

Refugee Welcome “Paddington” Action - Monday 24th October

What is the aim of the action?

- To urge council leaders to commit to accepting a specific number of unaccompanied children under the terms of the Dubs amendment
- To celebrate council leaders who have made a commitment and ask them to join with us in asking the government to urgently process the applications of the 209 children in Calais eligible to come to the UK under the terms of the Dubs amendment before the demolition of the Calais camp (Guardian reported the French government has no plans to rehouse the children - <http://bit.do/cCfCp>)
- To catch the attention of local press to increase pressure on local councils who haven't yet pledged a number



Why Paddington?

Paddington Bear is a unaccompanied child refugee who came alone to London as a stowaway after the destruction of his family home. In the Paddington film his Aunt Lucy recalls the evacuees of world war 2, saying “Long ago, people in England sent their children by train with labels around their necks, so they could be taken care of by complete strangers in the countryside where it was safe. **They will not have forgotten how to treat a stranger**”. Paddington is the perfect symbol of Britain's tradition of welcoming child refugees in the past.

What you need to run a local Paddington action

- Invite the Leader of your Council to join you on the steps of your town hall or similar
- Encourage children to come dressed as Paddington/wear Paddington masks
- Feature testimony from someone who has visited the Calais camp, came here as a refugee or is willing to foster a refugee child
- Ask your council leader how many unaccompanied children they will accept under the terms of the Dubs amendment
- Give them a gift of a Paddington bear to thank them for committing to a specific number of children or leave them a jar of marmalade to remind them of the need to commit
- Tweet your photos with the hashtags #calaiskids #refugeeswelcome
- Send a press release to your local paper, either celebrating or putting pressure on your local council (see <http://bit.do/redbridgerw> for example from Redbridge)



Mass London action

- Join us at 2pm on Monday 24th October at the square outside Kings Cross station for a joint London action
- The further aim in London is to invite London council leaders and the Mayor to stand together to demonstrate that London is ready to welcome child refugees
- Kings Cross has been chosen as our location because children would arrive into St Pancras
- The action will include celebrating the council leaders who have already pledged to welcome Dubs children, testimony, singing ‘London's the place for me’ & calling on the Home Office to deliver on the Dubs amendment
- Encourage families and schools coming to bring their children dressed as Paddington
- Bring along your picnic and enjoy it at the nearby Argyle Square Gardens before or after the action

