

Forgotten by Charlotte Hentges

Your life can turn upside down in less than a minute. For some people this is the brutal reality of being a displaced person, otherwise known as a refugee. Millions of people each year are forced to leave their home and seek asylum in other countries. This is a very common issue in need of attention.

Many consider people without homes homeless; little do they know they could be dealing with displacement due to the refugee crisis occurring worldwide. Refugees are people who are forced to leave their countries due to things out of their control; they may be fleeing because of war, discrimination, natural disasters, racism or one of the many other reasons. It is very possible that you're living with a refugee in your community. With millions of people already displaced, that number is only going to grow in size.

The refugee crisis is something that more people need to bring awareness to. Last year, a total of 42.7 million people were refugees, that is more than most can imagine. To little surprise, the reason that most women and girls in general were displaced was because of gender discrimination or gender-based violence. Many refugees chose to either find a refugee camp or applied for asylum and got accepted. Without proper precautions put in place, this social issue could grow larger than it already is.

Even though there is not much you can do locally, there are still ways you can help. Take Doctors without Borders for example, they send well trained and educated professionals to refugee camps, and over time, 1 million patients to MSF hospitals. The United Nations is another great organization to support. They're very vocal about advocating for refugee protection and human rights. If you want to do something that will directly impact a refugee, you could host a refugee in your home; however, you could also donate to one of the many organizations. You

could also support by volunteering your time. Packing care packages for refugee camps is another simple way to help out. The possibilities for helping refugees are endless. Once even one person helps it will spark change in a community instantly.

The reality of a refugee is facing challenging situations most cannot even bear to imagine. 1 in 67 people become refugees each year to a variety of social issues. That is millions of people that add up quickly. Refugees face more than just discrimination; they face poverty, homelessness, the poor water crisis and so much more. With your help this issue can be solved. We need you to act, or it is going to slow the progress.

Burning Alive by Evelyn Mascaro

The ice cracked under the young polar bear's feet. With a squeal, the baby drifted off to sea on a tiny slab of ice, destined to die without its mother. Unfortunately, this is the story of many polar animals' lives. This excessive heating of the Earth is called global warming, and it needs to end.

Global warming is more serious than you think; it contributed to the California wildfires and other tragedies. This issue is found throughout the world; however, polar regions and temperate forests are taking the biggest blow. It causes extreme weather, melting ice caps, rising sea levels and even more. Islands are disappearing, and cities may have to relocate entirely. This is also killing countless animals and increasing the extinct animal list. Global warming affects everyone, and it needs to end.

It is possible that nobody will be alive in 2050 if we don't act to end global warming now. Every day, countless animals lose their homes, whether it is because of melting ice, deforestation, or another tragic cause. Speaking of melting ice caps, we lost 12.2% of the kilometers of Arctic Sea Ice. That is about losing one mountain of ice a day. The ten warmest years have been between 2015-2024; however 2025 will soon take place as the warmest and worst. The Earth rose two degrees; that may not seem like much, but it's enough to melt all types of ice and cause suffering near and far. Global warming is horrible, but there are many ways to stop it.

Every dollar counts for another step toward ending global warming. A great way to start would be to donate to The Solutions Project. This organization raises awareness with its website, but it also works to stop it too! They make clean energy sources around the United States, so people cut back on fossil fuels. Another organization to donate to would be Climate Action. They

raise awareness for polar bears and other suffering animals. There are cheaper ways too! Simply carpooling and making sure lights are turned off also helps us to make a change. There is no reason not to take action because there are always cheaper and simpler alternatives.

When enough people come together, we can end this. And maybe, that mother polar bear won't lose her next cub, because global warming is entirely eliminated. This situation feels grim, but with your help, we can save lives.

Worrying for Water by Daniel Harbaugh

You walk over to your sink. You turn it on and get water from your faucet. As you begin to drink; however, the water turns brown and murky. What if this was all you have? All the water you can get... All that many people have is that filthy glass of water.

The water crisis is deadly and very dangerous. In most areas worldwide, victims need to walk hours to get minimal, murky, and diseased water. It is contaminated by many things like dung, dirt, or even some chemicals. As World Vision says, all of these individuals will be at a high risk of diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, and many others. In addition, these people are unable to wash food or boil things. If they did, they would be stuck at home, suffering from diseases and unable to do anything else. The individuals sent to the water – mainly women and girls – cannot get an education as well. The water crisis affects many people globally and is a very real problem.

