



What can I do to support refugees?

Information for churches in Oxford

Material Support

Fundraise for a local refugee support group or charity

Hold a concert, sale, tea dance, quiz night ... (the possibilities are endless) or take part in a sponsored challenge event, with the proceeds going to a local charity or group supporting refugees, e.g. Asylum Welcome, Refugee Resource, or Sanctuary Hosting. Ask for the charity's support in organising this.

Luci Ashbourne, [Asylum Welcome](http://www.asylum-welcome.org) (www.asylum-welcome.org)
development@asylum-welcome.org 01865 722082

[Refugee Resource](http://www.refugeeresource.org.uk) (www.refugeeresource.org.uk) info@refugeeresource.org 01865 403280

[Sanctuary Hosting](http://www.sanctuaryhosting.org) (www.sanctuaryhosting.org) info@sanctuaryhosting.org 07818 555986

Collect food and toiletries for Asylum Welcome clients

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work and often have very limited funds. Place a box in the church for collecting food and toiletries for asylum seekers in Oxford. Asylum Welcome can provide labels for collection boxes and a list of most needed items. Encourage the whole congregation to donate items and when full deliver it to Asylum Welcome's office at 7 Newtec Place, Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE, open weekdays from 9.30am to 4.00pm. Alternatively [order online](http://www.asylum-welcome.org/donate/food-donations) for direct delivery: instructions are at <http://www.asylum-welcome.org/donate/food-donations>.

[Asylum Welcome](http://www.asylum-welcome.org) (www.asylum-welcome.org) food@asylum-welcome.org 01865 722082

Prepare food for refugees in northern France

Spend a few days, or more, as a kitchen volunteer in Calais with a charity providing food for displaced people living rough in difficult conditions in northern France.

[Refugee Community Kitchen](http://www.refugeecommunitykitchen.com) (www.refugeecommunitykitchen.com)
refugeecommunitykitchen@gmail.com

Donate to help refugees and internally displaced people overseas

The vast majority of refugees are hosted in countries near their country of origin: most Syrian refugees, for example, are in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. Many charities are working to assist refugees and internally displaced people in the countries hosting them. These charities include:

- [All We Can](http://allwecan.org.uk/give/current-appeals/refugee-appeal/) (<http://allwecan.org.uk/give/current-appeals/refugee-appeal/>)
- [British Red Cross](http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Current-emergency-appeals/Europe-Refugee-Crisis-Appeal) (<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Current-emergency-appeals/Europe-Refugee-Crisis-Appeal>)
- [CAFOD](https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Refugee-action) (<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Refugee-action>)
- [Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies) (<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies>)
- [Medecins sans frontieres \(MSF\)](https://www.msf.org.uk/) (<https://www.msf.org.uk/>)
- [Oxfam](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/emergency-response/refugee-crisis) (<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/emergency-response/refugee-crisis>)
- [Save the Children](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/emergencies) (<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/emergencies>)
- [Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/en/give/) (<https://www.tearfund.org/en/give/>)
- [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](https://donate.unhcr.org/gb-en/general) (<https://donate.unhcr.org/gb-en/general>)
- [World Food Programme](http://www.wfp.org/) (<http://www.wfp.org/>)

Personal Support

Help with social activities for refugees

Social activities are great for individuals' wellbeing, improving language skills, and integration and also help promote community cohesion. Help with existing activities or start something new.

- *Weekly football sessions for asylum seekers - [Emmanuel Church](http://www.emmanueloxford.org/city/refugee-football) (www.emmanueloxford.org/city/refugee-football) 01865 204492 with [Refugee Resource](http://www.refugeeresource.org.uk) (www.refugeeresource.org.uk) 01865 403280*
- *Drop-in service for refugees and asylum seekers at the East Oxford Community Centre - [Open Door](http://www.opendooroxford.org.uk) (www.opendooroxford.org.uk) oxopendoor@yahoo.co.uk*

Volunteer with Asylum Welcome

Asylum Welcome is the largest charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Oxford. With a small team of staff and trustees and over 150 volunteers it provides a wealth of services and advocacy. You could volunteer on reception (half a day a week) or provide information, advice and support to asylum seekers and refugees who come to the office (two half days a week). Training is provided. Asylum Welcome is also looking for people to join the fundraising and comms team. If you are interested in any volunteer role with Asylum Welcome, attend one of the information sessions held every few weeks – dates and further details on the [website](http://www.asylum-welcome.org/volunteer) (www.asylum-welcome.org/volunteer)

[Asylum Welcome](mailto:volunteer@asylum-welcome.org) volunteer@asylum-welcome.org 01865 7220

Mentor a refugee

As a volunteer with Refugee Resource, meet with a refugee for about 2 hours a week or fortnight in the daytime. Listen, help and support people as they seek to gain access to services, social activities, education and work. Training is provided.

