

Why Act

How we treat refugees reflects who we are. At our best, we are welcoming and kind to people facing difficult times. If any of us feared for our lives or the lives of our loved ones, we'd want to know that others would help us to safety.

With our friends in the Together with Refugees coalition, we want to see a more humane, fair and effective approach that:

- Stands up for people's ability to seek safety in the UK no matter how they came here;
- Ensures people can live in dignity while they wait to hear a decision on whether they will be granted protection as a refugee;
- Empowers refugees to rebuild their lives, and contribute to their communities;
- Means the UK works with other countries to do our bit to help people who are forced to flee their homes.

Please join with us in calling for and praying for a kinder, more humane approach to refugees – so they can seek safety in the UK, rebuild their lives and make a valuable contribution to their communities.



“What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

For almost three decades, Christian Concern for One World (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.

In addition to standing alongside refugees, we also work on Fair Trade and care for creation.

Contact us:

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Show your heart



#WhoWeAre

#TogetherWithRefugees

The Nationality and Borders Bill

The UK government is planning to introduce new rules for how we treat refugees. The plans represent a major attack on people seeking safety, and they undermine our obligations under international law.

If passed into law, the Nationality and Borders Bill will

- deny many refugees the chance to seek sanctuary in the UK,
- criminalise many of those who try,
- isolate refugees in harmful out-of-town institutions, and
- undermine 70 years of international co-operation under the UN refugee convention.

Combined with the government's refusal to set a clear target on how many refugees the UK will resettle, it would drastically cut the overall number we give safety to.

We want to see people fleeing war, persecution or violence treated with compassion in the UK.

Let's pray and act to make things better!

What you can do

- **Show your heart** – Put a sign in your window, wear a sticker as you do your shopping, or put a sticker on your car. Let refugees see that we're a city and a county with a heart!
- **Take practical action** – From donating to buy winter clothes to teaching English or mentoring, there are many ways you can be part of a welcome in Oxford and Oxfordshire. We've put together a leaflet with our partners that showcases the opportunities, as well as a page with the latest on how you can help people coming from Afghanistan. Find them at ccow.org.uk ... and choose what you can do.
- **Write to your MP** – As the Nationality and Borders Bill goes through Parliament, share your concerns. Our friends at Asylum Welcome have some great guidance: <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/campaigns/raise-your-voice-to-fight-the-new-plan-for-immigration/>

Please pray for refugees, people who are welcoming them in the UK, and Government policy that is more effective, fair and humane.

Lord God, you have at times called your people to journey to new lands

And you have often reminded them to welcome and give justice to the stranger.

We thank you for gathering us in this time and this place.

And we pray that you will help us to see how we can be people of welcome, love and justice.

Help us, we pray, to offer hospitality that reflects your generous love

And an openness to others that sees your image and likeness in every person.

Show us where we can play our part in shaping a society

Where people fleeing danger find sanctuary, And everyone is given opportunities to flourish.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord,
Whose parents fled their homeland to protect him from harm

And who commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves.