

The Next journey

Clench's and her family's life journey to New Zealand

Refugee Resettlement Story



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About This Book

For the last two years, I've wanted to assist newly arrived refugees and former refugees with their resettlement journey in New Zealand, but I wasn't sure how or what I would do. As a former refugee, I've chosen to write a book on my experiences. By publishing this book, I hope to provide comfort, understanding, aspiration, sympathy, and love to newly arrived refugees and former refugees. As a former refugee myself, I want them to feel safe during their journey. I understand the obstacles they will face in their new lifestyle. But also I want to show them that it is a process, and that they will not be alone on their path.

Let us take
a moment to
appreciate
how lovely this
pattern is.
This head
scarf from South
Sudan in Africa.





A gift from my mother (African Material)

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jambo, As-Salaam-Alaikum, Hola,
Hai, Salut, Sawubona, Selam,
Hāy, Hayi, Namaste, Hello and

Kia Ora

Lovely People

welcome to

New Zealand!



Introduction

Introducing Myself

Guess What



Do you like my glasses? I hope it makes you happy.



Hey there, how are feeling

about starting the next chapter of your life? I would like to say a big welcome to New Zealand also knows as Aotearoa. You must be feeling overwhelmed with all the information that you have received. There's lots to learn about the new country and region that you are going to live in, but at the same time I know for sure that you will feel safe and secure that you and your family are here.

"OUUH", How rude of me not introducing myself. Well let me tell you, my name is Clench Enoka. For your information my name is pronounced with an "E" not a "H" or else my name is mistaken for "Clenching your teeth lololo". Let me tell you a funny story - once when I was little my name was spelt with an "E" not an "H" In 2012



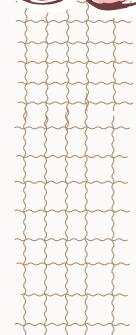
my dad changed my name to Clench. "Right" I asked him, "Dad, how come you changed my name to an "H" at the end?" He told me that's how you spell my name. Now I'm thinking I'm going to have to tell people how to pronounce my name properly - Nooooo!!!! Anyways, enough about me - I would like to know more about you beautiful people.

I must know, how are you feeling? You can be honest, your secret is safe with me. Flick me a message, no one will ever know our secret. I can definitely understand your situation and the struggles you have had to go through.

I hope this made you laugh



Me attempting to recreate my childhood photo lol





Guess what!

What!! - "I can't stop laughing, I can't even deal with myself lol"



Did you know that you and I have something very much in common, which is that we are strong, powerful refugees. While reading through this book, I want to give you a sense of comfort, knowing that you're not alone in this journey. I want you to know that many people before you have gone through similar experiences that you may be about to face. Don't be afraid to ask for help and guidance.

WHAT? You are a refugee just like me.. Well Yes, I am, "OUUH" SHOCKING, I know right Sit back and relax while I tell you the story about how I came to New Zealand



**you're not alone
in this journey**





Here we GO

Go grab some tea and snacks. To
enjoy this story. 😊

Let's go





Far far away, let me take you back to 18 years ago when my family and I are about to go on a long journey to a new location that we have never heard of, Called New Zealand. Why are we on the move? That's a wonderful question, let me tell you.

Both of my parents were born in South Sudan. They experienced things that people wouldn't normally want to experience in their daily lives: civil wars, constant poverty, poor healthcare, a lack of a proper home basically access to what the western world would consider the 'basic necessities' to live life. Yourself or your family may have gone through the exact same experience, or something similar.

I would like to pour out my heart to all of you that have been through this. Always remember you all are warriors and fighters. Never let your past trauma define you as a person.


Later on in this book you will read my parents journey to the refugee camp in Kakuma in Kenya and their resettlement experience in New Zealand. (Stay Tuned)

Never let your past trauma define you as a person



The experiences that my parents went through were very difficult to overcome. My parents didn't have a great upbringing, due to the war. They decided to join a Refugee camp in Kakuma which is in Kenya. By joining a refugee camp, they hoped us kids would have a better future, more opportunities and a secure education. They didn't want us to grow up in an environment full of destruction. They had sacrificed everything just for us kids to grow up in a place that was safe.



**Thank you,
Mum and Dad,
and I love
you both.** 





My parents have photos of relatives back home to give them a sense of happiness and warm memories. Aside from this, they show us kids what our wonderful cousins and grandparents look like, and also give us a sense of how back home looks and feels. When I look at our family album, I always seem to cry as I wonder how life could be with all our relatives.



