



# The Peace Between

## *Discussion Guide*

### *Orphan Sunday Edition*

## Introduction

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This is a revised edition of “The Peace Between” Guide produced for Orphan Sunday events. Focusing on the journey of an unaccompanied asylum-seeking youth, our goal is to share with film viewers a friendship between a local and a displaced person and to lead them into a conversation. This Guide contains questions to help facilitate this dialogue.

The Peace Between is a film that explores how unlikely friendships can begin and continue to grow. In the full film, we meet three Europeans who have had displaced people come into their country and their lives. And we meet the people who have travelled thousands of kilometers to seek sanctuary in Europe. The film tells the stories of friendships that grew in spite of huge differences.

Orphan Sunday focuses on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and youth. That’s why we have produced this shorter version of the full Guide zooming in on the film segment that tells the story of Raza, an unaccompanied minor who, after a long and arduous journey, arrived in Hungary where he met István.

The goal of this project is bigger than a simple film. We hope that churches as well as student and community groups will create the opportunity for people to view the film and then go a step further. The project envisions that you will provide an intentionally safe space for people to react honestly to the film’s content through the sharing of experiences, hopes and concerns. You will find some materials on this site that can help you create a safe space for people to share their very different reactions, to discuss freely, and to intentionally listen to one another.

To learn more about The Peace Between film and discussion events, please visit [www.peacebetweendialogue.com](http://www.peacebetweendialogue.com). Here you can also find details about the makers of the film and creators of these materials.



## Tips for a successful discussion of The Peace Between

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The issues of migration and displaced people can be controversial. Some people are interested. Some people want to help or have already befriended a displaced person. Some people are worried. The film, "The Peace Between", and its materials are designed so that anyone can explore the issues in an open way.

For a discussion event to be a positive experience, we recommend that you consider the following steps.

1. Pray. If you expect there to be different perspectives amongst participants, pray specifically for peace.
2. Advertise the event as an opportunity to reflect and to share what we think and feel.
3. Set rules for listening and potentially disagreeing at the beginning of the event. Prepare participants to come as listeners. Encourage them to respect one another even when their views differ. Make sure that the discussion is not dominated by only a few voices.
4. Avoid pushing political lines or perspectives.
5. Familiarise yourself with the Discussion Guide and relevant background information prior to the event. You can access the supplementary materials on the [www.PeaceBetweenDialogue.com](http://www.PeaceBetweenDialogue.com) that you feel will be most relevant for your audience.
6. Consider inviting a displaced person to the discussion group if you believe this will help, not stifle, open conversation.
7. If it is obvious that all participants are happy to explore the idea of befriending someone who has been displaced, focus on the relevant questions and materials.
8. Allow concerns about migration, asylum seekers, refugees, and displaced persons to be voiced. However, do not let the conversation steer into political debate. Keep the focus on whether a church or community can offer friendship.
9. End on a peaceful note. Watch the time and close on a positive note. Allow time to summarize the conversation and to pray.
10. Consider offering refreshments at the end of the discussion so that one to one conversations can happen.



## István and Raza, Hungary

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István is a busy pastor and Evangelical Alliance leader in Hungary. His work includes reaching out to many refugees. Raza is recovering from the trauma of his journey to Hungary as an unaccompanied minor. He is busy seeking to fit into Hungarian life and to finish his education. István and Raza's story shows us that it is possible for two very different and busy people to become friends.

### Background materials

**Unaccompanied and Separated Children:** There are a multitude of reasons that children and young people from Africa, South Asia and the Middle East flee to Europe. Some flee persecution, others' homes were destroyed in war, and others are desperate to live somewhere that they can be educated or earn a living to support their family. They arrive as asylum-seekers and hope for the chance to be granted the right to stay and rebuild their lives. Many are under the age of 18 and, among these are youth that travel without family for months or even years. These are called unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Since 2015, nearly 200,000 unaccompanied and separated children and youth have applied for asylum in Europe.<sup>1</sup> Many have travelled across the continent, while others remain in the country where they first arrived. In many cases, these young people have been without family for months or even years, are living in squalid conditions, are preyed upon by traffickers, smugglers and radical extremists, and exist in a state of limbo – not knowing when or if they will receive asylum or be reunited with family.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_A\\_child\\_is\\_a\\_child\\_May\\_2017\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_A_child_is_a_child_May_2017_EN.pdf) and <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/60348>

## Questions

- Where there any parts of the story that surprised you?
- What type of situations may have caused Raza and his brother to make this journey without their parents?
- How might their parents feel about their separation? If you are a parent, how would it impact you if your child had to flee home without you?
- What do you think helped these youth survive all this time?
- How might this experience impact their future?
- What are some challenges an unaccompanied young person might face in our community?
- Are there situations that an unaccompanied child might face that a displaced adult would not?
- What type of help and hope might people from the Church offer to young people in situations like this?
- Pointing to the platinum in Raza's wrist, István claims that Raza has much value inside. What other values do you appreciate in Raza?
- Put yourself in István's place. Is there anything that might feel threatening about Raza and why?
- Put yourself in Raza's place. Is there anything that might feel threatening about István and why?
- István and Raza have different faiths, ages, cultures and ethnicities. They seem to get along very well. Do you have friendships that cross similar boundaries? Can you share some of the beauty of it and of its challenges?
- We cannot do everything, but, according to István, what we can do, we should do. What difference do you think István is making to this one young person, Raza?

To access additional materials for discussion, action, learning, bible study, and prayer, please visit the Orphan Sunday Event page ([www.orphansunday.org/europe](http://www.orphansunday.org/europe)) and the Supplementary Materials pages on [www.peacebetweendialogue.com](http://www.peacebetweendialogue.com).

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