The lack of water these people have is a massive issue. Imagine this, if you had been born a different time, you would have a twenty-five percent chance of not having clean water; you could easily be one of the 1,000 young children dying daily because of water. You could have grown up in a difficult household with little resources only to be hoping that you don't get sick from your water. The water crisis is really problematic, with eighty percent of sickness linked to it. If you take action now, you can help all of these innocent victims.

This can be a horrible problem, but you could be the solution! There are many charities that you can support. One is the Water Project. The Water Project has several locations around Africa that are building water systems for people in need of clean water. In addition, World

Vision can help by building wells for people. The victims in places have no access to water at all! Just by donating ten to twenty dollars, you could change somebody's life for the better.

If you donate or help somebody you could be the difference between a murky glass of water to a refreshing crystal-clear drink. Think about that eighty percent of people who have a water related disease. You can help bring it down. These families around the world are suffering; however, you can stop it!

Living on Less Than Three Dollars a Day by Andrew Borghetti

Did you know that if a person lives on less than \$3 a day, they are counted as living in poverty in our world? World poverty is a very challenging problem that we need to try and conquer. The definition of poverty is living without the basic needs and necessities of life.

World poverty exists in many places and has a lot of causes, so it creates several effects and problems. This issue is mainly found in parts of Africa and South Asia. The causes of this issue are lack of education, poor drinking water and nutrition, as well as inadequate housing. These causes lead to numerous effects such as negatives in brain development, the spread of disease, and poor mental as well as physical health.

Children are also heavily impacted by this issue; around one in six children are experiencing extreme poverty. To know that children have to live in this way is very heartbreaking and very hard to digest. Also, based off future economic estimates, millions of people will stay living in extreme poverty.

This obstacle of poverty in our world, however, is very solvable. There are many organizations that are working to fight this issue that individuals are able to donate to. CARE, World Vision, and The York Street Project are all great ones to donate to and support their cause. Though there are these many amazing organizations to support and help people around the globe, there are things locally people can do to help as well that don't need any money donations. Ways individuals can help locally are building homes, donating to food banks, as well as volunteering for things in their community.

Overall, world poverty is a very challenging problem that our world faces every single day. The facts and statistics displayed in this editorial very much prove just how sad this issue is.

Though it may be extremely hard and also may take a while, it is very possible to solve this obstacle. As Roald Dahl said, “Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.”

The Oven We Call Home by Joshua Pearl

Wildfires rage as hurricanes rampage the coasts. Ice caps melt, causing sea levels to rise and island countries to be engulfed by the unforgiving ocean. Droughts persist for ages, killing crops and starving populations. Surely these are all crazy apocalypse scenarios, right?

Unfortunately, these are all realities for people across the world due to global warming.

An uninformed person may contribute a limited but existent amount to global warming by doing seemingly routine things. The greenhouse effect, the reason for global warming, happens when the sun's heat gets trapped by certain gasses, causing heat to stay in the atmosphere. Global warming affects the entire world. Despite this, less wealthy countries get impacted the most. The worst part is that the wealthier countries are the main contributors. They burn fossil fuels, accounting for about ninety percent of CO₂ emissions. Deforestation also makes it worse as trees absorb CO₂. Global warming also feeds storms, melts glaciers, and causes droughts. This issue has already gone far, and it will be extremely difficult for us to solve.

So much of the world is affected by this. In fact, around 3.6 billion people—just short of half of the world's population—are vulnerable to the effects of global warming! Also, the last decade has been the hottest on record. Global warming should be considered an international emergency; unfortunately, not too many people with powerful positions act like it is. This is just the tip of the melting iceberg of climate change.

This is an awful issue, but there is still hope. An organization that is helping right now would be the United Nations (UN). The UN works to get countries to emit less, along with many other geopolitical issues, so maybe you could chip in a little money to support them sometime. The UN is just one organization, and there are plenty of others that help, too. You can help to eliminate climate change by making a few changes to your lifestyle. You can consume less

energy daily, use public transport more, buy fuel efficient cars, or simply raise awareness to pressure companies and stop killing our Earth. This is just a starting point to the changes you can make.

We are on this planet together, but this disaster is tearing the world apart. Even you could help, though. If we work hard enough, we could protect our planet. We can all help by turning off the oven.

Stop Wasting: Start Sharing by Emma Rozyczka

“One more step,” Simon mumbles to himself. If he loses hope and gives up, he’ll collapse in exhaustion and fall asleep hungry, again. There is enough food for every person in this vast world, yet Simon and an abundance more go hungry every day. World hunger kills countless lives daily; it needs to stop.

When we are hungry, we look forward to our next meal or grab a pleasurable snack. Worldwide, in central and eastern parts of Africa, millions of individuals do not have access to healthy food. Poverty is a large factor of world hunger; however, people who have jobs do not make enough income to buy nutritious food. World hunger is an excruciating death, so remember what it feels like to be hungry. Imagine not being able to get that nourishing feeling of food wash over you day- to- day.

World hunger is not an issue that should be ignored, for there are countless, insufferable human beings lost every day. Approximately, 300 million citizens go hungry in sub-Saharan Africa. This is nearly the population here in the United States. Envision your job without a consistent pay check, if you are lucky enough to receive one. Then at home your child is suffering from wasting, the most deadly form of malnutrition, and desperately needs food you can’t afford. This results in unnecessarily mournful deaths that have no place in the world.

World hunger is a deadly and unpredictable fear for mothers, fathers, children, and families, yet there is a way to lift this agonizing terror off others' backs; donating to organizations and food banks. No Kid Hungry and Concern Worldwide are two organizations that will be grateful for any amount given. More information about No Kid Hungry includes saving vulnerable children who are near starvation by feeding them. Concern Worldwide provides families with healthy and nutritious food per meal and teaches them how to grow their own food

to eat or sell. Your donations will contribute to the goal to reduce greatly and potentially end world hunger. These people you are helping to save are just like us.

Arriving home after an activity or event may arouse your appetite. Simon comes home to a desperate family trying to survive yet another day with no food. Simon and others are just like ourselves. The difference is they need our help, support, and generosity that significantly contribute to their wretched lives.

There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays by Brenna Kaehly

A stray dog is living underneath your porch. His ribs are visible through his patchy white fur and his whimpers feel like a stake through your heart. Wouldn't you help it? Think of it this way: if a victim of homelessness was starving, and you could see their face droop with physical exhaustion, would you help them?

Every day, different individuals sleep outside on the ground, benches, and in tents to protect themselves. They walk around knowing they do not have a bed to fall into when they get "home." Instead, they find the closest alleyway with all of their belongings on their backs and put up their tents for the night. Homelessness is most common in New York, Hawaii, and California with 30% of all homelessness found in California, making it the most common area for lack of housing. Again, homelessness is a very hard struggle. Many people suffer worldwide, and try to support themselves with little to no money or belongings.

Although the homeless community obviously struggles with lack of housing, they can often struggle with other issues, too. There are many causes to homelessness such as domestic abuse, drug usage, racism, poverty, and more. It's devastating that these things are still a problem in our world. With 40% of this community living in unsheltered locations, that leads them to live in homeless camps. In these camps, sometimes physical illness is spread. More common illnesses spread are Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and Covid 19. This can lead to critical conditions if left untreated.

There's actually a way to help these people. You can donate to organizations like the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Salvation Army, and Volunteers of America. I know it's hard to donate lots of money, especially during the holidays, but even the smallest bit can help.

Think about it, if your whole neighborhood, or corporate office, or even church donated \$10.00, imagine how many people you'd help.

It isn't easy to support yourself with nothing but the clothes on your back and the road ahead of you. The least you can do is help a family in need, donate goods like clothes and food and maybe a couple dollars, and maybe they can have a good Christmas too.

Malaria No More by Makenna Matecka

It swoops down, lands on another victim's arm, and with a great big jab of its needle, it feasts. So what? It may seem like another normal mosquito; however, it is actually an infected Anopheles mosquito with a malaria parasite. This parasite will enter the victim's blood cells, and now they have contracted malaria. Malaria takes many innocent lives every year, and the rates are getting higher.

Malaria kills many innocent lives, and there needs to be something done about it. Every year, over 400,000 people die from this disease. This is a lot of people; meanwhile, the majority are children. We take things for granted, like being able to pay for medications and not living in extreme poverty. Malaria is another case that cannot lead to just death, but it can also lead to poverty. One of the world's worst worldwide medicated problems is malaria.

We take medications and a modern society for granted; however, others cannot or do not have the privileges we have. You might not think how blessed you are to have these things, but just know people all around the world don't even have a real job. In 2019, 960,000 cases of Malaria were reported across Ethiopia, and tragically the rate has increased by 9.7 million in 2025. Over the years, Malaria incidence, morbidity, and mortality have been decreasing. It is horrifying to know that 76 percent of all Malaria deaths are children under five years in the region. They are not fortunate enough to have things in life that help them to survive with all these deadly diseases like Malaria in un-modern societies.

It may sound hopeless, but there is a way you can help. Many organizations that are working to the same goal: to end malaria. Malaria No More is one of the organizations that has spared and prevented many fortunate lives from malaria. They have also saved many countries and one territory. You don't have to donate a lot to help. This money will go to people, mostly in

Africa and places where malaria cases are high; it will help them pay for medications, bed nets, and even some more research to let us understand more about malaria and medicine. Saving one devastated human may seem really small, but you just saved their *whole* world, an extraordinary being who will never take their life for granted.

While many children are probably at school with our friends, other children and adults are at home diagnosed with malaria. They cannot afford education or medicine; if they can, the medicine might be ineffective. It is up to you if you want to save someone's life today! Just know that you have this choice—you can *be the change* in someone's unfortunate life.

Maddening Malaria by Sera Heffley

Headache pounding, muscles throbbing, and being too destitute to pay for medicine are things many people are suffering from. This is not your normal fever. This is malaria; it is a very real disease causing tons of innocent people their lives.

It is so sad to think that one mosquito bite could cost you your life. The infection has many causes such as contaminated needles, blood transfusions, parasites, and Anopheles female mosquitoes. This problem is found in hot, rainy areas like Nigeria, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The effects of malaria are very harsh. They include a fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and abdominal pain. If you are not medicated correctly, these issues could escalate very quickly. From this, we know it is an infection that has many causes, found in many places and has horrible effects.

Did you know that malaria causes one to two million deaths per year? Can you believe that? I am a kid, and I stay away from mosquitos so I don't get a spot. Families elsewhere are staying away from mosquitoes to avoid serious disease. Children under five are about 80% of the malaria deaths! Early symptoms can be a fever, but over time it can affect internal organs. Symptoms could be uncomplicated; therefore, they could only last six to ten hours. Malaria is devastating and has been around for 130 million years.

Now it's time to take action! An organization called WHO has helped by responding to health emergencies and wants to give everyone an equal chance for safety and a healthy life. Malaria survivors have mentioned this organization when talking about their experience. USAID reduced malaria deaths by 60%! If you give even ten dollars, someone's life could be saved. This charity helped seven million people survive. Your money could really help someone. Raising

awareness is also very important. Simple signs could make a change in the world around us.

People suffering from malaria need your help.

Malaria is a horrible infection that gets in your blood in many ways. You could help by donating to organizations or raising awareness. Malaria is a killer, but you can help save people from it. Just think of the lives you could save!

For the Future of the World; End Child Labor by Lila Martin

Bloody hands, tears and sweat dripping down children's faces, kids working just for the sake of their families to get out of poverty while only earning less than two dollars a day. Child labor affects 17% of the world's child population and forces them to work in extreme conditions at young ages.

Having so many kids work so hard all day and night is upsetting to hear when all they are trying to do is earn money for their families. Child labor is a violation of children's rights by making them do dangerous work at extreme ages. This issue is most problematic in Africa and Asia. These kids have to do it all because of poverty, discrimination, and inflation. The impacts this makes on the kids lives leads them to no education, being introduced to toxic chemicals, and no future success. It would be hard to end, but children being free is worth it.

Child labor has affected an outstanding number of children worldwide making for a miserable childhood. Almost 138 million children were subjected to child labor in 2024. One out of every three are in critical condition. Kids are demanded to work starting at ages five to fourteen around the globe. Nine percent of the world's child population are forced to do child labor due to poverty itself. Unfortunately, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the children working are out of school with no educational rights; it is extremely unfair. These kids work hard and try everyday but are still forced to keep going, unless we decide to help.

Child labor may be hard to end; however, there is always a possibility and hope. To be the change, you can support programs that help protect kids from child labor, abuse, and violence. You can join or make an awareness campaign to let people know what is happening and spread information. UNICEF is a great organization because they think deeply about how to help families while making an impact on the world, so we can save the children and set them up

for future success. Everything you do to help, no matter how big or small, will have an impact on someone that is life changing.

Child labor is a serious issue with poor exhausted kids but definitely is possible to solve. One small deed that you do will be an absolute game changer for a child's entire life. If we all work together as one and feel passionate about solving this crisis, good things can happen in the future.