Session 5
Peacemakers

The United Reformed Church Children

A challenge is something that is difficult or something we need to work out. Challenges can be different for everyone. They might be something we experience ourselves, something our friends or community face, or something that affects people around the world. We might face challenges like learning something new, sorting out a disagreement, making sure everyone is treated fairly, or caring for our planet.

Bringing peace to difficult situations requires good listening, understanding, communication and often an apology. Slavery was a time when some people were treated very unfairly and forced to work without freedom. Although slavery ended, some of the unfair ideas, rules, and problems it created did not disappear. These lasting effects can still influence people's lives and society today and are called the "legacies of slavery." This is something that the URC felt was important to pursue and highlight.

Give a stone to each child and encourage them to drop it into a bucket of water. Observe how the water ripples illustrating that although slavery in Jamaica occurred many years ago the ripples are still being felt.

Responding to the legacy of enslavement: CRAF

A legacy is something from the past that is still part of our lives today. It could be a family tradition, a story, a song or something we have learned from people who came before us.

Some legacies are happy things we want to keep. But sometimes things from the past can create challenges for people today.

For hundreds of years, African people were taken from their homes and forced into enslavement. This meant they were made to work without freedom and were not allowed to make their own choices about their lives.

Eventually, this period came to an end, but its effects did not disappear. Some of the unfairness and inequalities created during this time continue to affect people and communities.

Today, organisations such as the Churches' Reparations Action Forum (CRAF) are working to remember this history of enslavement, understand its effects and make things fairer.



Windrush Generation

The Windrush Generation refers to people who moved to the UK between 1948 and 1971, mainly from the Caribbean. They came to the UK after World War Two because the British government asked for help to rebuild the country these individuals became British citizens. Their ideas, skills, and traditions have helped shape our country and the culture we share.

In the UK, African-Caribbean culture is everywhere and part of everyday life. It has helped shape British culture. We can see it in the foods we eat, the music we enjoy, and even in the words we use. This is because many people from the Caribbean who came to live in the UK brought their traditions with them.

Facts about Windrush

1. The ship 'Empire Windrush' was built in Germany.
2. The Empire Windrush arrived in Tilbury Docks in East London on 22 June 1948. It took three weeks to travel from Jamacia.
3. The ship carried 1,027 passengers mainly from the Caribbean.
4. Between 1947 and 1971, nearly half a million people travelled to the UK from the Caribbean. Many came from countries such as Jamaica, Bermuda, Trinidad, Grenada, Mexico, Barbados.
5. The new arrivals faced many challenges including finding accommodation, getting used to new foods, being called names because of their skin colour, and even the weather!
6. In the UK Windrush Day is on 22 June every year. There are often events, music, food, and stories to help everyone learn about this history.

Find out about Pat's experience of the windrush generation here **https://bit.ly/4xR0lrD**

Bible link Numbers 6: 24-26

"[24]May the Lord bless you and take care of you;
[25] May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;
[26] May the Lord look on you with Favour and give you peace."

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These verses are a blessing from God to the people. God only wants the best for us and wants only to show us kindness, love and peace.

Active Prayer Flower prayers
You will need:

- paper flowers
- bowl of water
- biros



What you do:
In the centre of the flower write peace. On each petal write where you would like Gods peace. Gently fold each petal into the middle of the flower (do not fold too hard). Place them on a bowl of water and watch them open as they absorb the water.

Prayer
Dear God, thank you that we are all welcome as your people. You call us all to play a part in helping and showing love to those in need and to make them feel welcome whatever their circumstance. Amen



Greta Wonders:

- how the people must have felt leaving their homes and the country where they were born?
- what you think the people might have had to leave behind when coming to the UK?
- what stories or traditions you would like people to remember?
- if you can think of something from the past that still affects your life today?

Activity 1
Suitcase of Memories



We have been learning about the Windrush Generation and how far the people travelled to get to England. I wonder what things they would have bought with them? What would you bring in your suitcase if you had to go on a long journey to a different place?

Draw or decorate a suitcase on paper. You may have pre-prepared suitcase templates.

Children can draw or stick pictures inside their suitcase (limit to five items).
Invite children to show their suitcase and explain why they chose those items and how they might feel going somewhere new.

Now explain that those who have five items need to choose one to leave behind as the suitcase is too heavy. Now explain that there isn't much room, so they need to leave behind another item, keep going until they have one item (or possibly two) left. Explain that when people need to leave their country, they often can only take one or two things with them.

Activity 2 Word Search
Read these clues out loud and have the children guess the word before finding it in the grid. The answers in the grid can be found horizontal and vertical.

W	I	N	D	R	U	S	H	E	O	S	I
F	C	J	A	M	A	I	C	A	L	C	A
R	A	E	N	G	L	A	N	D	E	E	N
I	R	U	S	H	I	P	L	O	X	A	S
E	I	N	T	C	O	M	M	C	N	D	L
N	B	L	J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	I	W
D	B	Q	E	S	E	S	S	E	X	F	O
G	E	S	H	P	I	O	N	E	E	R	N
O	A	C	L	S	S	E	N	O	J	O	A
E	N	G	A	Z	I	H	P	M	W	P	E

WINDRUSH – The name of the famous passenger ship that brought the families to Britain.
JAMAICA – The Caribbean island where many of the passengers lived.
PIONEER – A brave person who travels to a brand-new place to help build a future.
SHIP – What the families lived on during their long trip.
ESSEX – The county in England where the big ship docked.
OCEAN – The blue waters that the ship had to sail across for weeks.
JOURNEY – The name for a very long trip.
FRIEND – Someone you meet, play with, and help out in your new home.
CARIBBEAN – The warm, bright part of the world full of beautiful islands.
ENGLAND – The country where the passengers landed to start their new lives.

Action Point
Encourage your church to learn a different song/ hymn from Jamaica or from a minoritised culture represented in your church.

Black History for Kids:
The Windrush Generation – Little Crowns Storyhouse
https://bit.ly/4rM3Mib