, we would not be able to read, write or learn.”

Bayan



Bayan's mother, Hanan, is also dreaming of a prosperous future for her children.

“I hope that Bayan fulfils her dream,” says Hanan. “I would love for all my children to be well-educated and become professors, doctors and whoever they aspire to be. I hope they get the future they wish for.”

“I would like to send all my love, respect and appreciation to the people of Australia,” Bayan's mother adds. “I would also like to ask them to continue caring for the Syrian refugee population in Jordan.”

Your generous donations equip young people to succeed in the future, bringing stability to vulnerable youth...providing just futures for others like Bayan.

Bayan is receiving an education with the support of people like you.

Her just future has started with a safe place to learn.

A just future starts with all of us.

Classroom Activities



FIND THE **STUDENT INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK** AT:
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1129998114879438849>
(Click 'Refresh' if the hot spot icons don't display correctly.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers who inspire us by their journey of hope. May they always feel welcomed and supported in their time of need.

Amen.

OR write your own prayer for Bayan.



Reflect:

"God wants us, by every means in our power, to lead others to life".

—Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Think about the changes we can make in our lives, to be God's love and mercy in our world, ensuring all people have a just future. How can you lead others to life?



Catholic Social Teaching Principles: Solidarity

Solidarity recognises that we have mutual obligations to promote the rights and development of all people across communities, nations, and the world, irrespective of national boundaries. Solidarity is a way of "being with" our sisters and our brothers around the globe.

(Credit: Education for Justice)

1. What solidarity action can you take?

LEARNING TASKS

INQUIRY TOPIC: A JUST FUTURE STARTS WITH A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN



Task 1: Story Study

English Y7- ACELY1723, Y8- ACELY1734, Y9 ACELY1744, Y10- ACELY1754.



Watch (or read) Bayan's story and discuss:

1. Why did Bayan leave Syria?
2. How do you think Bayan felt when leaving her home at night?
3. How did Bayan's life change for the better?
4. What role has the Caritas Education program in Jordan played in helping Bayan have 'A Just Future'?



Task 2: Civic Life

Civics and Citizenship Y9- ACHCK079/
Religious Education

- a. Research the work of Caritas Australia. How does Caritas Australia contribute to the Australian community?
- b. Explore the concept of 'the common good'. How is Bayan's story an example of how Caritas Australia, as the aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia, demonstrates interfaith understanding and social justice?
- c. Why does Caritas Australia advocate for an end to poverty and inequality around the world?
- d. How can you contribute to the work of Caritas Australia?



Task 3: Class Debate-

English Y7- ACELY1804, Y8- ACELY1807 ACELY1808, Y9- ACELY1811, Y10- ACELY1812, ACELY1813, Civics and Citizenship Y9- ACHCS089, ACHCS085, Y10- ACHCS099.

Topic: "A just future starts with a safe place to learn."



Task 4: Our future selves!

The Caritas Education program in Jordan is enabling Bayan to receive an education and have hope for the future. Bayan would like to be an ophthalmologist in the future.

- What career do you see yourself having in the future?

Extension: Girls in two refugee camps in Jordan were asked about their hopes and dreams. They drew pictures of what they wanted to be when they grew up and then participated in a photo shoot based on their drawings; writing a caption as their future selves. See an article about this project [here](#).

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

(not in Interactive Student workbooks)

Reflect on scripture-

Religious Education
Old Testament tradition places the alien, stranger and exile at the heart of its religious and ethical concern and in the New Testament, love for our neighbour is a common theme.

- **Read:** Leviticus 19:33-34; Exodus 23:9; Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Deuteronomy 23:15-16; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; Hebrews 13:2; Micah 6:8.
- Using the verses, develop five guidelines on how God wants us to treat displaced people.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO EXPLORE:

Available at www.caritas.org.au/learn/schools/secondary-school-teaching-resources with topic filter 'Refugees' or click hyperlinks to download.

Stand with Syria PowerPoint: A presentation with background on the conflict in Syria and how to help

Refugee Quiz (PPT): Test your knowledge on the issue of refugees and asylum seekers.

Refugees – lesson activities: Classroom activities exploring the issue of refugees and challenging our attitudes towards them.

Missy Higgins' tribute to Syrian refugee- Award-winning Australian musician, Missy Higgins released her song, titled '[Oh Canada](#)', which is about 3 year old Syrian refugee Alan Kurdi and his family's plight for sanctuary.

The video clip of the song includes drawings by children in a Caritas program in Damascus, Syria.

Missy Higgins was compelled to write the song after seeing the haunting images last year of Alan lying lifeless on a beach in Turkey. Alan's family, like millions of others, was fleeing the bloody conflict in Syria.

Refugee Prayer Pilgrimage

Religious Education / Geography Y7-ACHGK046, Y8-ACHGK058, Y10-ACHGK078, ACHGK081.

There is a rich history of spiritual pilgrimage within the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

The idea of pilgrimage is especially powerful in light of the current migration crisis. More people than ever before are now on forced journeys far from home.

This pilgrimage is a way for us to show solidarity with all those fleeing war, poverty and persecution in our world.

Refugee Crisis Simulation

Geography Y7 ACHGK046

A simulation activity inviting young people to follow a family on a journey to safety.