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Step into the shoes of a person integrating into society



What's it like to build up a whole new life in a country when you haven't chosen to do so voluntarily? And what's that like in the Netherlands? This lesson will help you to understand what happens to people who have fled to the Netherlands and have to integrate into our society.

Each question is accompanied by a video in which Shaza, Aiham, Lydia, Yvonne, Desbele, Ram, Akhrat or Bruce explain how their experience was when they first arrived in the Netherlands.

Discuss in pairs what your answers will be to each question.

Exercise 1 – What is the first period in a new country like?

You've travelled a long way. You fled your native country and have now arrived in a safe country where you can build up a new life. But the customs, rules and traditions in this country are different to those you're used to. You realize that you have to get used to everything, and building up a new life is not so easy.

Watch the video *How was the first period in the Netherlands?* to find out what struck Shaza, Lydia, Aiham, Akhrat and Yvonne when they first arrived in the Netherlands:

<https://vimeo.com/album/4362359/video/199991768/2e328293e7>

- Can you think of strange Dutch traditions that newly arrived people in the Netherlands might have difficulty getting used to? List three of them:

1.....

2.....

3.....

- Is there anything you could do to help somebody get used to life in the Netherlands? Think of one way:

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Exercise 2 – How would you like to be treated?

You gradually learn the language and get used to the culture, but you still cannot study or work. You feel useless and wonder whether you will ever find your feet in this country.

Watch the video fragment *What should we change?* to find out what tips Bruce, Akhrat and Aiham have for the Netherlands:

<https://vimeo.com/album/4362359/video/199996347/484cccefe0>

At Humanity House you stepped into the shoes of a refugee. Imagine that you had to build up a new life in a new country. What matters most to you in leading a normal life? Answer this question together:

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Exercise 3 – Is there anything you miss?

You gradually get used to life in your new country. You can already speak the language a little, and you now have a house as well as a job. Even so, you still don't feel completely comfortable. You miss lots of things about home.

Watch the video fragment *Do you miss anything?* and find out what Ram, Yvonne and Desbele miss most about home:

<https://vimeo.com/album/4362359/video/199996828/ba62ca62f4>

- Imagine that you were forced to flee your country. What would you miss most? Each of you can give your own answer:

1.....

2.....

- Are there also things about the Netherlands that you would not miss? Each of you can give your own answer:

1.....

2.....

Reflection - What's your dream for the future?

In reality, you may lead a very different life to that of people who have just fled to the Netherlands. But what is your dream for the future? And how does it compare with the dreams of refugees?

- What is your dream for the future? Each of you can give your own answer:

1.....

2.....

Finally, watch the video fragment *What's your dream for the future* and see what Shaza, Aiham and Yvonne want for their future:

<https://vimeo.com/album/4362359/video/200004009/e79f32d011>