



The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Crisis

Summary

1.0 Introduction

Pope Francis has invited us all to do our part to stem the refugee crisis and offer sanctuary to migrant families. Pope Francis said it was not enough to simply encourage the refugees with calls for courage and patience. Instead, he suggested, tangible demonstrations of help were required. Many parishes and individuals in Hallam want to help but are not sure of the best way. We have also been asked; “what is the Church doing to lead and guide”. Therefore, the Hallam Justice & Peace Commission has prepared this guide for parishes to help them to support refugees and asylum seekers.

2.0 The Major Issues

2.1 The Humanitarian Crisis

It is estimated that more than 55 million people worldwide are refugees, asylum-seekers or internally displaced people. Most refugees are in the countries that border their home. For example, most Syrian refugees remain in the Middle East. The UK has opted out of any plans for a quota system but the Government has said the UK will accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next five years. The UK government is the second highest contributor of humanitarian aid to refugees and its policy is to support refugees in the area. Families need homes, the right to work and a settled, safe place to live. There are refugees trapped in various parts of Europe and there are the millions trapped in UN camps. Every one of them is a life being wasted.

2.2 Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refused Asylum Seekers

Refugees are treated as UK citizens once they are accepted, but perhaps not generously. Asylum seekers are also supported to some extent but even less generously and they have no right to work. Refused asylum do not in most cases receive any support from the UK Government and many are destitute and homeless. They need our help and support.

2.3 The UK Asylum Process

The path to acceptance as refugees in the UK is complex, constantly changing and can take years. Lives are on hold until they are accepted. In the UK we take very few refugees and asylum seekers compared to many other countries in the world. This amounted to 0.24% of the population at the end of 2014.

3.0 What Can We Do to Help

There are many ways we can help. We can speak out on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers; we can donate both money and goods; we can volunteer to help local charities that support refugees and asylum seekers; we can host the homeless and destitute; we can support them in our parishes and in our prayers and liturgies; and we can campaign to convince our Government to allow more refugees to enter our country and to treat them justly when they are here.

J/P

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The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Crisis

1.0 Introduction

'Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me (Mt 25:40)'

In September 2015 Pope Francis invited every parish, religious house and monastery in Europe to do their part to stem the refugee crisis and offer sanctuary to migrant families. In front of a crowd of thousands of people in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis said it was not enough to simply encourage the refugees with calls for courage and patience. Instead, he suggested, tangible demonstrations of help were required. In response to this call the Bishop's Conference for England and Wales has urged us all to respond to the refugee crisis with [prayer](#), [practical action](#) and advocacy. The Conference has also said that all action will be coordinated through the dioceses.

Recent news reports and pictures caused by the flow of refugees from Syria have prompted a desire from people across the United Kingdom to help. Many parishes and individuals in Hallam want to help but are not sure of the best way. We have also been asked; "what is the Church doing to lead and guide". Therefore, the Hallam Justice & Peace Commission has investigated what is happening in the Hallam Diocese and has prepared this guide for parishes to help them to support refugees and asylum seekers. The document is a picture at a point in time as this is an area where there is constant change. For example there is likely to be a new Immigration Bill shortly. We will add this information to the Diocesan website and will try to keep it up-to-date as far as we are able. It covers only the four main areas of South Yorkshire - Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. This is because we have been able to find little or no information in the other parts of the Diocese.

We have described the situation as we currently understand it and have tried to make it as easy to understand as possible, but this is a complex and complicated subject. The annex to this document is a list of organisations that help refugees and asylum seekers in Hallam. It is far from complete and if you have more or different data please let us know and we will update on the website.

2.0 The Major Issues

The Humanitarian Crisis

2.1 In 2015 it was estimated by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time in the post-World War II era, exceeded 55 million people. Most refugees (approximately 85%) are in the countries that border their home. For example, reports from major charities suggest that 13.5 million people (more than half the country's pre-war population) in Syria need humanitarian assistance and 8.1 million are children. Approximately 6.6 million are displaced within Syria and 4.6 million Syrians are refugees. Most Syrian refugees remain in the Middle East - in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.