[Refugee Resource](mailto:ruthh@refugeeresource.org) ruthh@refugeeresource.org 01865 403292

Educational mentoring for young people

As a volunteer with the Refugee Support Network, meet for an hour a week with a young unaccompanied refugee (aged 15 to 21) to help them progress in education, e.g. by working on an aspect of their homework or classwork which they find challenging.

Torie Stubbs, Mentoring Coordinator – Oxford, [Refugee Support Network](http://www.refugeesupportnetwork.org) (www.refugeesupportnetwork.org) tstubbs@refugeesupportnetwork.org 07562262718

Give language help to resettled Syrian families

If you speak Arabic, volunteer to assist support workers with recently resettled Syrian families. Or if you have an ESOL qualification, volunteer to teach them English.

[Connection Support](http://www.connectionsupport.org.uk/projects/svprs) (www.connectionsupport.org.uk/projects/svprs) volunteer@connectionsupport.org.uk 07799110037

Tutor a refugee family member

If you are a university student in Oxford you can register as a volunteer tutor and be linked with a refugee family.

[Tasilu](http://www.tasilu.org) (www.tasilu.org) tasilu.tutoring@gmail.com

Host a homeless asylum seeker, refugee or vulnerable migrant

Many refugees in the UK experience destitution, for example when their asylum claim is refused or when they are granted refugee status but are then left without any benefits or housing. Award-winning local charity Sanctuary Hosting can help you host a homeless asylum seeker, refugee or vulnerable migrant rent free in your spare room for an agreed period of time. Share not only your home but also social and cultural experiences, supported throughout by a volunteer support worker.

Elaine Savage, Service Coordinator, [Sanctuary Hosting](http://www.sanctuaryhosting.org) (www.sanctuaryhosting.org) info@sanctuaryhosting.org 07818555986

Community Sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family

Form a group offering full support to enable a Syrian refugee family to be resettled to Oxford under the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme. Groups need to work under the auspices of a charity and are responsible for organising accommodation, welcome, orientation, English language instruction, and help accessing services and employment. This may sound daunting, but there is much assistance and advice available from Sponsor Refugees and Blackfriars Oxford, a local church which has already done this, as well as from Oxford City Council and local refugee support charities. Community Sponsorship is a really tangible and personal way of responding to the needs of refugees and can be an extremely positive experience for the group too.

Shirley Hoy of [Blackfriars Refugee Aid](#) - senteniaconsulting@gmail.com

Blackfriars case study: www.ccow.org.uk/what-we-work-on/refugees-and-forced-migration/

Bekele Woyecha at [Sponsor Refugees](#) (www.sponsorrefugees.org)

communitysponsorship@citizensuk.org 07504001756

[Reset Communities and Refugees](#) (www.resetuk.org) enquiries@resetuk.org 020 3582 9882

Advocacy & Awareness Raising

Organise an event for Refugee Week

Refugee week, in June each year, is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events and activities that celebrates the contribution of refugees to the UK and promotes better understanding of why people seek sanctuary. Get ideas and tips on organising your event, as well as events listings, from the Refugee Week website.

[Refugee Week](#) (www.refugeeweek.org.uk) brightonandhove@cityofsanctuary.org

Campaign on behalf of refugees – petitions, letters, lobbying MPs and Councils

Refugees suffer many injustices and hardships, overseas and in the UK, and there is much which needs improving. You can help change policy and practice affecting refugees. Keep informed of the issues and latest petitions and campaigns by signing up for CCOW's quarterly email Refugee Support Newsletter and/or emails or mailings, from refugee charities.

[CCOW \(Christian Concern for One World\)](#) (www.ccow.org.uk) joanna@ccow.org.uk

07774474601

[Refugee Council](#) (www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)

[Safe Passage](#) (www.safepassage.org.uk)

[CTBI \(Churches Together in Britain and Ireland\) Focus on Refugees](#)

(www.focusonrefugees.org)

[Close Campsfield](#) (www.closecampsfield.wordpress.com)

This resource was prepared by Christian Concern for One World (CCOW) & updated in February 2019.

For over two decades, CCOW has been working with Christians who seek to discern what 'doing justice,' 'loving kindness,' and 'walking humbly with God' mean for us in our globalised world.

For further information or to request that information be added to future editions of this resource, please contact Joanna Schüder, CCOW's Churches Refugee Networking Officer on joanna@ccow.org.uk or 07774474601.