



Wendy Sharpe , *Soldier with Refugees, Dili*  
gouache and crayon on paper  
painted in Sydney in 2000  
acquired in 2000

(Accession number 91161)  
Australian War Memorial

## Soldier with Refugees, Dili

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### About the artwork:

Many of Wendy Sharpe's images focus on the people returning home after the destruction and conflict in East Timor. In this work, a soldier can be seen in the foreground holding a young child in his arms. Behind him, a group of refugees, both adults and children, reveal expressions of bewilderment and confusion. Sharpe's vigorous and painterly style vividly conveys a sense of the heightened emotional state of the refugees as they return home.

At the same time, her work records some of the important but often-unrecognised work carried out by peacekeepers. Observing the Australian peacekeepers assisting the refugees in East Timor, Wendy Sharpe wrote:

*I was moved to see the kindness of Australian soldiers and the care they took to calm the fears of the refugees as much as possible.*

### Questions:

1. Different people in the painting have different expressions on their face. List these expressions.
2. How and why do we use facial expressions?
3. One face in the painting looks different from all the others. Can you find it and describe how is it different?
4. What are the implications of this face for the soldiers and the UN?
5. If you were a peacekeeper, what skills would you need in order to manage the human aspects of the job?