Memorable family photos from South Sudan

Thinking about all the things my parents had given up in exchange for us kids to have a better future made me very sad, things such as leaving their relatives behind. I can't imagine my life without my parents. I'm eternally thankful to my parents for everything they've done for us.



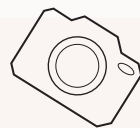
OMG, such a cute shot of myself and my father. Don't we look so adorable. The photo was taken in Kenya.



I recall my father telling me a story. The major reason they took so many photos of us as kids is that he doesn't have any photos of himself as a child since my grandmother couldn't afford to take photos of them. My parents do not want us to grow up without knowing how we looked when we were children, and they want us to know where they grew up. When my parents told me this I immediately burst into tears. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and blessings.

As you can see, I am a highly emotional person. It's okay to be an emotional person; it's not a sign of weakness.

If you have photographs of yourself or your family back in your native country, I recommend that you save them. A photograph is a keepsake of a special memory. TREASURE THEM !!!



A photograph is a keepsake of a special memory. Treasure them !!



LOVE MY FAMILY.
LOVE MY FAMILY. ♡



New Lifestyle

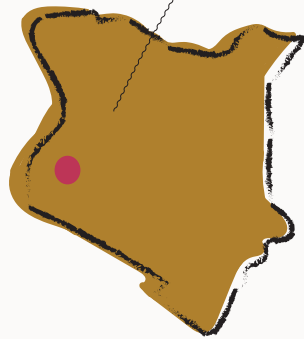
Growing Up In New Zealand

Proud Of My parents

In 2003, we Landed In New Zealand

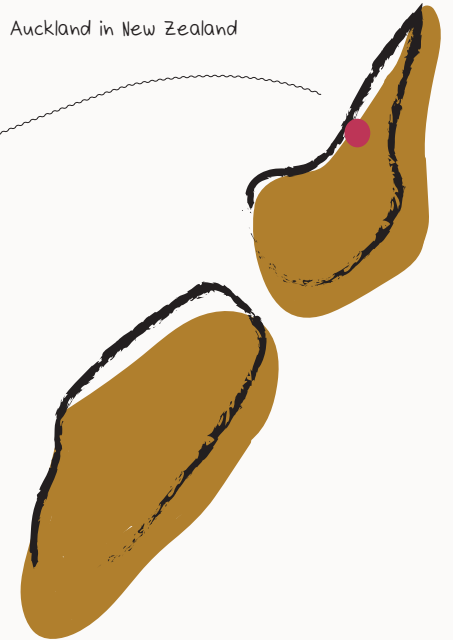
I've heard stories about people spending months or even years in refugee camps, which is heartbreaking. I'm extremely grateful that our family's process of coming to New Zealand didn't take that long.

Kukuma In Kenya



2 day travel to NZ

Auckland in New Zealand



Te Papa's family Photo (our first year in New Zealand)



My grandmother, father, mother, two cousins, my sister Roseline, and I arrived in Auckland from Kenya in 2003 and spent six weeks in the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Center. I have no memory of my time there, but my parents have, and they will tell you about it later in the book. I know that each new refugee will stay in Mangere for around six weeks. I hope your time in Mangere is both beneficial and not overwhelming. After six weeks in Mangere, we moved to Wellington, which is known as Windy Wellington; and if you live in Wellington, you know what I mean.

P.S. If you find yourself going to Wellington (or somewhere even colder like Christchurch, Dunedin, or Invercargill), be sure to ask the NCEO organization for help in getting warm clothing because places like that are quite cold.

My photo of my upbringing



Growing up in New Zealand was so challenging, both mentally and physically. For example, the change of environment on top of learning a whole new language. The thing that I mostly struggle with is not forgetting my roots (my cultural identity) and also not being ashamed of being a different race to many inhabitants of New Zealand, whilst maintaining pride in where I came from. Even



Photo of me, my sister, and my mother dressed in our traditional clothing

though I haven't lived in South Sudan, I'm glad that my parents could tell wonderful stories of them growing up there before the war started. They have carried faith and hope that our beautiful country would recover.

Speaking about my identity, the struggle growing up in New Zealand was an absolutely real one. I was fighting within myself, asking - "where do I belong?" I wanted to fit in with everyone in my local community, - but I felt different, and beat myself down, not understanding why I

didn't feel like I fit in. I just wanted to feel like I belonged somewhere beside my lovely family. The bullying that I faced in my primary years didn't help at all. It was constantly dragging me down and reminding myself that I am different. I truly appreciate how much patience my parents had, especially how they constantly reminded me of who I am, and how beautiful our culture is. One piece of advice I would like to share with you would be Never ever let anyone stop you from being who you are. Your culture, skin colour and personality is what makes you special and unique in this world. Being different is OK. Its OK, because one day you can tell your story and teach people about yourself, your culture and your country. **LOVE AND ACCEPT YOURSELF FIRST AND DON'T SEEK ACCEPTANCE OR LOVE FROM JUST ANYONE.** So that one day you can walk around with inner peace about your identity.

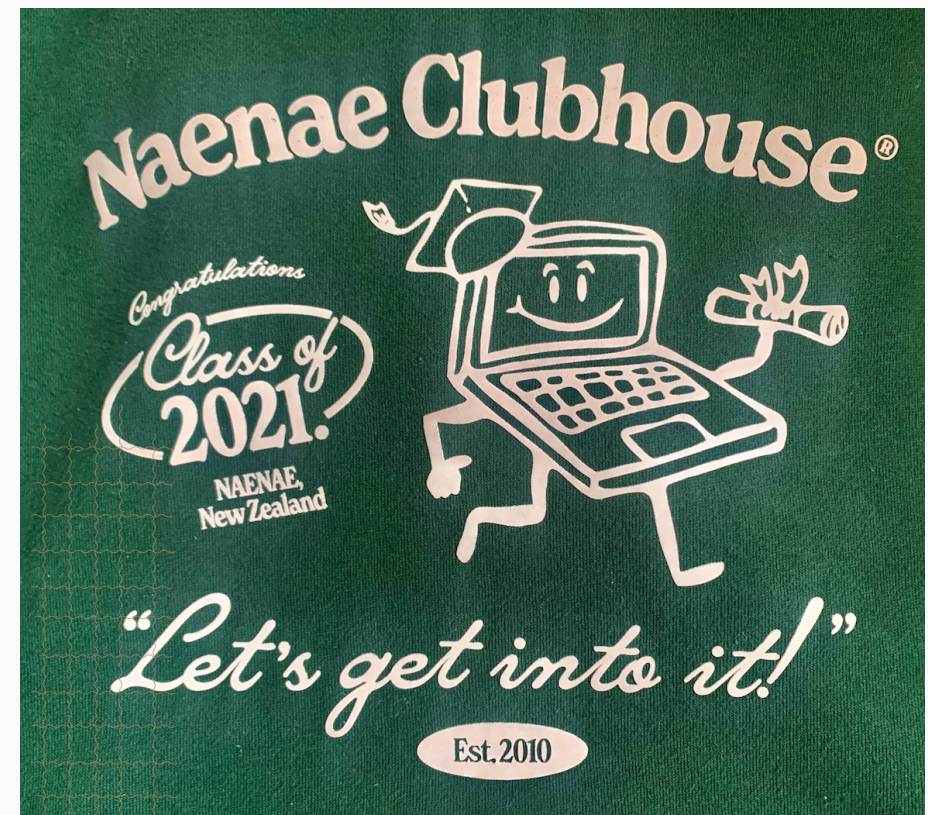
Despite the fact that I've fought with my identity, which is one of many struggles you may encounter, I'd like to share with you an open-minded talk I had with one of my cousins regarding the education system. She told me that the New Zealand system is great. As she states "I love it because they make sure that by the age of 3, they start kindergarten for 2 years, and by the age of 5 they start primary school" Compared to African schools where if you start late, it doesn't matter how old you are, you start with the basics. Which makes it harder for kids to continue. As you grow older you may start to lose the ability to learn basic things and therefore start to not understand things. It

makes people want to drop out of school early. She continues "...Another thing that is positive is the school fees in New Zealand. You pay using a payment plan, but in an African school if you don't pay school fees they chase the kids home. For people who come to New Zealand for the first time without knowing how to speak English, they should not be afraid, because they have many ways to help people that don't use English as their first language. As for me, I had that kind of issue because I can speak English but I didn't understand a few words". After that talk, I realized how difficult it was for her to adjust to a new environment, especially since she arrived in New Zealand when she was a little older than me.

With all of the difficulties we encounter in New Zealand, it is painful to listen to negative stories about your own country, especially on social media. Despite my parents telling amazing stories of Africa, social media represents it in a one sided perspective. This affected the way I saw my hometown prior to visiting it. But let me tell you, in 2012 we went back home to South Sudan. I wasn't expecting to see what I saw when I was there, as I mentioned social media had formed a bad picture of the country in my mind's eye for many years. This had an impact on how I thought about my homeland. But after I arrived in the country, I saw something new, such as how beautiful the land is, but also how happily everyone was living in their houses, despite their difficulties. This difference between expectation and reality changed the way I see life.

From then, I changed my life's purpose. Throughout my high school and intermediate years, I challenged myself constantly to try and extend my abilities as I want to make my parents happy with me. I also want to be a role model for my siblings to try new things in their life. Through

Naenae Clubhouse jersey. Very bless to be a staff member there





pushing myself I've gained amazing opportunities and experiences through Naenae Clubhouse and being part of Lower Hutt Youth Council. Through these different initiatives, I have gained many transferable skills that will benefit me in whatever career path I choose to take.

Photo of me working on a fashion project in Naenae Clubhouse



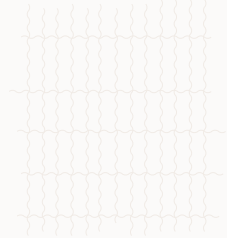
Naenae Computer Clubhouse

During my years at Naenae Computer Clubhouse I have won several scholarships to attend Teen Summit. Two were in Auckland in July 2011 and 2013. One was in Boston, USA in July 2012. Teen Summit is designed to bring youth together and explore issues that are relevant to them through a creative lens with a focus on technology. During Teen Summit, we joined a series of workshops with teenagers from around the world. We learnt digital and creative skills from international industry leading tutors. We also visited MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and the Museum of Science. We took part in a group that examined how to take a brand from a concept to reality utilizing Adobe After Effects and Adobe Photoshop Program. Through this experience, I was able to gain confidence and develop new skills such as leadership and creativity. In August 2016, Myself and another member of Naenae Computer Clubhouse won a short film competition exploring the benefits to nutrition and health of the vegetarian diet. We were promoting developing healthy eating habits for all generations. By doing this film, we had an amazing opportunity to speak to the health department of Hutt City Council about these benefits.

Lower Hutt youth council Eastern ward Rep

In 2017 I was a member of the Lower Hutt Youth Councils team, who are interested in making a real difference in the community. This has given me the chance to speak to other young people who don't have





regular opportunities for their voices to be heard and to inspire young people to create positive change in our community.

These are a few examples of opportunities I've gained through my life which are amazing. Us kids doing our best in life has encouraged our parents to pursue their own studies, and this in turn has shown us to NEVER GIVE UP.

Some of my early work of my project, which I am still proud



I had an Incredible opportunity to go to Boston here are Some photos from my trip to Boston, in USA






I'm Very Proud Of My Parents



My mom's graduation ceremony (2016)

My dad's graduation ceremony (2017)



In 2016 my mum Baifa Enoke graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing from Whitireia and in 2017 my dad John Enoke graduated with a Bachelor of Addiction Studies. This example motivates me to overcome any obstacle and to never give up. My parents are my role models because of their response to their childhood memories being destroyed. However, they have continued to be resilient and exhibit hope for their future with the success of their studies. My mother wanted to become a nurse to help those who need it most. I really admire how she chased after her dream job even though English isn't her first (or even second) language. This was a positive example for me that taught me that - if they can do it, then we can do it too. **Life isn't easy but if you put the hard work into it then the reward will be worth it.** 



Lovely and adorable photo of my parents.



Never
Give Up
On your
Dream

One of my artworks



Close your eyes and trust that with hard effort, your dream will come true.



At the end of 2016 my whole family moved to Australia. I decided to come back to New Zealand to finish my last year of high school. At that time I was chosen to become a Prefect for the 2017 leadership team at Naenae College. I really wanted to be a good role model - especially for the Year 9 students showing them that you don't have to be an academic or sporty to become a leader. That year was so difficult for me as it was the first time away from my family and I really missed the close support that I liked having from them. Through this challenge, I've learnt new skills such as becoming more independent and cooking food that I couldn't have imagined cooking. I also learnt that I'm open minded to new experiences, and not afraid of them. It is also a reminder of the journey that my parents went through in coming to New Zealand as refugees. They too were far away from the home they knew and the people they loved. It has taught me to work extra hard. I think this is because I am away from the support I had and I wanted to make my final year of high school count so that the sacrifice that my family and I have made by leaving me in NZ is not wasted.

Four years later after high school I can't believe I am in the last year of my Graphic Design degree. I have always had an interest in art and design. I like the idea of expressing your thoughts through a visual lens. As a graphic Designer I want to express my opinion to the public on issues that our world is struggling with, or communicate the amazing things that people are achieving. Successfully finishing this degree will

make me happy but also make my parents happy too. This happiness will come from knowing that all the sacrifices that they chose as an investment in us is not meaningless. It's a way I can give back to my parents and to my community who have taught me amazing skills since I was young.

This is 22 years of my life journey in summary, but my story hasn't finished yet. It will continue to grow over the next coming months and years. I'm excited about what the future holds for me.





My Parents Story

My Parents Refugee Resettlement Experiences In New Zealand



Photo taken In Kenya in the refugee camp

We were accepted to come to New Zealand under the New Zealand Refugee quota program in August 2003 from Kakuma Refugee Camp Kenya and granted permit residence, at That time; we knew nothing much of the New Zealand lifestyle, and there was no program designed to educate refugees with the basic information of how to navigate in this new environment.. Access to information was very difficult, with no access to the Internet at that time, and we had no access

to mobiles phones or anything like that. We had good, but tiring flights, sitting in the plane for more than 14hours. We arrived in Auckland at night and engaged with colder weather than we had experienced in our lives before. From the airport we were taken to Mangere Refugee Centre where we had a good sleep but were woken early in the morning for breakfast. We struggled to get out of our blankets due to a combination of jet lag and the cold rainy day.

We were in Mangere Refugee Centre for about 6 weeks, these six weeks were a bit of a struggle to be honest. We didn't get accustomed to the food, especially the way it was cooked. We struggled with the weather, everything in our lives was all new and unfamiliar but our staying in Mangere Refugee Centre was definitely useful to our resettlement. We learned a lot of the New Zealand basic life style: Opening Bank accounts, use of MTN, getting proper medical examination and treatment, converting overseas qualifications into New Zealand qualification standards, creating Unique identification numbers for recording your qualification achievements, organising accommodation through housing New Zealand, learning how to catch public transport, how to get appointment with Work and Income in case you are running out of food in your house, introducing you to your immediate supporter. Finding affordable housing,





Challenges we Face Are

- Finding employment, your application is often turned down by employers who might be thinking that you don't have relevant work experience or qualifications, or problems communicating.
- Racist comments - you are vulnerable to being called racist names by some idiots in the street, you'll sometimes be asked to go back to where you came from, this has prevented people from wanting to leave their houses.
- Impact of disrupted education on career - As we arrived into New Zealand as a family with 3 adults and having young children, pursuing education or further studies became a challenge as childcare responsibilities took priority.
- English language - This is a major problem with significant implications for written and oral communication. Refugees often came from countries whose native language shares nothing in common with the English language, English language can be second or third language. A strong accent is another problem preventing people from getting employment.

- Overseas Skills and Qualifications Recognition - This process, in many cases, takes years before there is proper assessment or recognition. This is another serious problem migrants and refugees face in New Zealand. For many mature newcomers this barrier means an effective end to their dreams of working in New Zealand as professionals (or qualified technicians) in their chosen fields.
- Lack of work experience - Employers usually priorities staff with some work experience in this society. In this way, new arrivals, even though they may have had relevant experience overseas, will be disadvantaged in this important step to find a job. Not having work experience means that these newly arrived , mature workers will miss out on potential work and career development opportunities.
- Racism - This is another major barrier faced by migrants in finding a job. In many cases racism deprives migrants of training and education opportunities. Discrimination in accessing employment certainly exists on the basis of ethnicity, cultural customs and unrealistic English language requirements.