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Nearly a million people claimed asylum in the EU in 2015. The UK has opted out of any plans for a quota system but, according to Home Office figures, 1,000 Syrian refugees have been resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme (see paragraph 2.3). The Government has said the UK will accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next five years. There are millions of people desperately in need of help.

The UK government says it has allocated over £1.1 billion from its foreign aid budget since 2012 to over 30 implementing partners to help refugees who have fled Syria since the war began. The vast majority of them are in refugee camps in neighbouring Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan and the need for humanitarian aid is constant. The UK government is the second highest contributor of humanitarian aid behind only the United States and its policy is to support refugees in the area, but in Lebanon, for instance, one in every 4 people is a refugee. Families need homes, the right to work and a settled, safe place to live.

There are refugees trapped in Greece, who cannot get out as increasingly borders are closed. The Greece economy is in economic trouble and cannot afford to help them. There are refugees trapped in Calais and Dunkirk trying desperately to claim asylum in England. There are the millions trapped in UN camps and every one of them is a life being wasted.

2.2 What's in a Name?

We talk about migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as if they have the same meaning, which is far from the truth and it has a major impact on a person's life what their actual status is. Some definitions follow.

- **Refugee** - **"A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality."** *The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*
- **In the UK**, a person is officially a **refugee** when they have their claim for asylum accepted by the government. When accepted, they have by and large the same rights and benefits as a UK citizen.
- **Asylum Seeker** - A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded. Currently there are around 750 asylum seekers accommodated in Sheffield waiting for a decision on their application, which can take months or years. There are many others in the other three asylum centres in Hallam – Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. While they wait they receive about £5 a day for food and clothes and are not allowed to work.
- **Refused asylum seeker** - A person whose asylum application has been unsuccessful and who has no other claim for protection awaiting a decision. Some refused asylum seekers voluntarily return home, others are forcibly returned and for some it is not safe or practical for them to return until conditions in their country change. Many are homeless and destitute. It is estimated that there are also around 750 destitute refused asylum seekers in Sheffield.
- **'Illegal' immigrant** - Someone whose entry into or presence in a country contravenes immigration laws.



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- **Economic migrant** - Someone who has moved to another country to work. Refugees are not economic migrants.

All of them are people - someone's son, daughter, mother, father, brother and sister.

2.3 The UK Asylum Process

There are three routes to refugee status in the UK. These are:

1. **Asylum** - There are various journeys, some of them dangerous, but you must physically be in the UK to claim asylum. The process is slow and complex and you have no right to work until you are accepted as a refugee.
2. **Resettlement** – The Gateway Protection Programme is a system whereby the UK will accept 750 refugees per year from the United Nations camps in other parts of the world. The refugees arrive in the UK with all paper work complete and are accommodated in 18 towns and cities in the UK. Sheffield accepts refugees under this programme. They have by and large the same rights to work, health and benefits as UK citizens.
3. **Relocation** - As an extension to the Gateway Programme (Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme) the UK government has offered to take up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over 5 years from camps on the Syrian border. Some of these refugees will come to South Yorkshire, but the government has guaranteed to support them for the first 12 months and they are entitled to work and claim benefits in the UK.

The process to acceptance into the UK for asylum seekers under method 1 can be slow, complex and very difficult. This causes the following problems:

- Families living at 50% below the poverty line
- Insufficient benefits to maintain contact with a solicitor
- Shared, no choice accommodation, in hard to let properties managed by external contractors
- Periods of **destitution** between refusal and appeal and on gaining refugee status or refusal with no chance of returning to country of origin
- **Detention** at any time – indefinite, no judicial oversight
- Possible **deportation** after many years building a family life
- Above all, young lives being wasted because they cannot work and help themselves and the community in which they live.

It is not easy to prove your case for asylum. At the moment around 40% only are successful at the first attempt. Most go on to appeal and nearly 30% of those are successful. Others may spend years trying to gather the evidence to prove their claim of persecution. Many cannot go home even if they want to because they have no passport or their country refuses to take them. Despite this, there is currently a new immigration bill going through parliament some of its conditions are to create a "hostile environment", which the Government insists will encourage illegal immigrants to leave and deter others from arriving. It is difficult to understand why anyone would live in destitution in the UK unless it is more dangerous and more soul-destroying to go home.

