



3.2 How to change attitudes

Our attitudes change when we learn something new. This may be by talking to someone new, reading a newspaper or going through an experience for the first time.

If you want to change the mind of someone else you need to give them an opportunity to learn something new. You can help people learn with:

- ★ **Facts** - providing information with, e.g.
 - leaflets / posters
 - presentations
 - quizzes

- ★ **Perspectives** - offering new points of view through, e.g.
 - debates & conversations
 - films, theatre
 - articles

- ★ **Understanding** - increasing understanding by letting people see or hear for themselves, by e.g.
 - meeting refugees
 - visiting detention centres
 - helping people through asylum process

All these things will help ensure people have the right information, think about the topic in a positive way and better understand what it's like to be a refugee in this country.

Whose attitudes are we trying to change?

Everyone's! Well, almost. Offering protection from persecution is so important we think everyone should know a bit about it. But it's particularly important to reach those who have been given false information and are hostile.

But how do you get someone who is very unsympathetic to read a leaflet, or come to a talk, or even volunteer?! In general, there are usually many motivations which make people want to go to an event or volunteer. You need to try and appeal to other motivations which don't assume they are sympathetic towards or interested in refugees.

See section 3.3 '*Hosting an awareness event*' for ideas on how to do this.