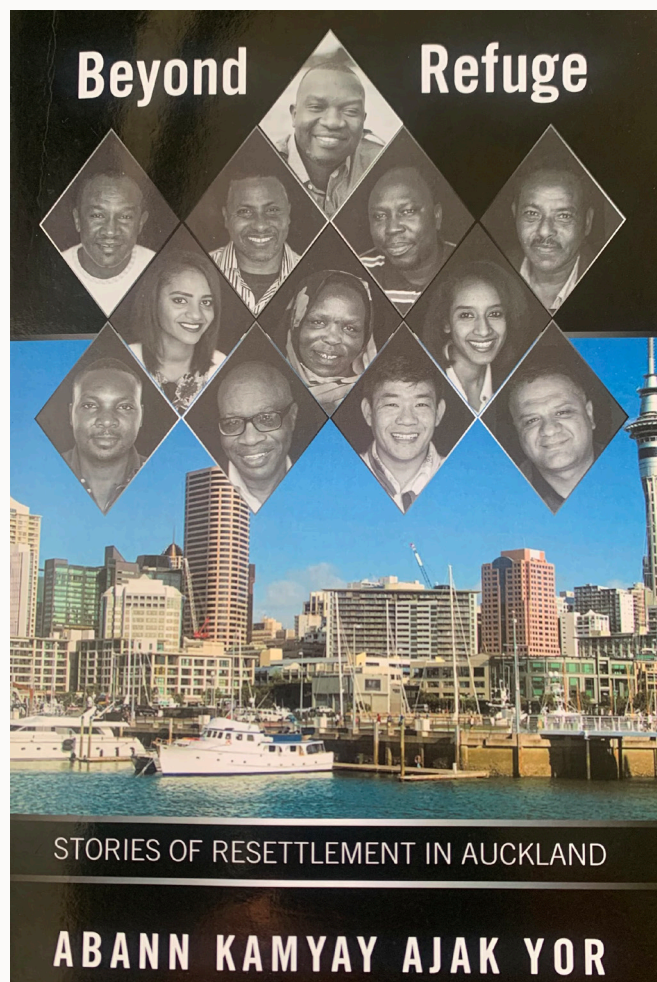


Useful Information

Beyond The Refugee (recommended book)

Recourse

If you wish to read more stories regarding the resettlement of refugees, I recommend this book call Beyond Refugee.



Beyond Refugee

Stories Of the Resettlement in Auckland

Beyond Refugee is a novel approach to bringing displaced people and host communities together to share settlement and integration life experiences in order to build connection, understanding, and relationship development. The objective of Auckland's Stories of Resettlement is to share the collective voice of displaced people with the rest of New Zealand society and the world. In the storybook, new settlers from refugee backgrounds discuss the challenges they faced while looking for a better place to live and assimilating.

As part of his strategic advocacy leadership position, the author produced the storybook for Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition in order to connect and interact with a larger spectrum of stakeholders. The storybook has 12 stories produced by ARCC volunteers who collaborated with individual story authors from Aotearoa Resettled Communities Coalition a local and regional umbrella organization founded and administered by resettled community leaders with forced migration experiences. The stories are conveyed in such a way that they correctly depict the lived experience of the resettlement voyage to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Resource

Here are some useful resources that will help you with the next chapter of your life in NZ. I hope these organizations can help you, your family, and your friends. If you're really struggling please seek help. Don't feel like you have to do this alone.



Redcross

<https://redcross.nz>

The New Zealand Red Cross (Ripeka Whero Aotearoa) is a humanitarian organization with around 15,000 members and volunteers. In 2015, the New Zealand Red Cross will commemorate its "Century of Care" 100 years of Red Cross activities in New Zealand. They are New Zealand's largest provider of community refugee settlement services, assisting and empowering new Kiwis as they rebuild their lives here.



ChangeMakers

<https://crf.org.nz/about-us/>

ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum is a grassroots non-governmental organization (NGO) that represents 17 refugee background groups in the greater Wellington region (Aotearoa New Zealand).

There work toward our goal of New Zealanders of refugee origin participating fully in Aotearoa New Zealand life via lobbying, research, and community development projects.



kiwiclass

<https://kiwiclass.org.nz>

KiwiClass provides education and career possibilities to refugees and other migrants whose first language is not English, as well as support with cultural and linguistic identification activities.



RASNZ

<https://rasnz.co.nz/about/>

Refugees as Survivors New Zealand (RASNZ) is the major mental health and wellbeing service for people from refugee origins in Aotearoa New Zealand. Every day, people all around the world are forced to flee their homes, families, and communities to save their own and their loved ones' lives. Traumatic experiences can impact refugees' health and capacity to settle in New Zealand.



Mixit

<https://mixit.co.nz/about>

Mixit is a multicultural forum for young people of refugee, migrant, and indigenous descent. It is about bringing people from all walks of life together and getting them interested in collaborative creative activities.



Refugee Council

<https://mixit.co.nz/about>

The Refugee Council New Zealand is here to assist you in and to raise awareness of the issues that refugees face in New Zealand.

I encourage you to write and share your experiences with one another in order to elevate each other with your new lifestyle, because stories are a powerful tool that allows you to express yourself while also providing the reader with understanding and comfort!

Start writing your Next journey

If you need help with anything, please contact me at
thenextjourney@gmail.com.

Love Clench

Hello, my name is Clench Enoke. This book, *The Next Journey*, is a personal story of my and my family's resettlement Journey in New Zealand. Their book is designed to support newly arrived refugees in their next chapter of life by providing comfort and hope that they are not alone on this journey.