The UK received 31,300 new applications for asylum by the end of 2014, which is considerably less than Germany with an estimated 173,100 asylum applications and the United States of America



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with 121,200 asylum applications, followed by Turkey (87,800), Sweden (75,100), and Italy (63,700). At the end of 2014 in the UK, the population of refugees, pending asylum cases and stateless persons made up just **0.24%** of the population. That's **117,161 refugees, 36,383 pending asylum cases** and **16 stateless persons**.

3.0 What Can We Do to Help?

3.1 Speak up in support of refugees and asylum seekers

If we believe we should take in and welcome those seeking safety in our country, we need to stand up and be counted. So it is necessary to make sure we know the facts; tell our family, friends and neighbours; be prepared to put right those making false assumptions; write to our newspapers when we disagree; write to and lobby our MPs; join a campaigning organisation. You will find some in our annex. You can keep informed about what's going on in the world's major forced displacement crises at [UNHCR](#) or you can check locally at some of the websites we have listed.

3.2 Donate money

There are numerous organisations, local, national and international that need support for refugees and asylum seekers. Some of them are listed in our annex, which is not comprehensive nor can we endorse the organisations concerned.

3.3 Donate goods

Many charities have been inundated with generous offers of donated goods from members of the public. Because of the logistical challenges in storing and transporting donated items, some can't accept any donations currently, so check with your local refugee organisations to see what they need. Many organisations also ask that if you want to deliver goods, please be prepared to volunteer to help sort them and perform other tasks rather than just deliver the goods and leave. It is also reported that some countries are taxing donated goods because a large influx of goods and refugees has caused economic issues destabilising local economies. So in many cases it is better to donate cash. The British Red Cross has launched [#ShopDrop for Refugee Crisis](#), where they'll accept quality clothing, books and unwanted gifts. Money raised from goods donated to the Europe Refugee Crisis will go towards the British Red Cross Europe Refugee Crisis Appeal. You can donate items to [British Red Cross charity shops](#), throughout the diocese. [St Vincent's Furniture Store](#) and [ASSIST Sheffield](#) both need good quality furniture to support those coming out of homelessness, which includes refugees.

3.4 Volunteer

Many of the national and international charities are looking for local volunteers and it is probably best to look for such opportunities on their websites. We have listed some of the main charities in an annex to this document.

In addition there are many local charities who support asylum seekers and refugees who are already living in our area. In Sheffield some of these charities are inundated with calls at present



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so it may be better to volunteer through [Sheffield Volunteer Centre](#) rather than contact them directly. The names of some local charities that need volunteers in Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham are also listed in the annex to this document. Some charities are looking for knowledgeable individuals to talk to schools and local groups. Influencing the next generation to welcome refugees and asylum seekers is vital, so be a role model to the next generation.

3.5 Hosting

Refugees will be coming to the Diocese from the refugee camps on the border of Syria but volunteer hosts are not needed for this programme. They will be supported and accommodated through the joint local authorities/Refugee Council Gateway Protection Programme.

[ASSIST Sheffield](#) runs a hosting scheme for destitute asylum seekers from all nations and they are looking for medium-term, long-term and weekend hosts. They would also like to talk to anyone who could be interested in loaning them property to use for housing refused asylum seekers.

There are other names of hosting charities in the annex to this document.

3.6 In our Parishes

There are many things we can do in our parishes.

- Why not join an established group in your parish like CAFOD, Justice and Peace, or St Vincent de Paul? Being part of these groups will help you learn more about what's going on and can help you get involved in practical help.
- How about organising a "befriending" dinner or lunch for people new to your community especially refugees and asylum seekers. A simple meal, eg pie and peas or fish and chips, could be sponsored by the parish.
- How about a Friday fast club where you could collect the money saved and donate it to your favourite refugee charity.

Please share any ideas that your parish has developed.

3.7 Prayer and Liturgy

Praying is a wonderful way of reaching out to other people. Why not say the rosary or in Lent devise your own stations of the cross, which reflect the current refugee situation? Pope St John Paul II wrote a prayer for peace that can be used to pray for an end to the war in Syria and for peace for the Syrian refugees fleeing violence. It can be found here [prayer](#).

A paper was prepared in 2009 for the Hallam Justice and Peace Commission's autumn conference on the theme, *The Changing Face of Britain*. Its purpose is to help remind us why we should support the stranger in need and that by welcoming one we are also loving our neighbour. The paper is in two parts:

1. Scriptural Background and
2. Catholic Social Teaching.



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The paper is available for those wishing to prepare liturgies and workshops. We hope to put it on the Diocesan website but it can be obtained in the meantime from the Justice and Peace Commission.

3.7 Campaign

There are a large number of organisations campaigning for refugees and asylum seekers. There are many around at the moment - some to convince the Government that we should take in more refugees; some for individual asylum seekers; and some to appeal for more just treatment when they are in our country. There is a moving tool for illustrating the plight of refugees this winter on CAFOD's website. Their partner, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre, supports refugee families living in tent settlements in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, only nine kilometres from the Syrian border. Studio-style portraits were made of families whose lives were shattered as they fled the conflict, with empty chairs and empty arms symbolising the loved ones they had to leave behind.

[See the Lost Family Portraits](#)

Hallam Justice & Peace Commission

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Annex

List of Local, National and International Charities

Introduction

The following is a list of local, national and international charities that work in the field of refugees and asylum seekers. It is not comprehensive and is probably out of date as soon as we write it. We know there are many other agencies and individuals working for refugees and asylum seekers and you will probably all have your favourites. If you believe that there are some that ought to be here please let us know and we will add them. Please mail Helen.donlan@binternet.com with any additions or changes.

Please note: These links are for information only. We are unable to endorse organisations or check the services they provide.

LOCAL CHARITIES

BARNSLEY

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary was launched on 15th April 2015 at Barnsley Town Hall. It is part of a national movement to build a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Their steering group meets at Barnsley Town Hall, monthly, usually at 5pm. New members and visitors are always welcome. For details, please visit [About Barnsley Borough CoS](#).

Barnsley Refugee Asylum Seeker Support (BRASS)

BRASS Support and befriending service for asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. ESOL classes, weekly drop-in with coffee and refreshments, activities and social trips. **They meet at** YMCA, Blucher St. Barnsley, S70 1AP on Mondays 2.30-4.30pm and Thursdays 6-8pm. Their telephone is 01226 320131 or mail barnsleymca@aol.com. They are happy for people to drop-in

British Red Cross Refugee Support Barnsley

Meetings are held at Friends Meeting House, Western St, Huddersfield Rd, Barnsley, S70 2RS. The services offered are casework, health services, advice, support, welfare, legal & emergency help. Wednesdays 10-2pm. See main British Red Cross entry below.
Contact: Lucy Simmonds: 07834788569 or 0114 2427370

DONCASTER

Doncaster Conversation Club

The Doncaster Conversation Club and Drop-in is a weekly group for refugee and asylum seekers, who want to practice their English and get more support. The Conversation Club has been running for 4 years now Currently over 200 + people visit this centre every Thursday from 12 noon to 3pm. They meet at Quakers Meeting House, Oxford Place DN1 3RS. They have a newsletter called A View



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from the Edge, which makes interesting reading, which you can find through a Google search. Their needs include:

- Volunteers to talk with the Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Male clothing i.e. good quality shoes and trainers, trousers, jumpers, coats. No female clothing required.
- Donations of food
- Financial Donations

The Conversation Club, in conjunction with Doncaster Quakers and Doncaster Faiths Together are initiating the start of **City of Sanctuary** talks in Doncaster, which they believe the way forward for Doncaster. For more information on the City of Sanctuary talks please see doncaster.cityofsanctuary.org

ROTHERHAM

Red Cross Services for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Rotherham

The Red Cross in Rotherham hold a weekly Drop-in service for practical, emotional & social support and casework. It is held on Tuesdays 12.30-2.30pm, Eastwood Methodist Church, Fitzwilliam Rd, Rotherham, S65 1PT

The **Rotherham Welcome Group** is also held on Tuesdays at the same time and venue. This group helps people new to Rotherham meet others, orientate them to Rotherham, offer English and IT support, art and crafts, and volunteering opportunities.

