

Poetry about Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

JJ Bola – Refuge

Being a refugee has touched many aspects of poet JJ Bola's life. He fled Congo for London with his parents at the age of six. A promising basketball player as a teenager, his dreams of making it professionally were squashed because, without British nationality, he wasn't allowed to travel, which meant he was unable to respond to interest from universities in America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uWqV31QqLo#t=33>

Warsan Shire – Home is the barrel of a gun

The young Nairobi-born, London-raised writer first drafted another poem about the refugee experience, [Conversations about home \(at a deportation centre\)](#), in 2009 after spending time with a group of young refugees who had fled troubled homelands including Somalia, Eritrea, Congo and Sudan.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p50wr2JiX4>

Yomi Sode - Safe Schools: children can no longer wait (ft Dynamo & Laura Carmichael)

Nigeria-born Yomi Sode moved to London aged nine with his mother, in search of a better life. His work has explored issues of identity and culture: "When I went back to Nigeria, I was judged for being a Londoner, like I'm judged for being black in London."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84v9VM1KMTs>

Deanna Rodger - Being British

Deanna Rodger is from London. Both her parents are also British. Parents are Jamaican-Scottish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iU63a15enBU>

Abe Nouk

Abraham Nouk came to Australia as an illiterate Sudanese refugee and has become an award-winning spoken word artist and poet.

Story of a Refugee - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-ja-Mfpw60>

Stigma of living as a refugee - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26XaDE_q3y4

Black and White - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa9it0q6vVw>