

THE REFUGEE CRISIS – HOW WE CAN HELP

There are over 4000 refugees and asylum seekers in Nottingham. Demand for the services of charities, in particular Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Refugee Forum, the Rainbow Project, Nottingham Arimathea Trust and Host Nottingham, is already growing and likely to rise significantly over the next few months. Many are fleeing persecution, traumatised by their experience, and often have complex needs in addition to shortage of money & other resources.

THE DIOCESE ASKS US TO PRAY, ACT AND GIVE

PRAYER is requested for

- Compassion, shelter, welcome and hospitality for all who have fled their homelands in search of safety.
- Protection and peace for those unable to escape civil war and persecution, and for Internally Displaced Persons.
- Charities, churches and other faith communities seeking to help at international, national and local levels.
- Justice and peace in the countries from which people are fleeing.
- Wisdom and courage for all leaders seeking positive ways forward.

God of compassion,
whose own son experienced life as a refugee
we remember those fleeing from danger,
hungry and afraid, with nowhere to call home.
God, we ask for them warmth, security, food and peace.

God of hope, we thank you for those working to bring relief
and comfort to those displaced, showing glimpses of grace in
the darkness of despair. God, give them strength.

God of justice, guide the nations and the leaders of the world
towards peace, stir hearts to be generous and compassionate.
God, help us to play our part in bringing about the change
that we want to see. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ACT

- Sign a petition asking the government to accept more refugees at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/105991>.
- Approach local councillors, MP and MEPs to support refugees.
- Consider offering a temporary room to a homeless refugee.
- Identify accommodation which could be used to provide housing for refugees.
- Offer to work as a volunteer for local charities, eg befriending; advising and supporting refugees in relation to local services, transport and other challenges; language tuition; advocating on refugees' behalf and driving people to appointments, for example to the immigration offices in Loughborough. The contact details of local charities are given below. All offer training for volunteers.

GIVE

- To the Minster bucket collection for The Rainbow Project which urgently needs £3000 to continue to pay for a case worker to advocate with the relevant authorities on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers.
- To the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Refugee Forum Destitution Fund which helps refugees and asylum seekers in crisis with grants for food, shelter and essential travel costs.
- National charities like Christian Aid and Tear Fund.
- Clothing for men and boys – to Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church on 3 and 4 October - please put in boxes at the back.
- Food – non-perishable, eg rice, lentils, chickpeas - to the Minster Centre between 10.00 and 1.00 on weekdays.
- Furniture, for example through a charity like The Arches.
- **CONTACTS** *which can be found online with their phone nos.*
- Notts & Nott'm Refugee Forum; The Arimathea Trust; Host Nottingham; Rainbow Project, Hyson Green; The Arches, Trent Vineyard.