Further info: tel. 0114 2427370

Email: refugeesupportsy@redcross.org.uk or website: redcross.org.uk/yorkshire

SHEFFIELD

City of Sanctuary Sheffield (CoS)

CoS is a movement founded in Sheffield to create a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees. It welcomes new arrivals, signposts asylum seekers and refugees to activities and services, raises awareness about asylum and makes sure the voices of the refugee is heard by service providers and policy makers.

ASSIST

ASSIST (Asylum Seeker Support Initiative – Short Term) supports destitute asylum-seekers with small grants and accommodation. They need volunteers for all kinds of reasons including fundraising, events, campaigns, publicity etc. It also runs a hosting scheme to provide short-term accommodation to homeless asylum-seekers and need hosting volunteers. They also welcome and need cash donations.

website: www.assistsheffield.org.uk

Email: admin@assistsheffield.org.uk or telephone 0114 275 4960

Sheffield Conversation Club

Sheffield Conversation Club offers English practice and some basic English teaching, together with orientation and cultural input plus fun, welcome and friendship. It meets at the Victoria Hall, Norfolk St, Sheffield on Wednesday afternoon and the Central United Reformed Church on Friday afternoon. There is also a multi-agency drop-in and clothes bank available on Wednesday



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afternoon. They need volunteers to help their members practice English and other activities.
website: [sheffield conversation club](#)

St Wilfrid's Centre

St Wilfrid's Centre offers basic welfare to anyone in need, including destitute migrant workers, asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers & refugees. Support can include meals in the centre, emergency food parcels, clothing, use of showers, use of laundry facilities & signposting to other services. St Wilfrid's Centre offers a safe place from Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm and a wide range of activities to promote social interaction and develop skills. For more information:

www.stwilfridscentre.org

St Wilfrid's centre has many volunteering opportunities. For further information contact Stephen Corker, Volunteer Coordinator: 0114 2555 720

Sheffield Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers (CDAS)

CDAS is a campaigning organisation opposed the government's treatment of asylum seekers. It supports groups campaigning for individual asylum seekers and families of asylum seekers who are threatened with deportations.

website: sheffieldcdas.org.uk

Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English (SAVTE)

SAVTE recruits and trains volunteers to teach English to the most excluded and isolated people in Sheffield. Its aim is to reduce isolation by providing people with life changing language skills so that they can engage with everyday life in new ways, progress to further training, education and employment and integrate into their local and mainstream communities.

savte.org.uk

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice [SYRLJ]

SYRLJ is a locally led and run, non-political and non-denominational group of volunteers. It covers Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. Its members include lawyers, students, people experienced in the asylum field and those who are new to it. Some are refugees. SYRLJ aims to:

- Promote greater equality of access to quality legal resources in asylum cases in South Yorkshire.
- Further the direct participation of interested people in the asylum process.
- Share and communicate knowledge of the experience of refugees in the UK, and provide education about the asylum determination process.

More information can be found at [SYRLJ](#)

South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group (SYMAAG)

SYMAAG are a broad-based group of many nationalities and political viewpoints acting together for asylum and migrant rights. They meet around once a month and details can be found on their website.

website: symbaag.org.uk



NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL CHARITIES

CAFOD

CAFOD is an agency of the Bishops' Conference and is the Catholic Church's aid and development charity in England and Wales. Donations to [CAFOD's Refugee Crisis in Europe appeal](#) will provide food and emergency supplies to refugees who have recently arrived in Europe, as well as supporting people in the countries where refugees originate from. CAFOD works through the local Caritas organisations in the countries where they can add most value, eg Caritas Greece, Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Jordan

website: cafod.org.uk

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN)

CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) is the official agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for domestic social action. CSAN is working with the French Caritas partner, Secours Catholique in Calais, by facilitating financial donations and other assistance. This includes reporting back on the conditions in the refugee camp in Calais. They also work closely with [Seeking Sanctuary](#), a small Kent based organisation, in providing material help to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Calais and beyond. You can make a secure donation on its [donate page](#).

website: csan.org.uk

Citizens UK

Citizens UK has a special section on its website appealing for landlords to come forward in an attempt to find 5,000 suitable homes for Syrian refugees.

website: citizensuk.org

Doctors of the World UK

Doctors of the World is meeting the needs of refugees on Greek islands as well as in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, and through clinics in nine European countries including France, Germany and the UK. They are the only charity providing medical help on the ground in Calais. In the UK they run clinic and advocacy services in London's Hackney and Bethnal Green, as well as Brighton, for vulnerable migrants – including trafficked people – struggling to get healthcare. Despite being entitled to see a doctor, many are refused due to confusion about the system, sometimes with tragic consequences.

website: doctorsofworlduk

Jesuit Refugee Service UK

- The Jesuit Refugee Service is making sure that Europe provides a warm welcome to refugees. Its UK organisation is [accepting donations](#) to help accompany, serve and advocate for refugees to reduce their destitution and loneliness. They also have opportunities for volunteering.

- website: jrsuk.net

Migrant Offshore Aid Station

MOAS is a search and rescue charity that has saved almost 12,000 refugees in the Mediterranean Sea since 2014. MOAS plans to expand its presence to the Aegean Sea and south-east Asia and says 91% of donations go directly to help saving lives.

website: moas.eu



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PROJECT PADDINGTON

Project Paddington was set up by a group of Sheffield mums to mobilise school children to send a teddy, a drawing of themselves and a short note to a refugee child. In two months, over 20,000 UK children and their families have got involved and donated their teddies. Project Paddington is now exploring how we can help more children, teenagers and adults show that they care for refugees. Find out more here.

projectpaddington.com

Positive Action In Housing

This UK-wide charity is building a database of accommodation volunteers who agree to offer up space in their home to a refugee. This can be for a few days, weeks, or even longer. It has a system to ensure destitute refugees and their hosts form the best match.

website: paih.org/host-a-refugee

Red Cross

The British Red Cross has a refugee crisis appeal where you can [make a secure donation](#) to support the families risking their lives to flee war and persecution. They also work locally offering support for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. They also have opportunities for volunteering. The charity has partner branches (including Red Crescent) working with refugees and displaced people inside Syria and surrounding countries.

website: redcross.org.uk

The Refugee Council

The Refugee Council works directly with refugees and supports them to rebuild their lives. They assist those fleeing persecution at every stage of their journey in the UK. Their work aims to equip refugees with the skill they need to obtain employment in the UK. Locally the Refugee Council is mainly involved in providing specialist support to refugees who are resettled through the Gateway Protection Programme across the Yorkshire & Humberside region.

website: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Save the Children

Save the Children works in many areas of the world to save children's lives and challenge world leaders to keep their promises to give children a brighter future. They are working with refugee children and on the Syria crisis. You can [make a secure donation here](#).

website: savethechildren.org.uk

Seeking Sanctuary

Seeking Sanctuary is a small Kent-based organisation promoting awareness of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers on our doorstep in Calais and beyond. It provides humanitarian assistance for the migrants currently stranded in Calais.

website: seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

United Nations Refugee Agency

United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. In the UK, UNHCR provides guidance on refugee and asylum law and policy to the UK government, legal practitioners, non-governmental organisations and many others. Where



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appropriate UNHCR takes up cases and raises issues of concern with the UK government. They provide training on a range of issues to those working with asylum-seekers and refugees. They also run refugee camps in the countries near to areas of conflict. The current appeal is to [Help Us Keep Refugees Warm and Safe](#).

website: unhcr.org.uk

UNICEF

UNICEF works with refugee children in major emergencies in places like [Syria](#), [South Sudan](#) and [Yemen](#) where children are caught up in violent conflict, with millions forced to flee their homes.

You can make [a donation to Syria here](#)

website: unicef.org.uk