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# Refugee Speech Teacher's Notes **B1** **B2**

This speech by UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie on World Refugee Day on 20 June 2016 is a good introduction to the unprecedentedly large numbers of refugees in the world today, and the international summits and actions trying to come up with solutions.

At 1'19, it works for practising listening comprehension for the Bac exam, on the theme of *Lieux et formes du pouvoir* or *Espaces et échanges*

## Vocabulary and structures

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- Present simple and progressive
- Geopolitics
- Language of persuasion

## Notions culturelles

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- *Lieux et formes du pouvoir*
- *Espaces et échanges*

## Listening

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- Ms Jolie is delivering a prepared speech, at a press conference with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, so it is clear and easy to follow. There is some background noise – the click of camera shutters.
- Before pupils listen, you may want to introduce Angelina Jolie Pitt, who pupils will know for her film acting. But they are probably less aware of her humanitarian work for the UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, first as a Goodwill Ambassador from 2001 to 2012, and since 2012 as a Special Envoy. In this role, she acts as an advocate for refugees, getting their plight onto the political and media agenda, and representing UNHCR and the High Commissioner at the diplomatic level.

## Transcript

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*As UNHCR special envoy and as an American citizen, I am very grateful for the opportunity to be here and to meet with you today.*

*Today is World Refugee Day. If I ask people for anything on this day, it is to take a moment and to truly grasp what a refugee crisis of today's magnitude means for peace and security of the world. I ask people to understand that with 65 million people displaced by conflict, we are facing a world of wars we cannot ignore or turn our backs on. To do that would be naive, irresponsible, and dangerous.*

*We face a very clear choice: to continue as we are and see displacement and insecurity grow, or to come together with other nations and find a new approach, one that does not focus solely on aid and resettlement but on solution, stability, and returns.*

*Today, partly in response to this crisis, we are seeing rising intolerance and xenophobia. But strength lies in mastering and channelling our emotions so that we pursue policies that reduce – not inflame – threats to our security.*