



REFUGEE CRISIS

NEWSLETTER 2020

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON



**Discover how
donations to our
Refugee Crisis Fund
have helped to make
lives more hopeful!**

We wish to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition of the Refugee Newsletter. If you would like to know more about the Diocese's **social action initiatives** or **Caritas Arundel & Brighton** please contact:

Social Action Advisor - Tessa Ricketts
E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Further information on the organisations and individuals featured in this Newsletter can be found here:

Eastbourne Network:

W: www.eastbournenetwork.org
E: networkeb@gmail.com

Emmaus:

W: www.emmausbrighton.co.uk
E: contact@emmausbrighton.co.uk

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group:

W: www.gdwg.org.uk
T: 01293 657070

To book a talk with **Karen Goldsmith** or to discuss her work with refugees in Greece:
E: karen.goldsmith21@gmail.com
or visit **CESRT**; W: www.cesrt.org

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Head Office:

W: www.svp.org.uk
T: 020 7703 3030

Worthing for Refugees:

W: <https://worthing4refugees.org.uk>

Voices in Exile:

W: www.voicesinexile.org
T: 01273 328598



The publication of this Newsletter is not paid for by money donated to the Refugee Crisis Fund. All contributions received are used to help migrants through carefully approved grants to local good causes, organisations and charities.

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FOREWORD BY BISHOP RICHARD

The more we are able to open our minds and hearts to those who are in the greatest need, the more we witness to the words of Jesus: 'I was a stranger and you made me welcome.' (Mt. 25:35).

This edition of 'Refugee Crisis Newsletter' is an excellent reminder of the work that is going on across the Diocese to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters who find themselves having to leave their homelands. As you will see, the generosity that has been shown, both financially and in so many other ways, is having a good impact. There is, of course, always more to be done. Even though it is not always at the forefront of news headlines, the Crisis continues.



Thank you for all that is being achieved – and for renewing your commitment in prayer, volunteering your skills and talents and your financial generosity to ensure that we can continue to welcome those who, having suffered the loss of their home, the all-too-common loss of loved ones and the hardship of dangerous travel, come to dwell amongst us.

With every blessing,

Richard



OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

...OUR FUND

More than £135,000 has been generously donated to the Refugee Crisis Fund over the past five years, enabling us to make a very real difference to those in need.

The Diocese's Refugee Crisis Fund was established by Bishop Richard in 2015. By donating financially, giving of your time as volunteers and offering your prayers and intentions, our many parishes have helped to promote the mission of the Church and make the lives of refugees and asylum seekers living in our diocese more hopeful.

Your donations have helped to spread the message of the Gospel, enabling one of the most vulnerable groups in our community to access vital help and support. Our Steering Group has distributed financial grants to a wide range of charities and organisations including: Gatwick Detainees, Eastbourne Network, Worthing for Refugees, St Leonards-on-Sea SVP, Refugees Welcome Crawley and Brighton Voices in Exile. However, with the displacement of people through war, climate crisis, violence and human rights violations at record levels, the need is greater than ever.

The Fund's financial reserves are now very low - and risk running out altogether. For this important work to continue we need your help.

For details of how you can donate please turn to p.16



'For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me. Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?' And the King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

Matthew 35:40

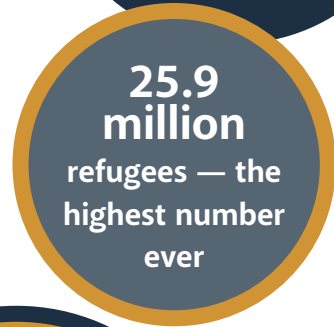
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN A REFUGEE AND AN ASYLUM SEEKER?

When people are forced to leave their homes and seek safety and sanctuary in another country, they apply for asylum. Those who claim asylum in the UK are not normally allowed to work whilst their claim is being considered. If their claim for asylum is granted, they have the right to be recognised as a refugee and receive legal protection and financial help.

An asylum seeker must demonstrate that their home country is not a safe environment for them to remain in. This can sometimes be difficult to prove.

According to the United Nations 70.8 million people were displaced as a result of war, climate crisis, persecution or human rights violations by the end of 2018. The world's forcibly-displaced population is at a record high and includes:



¹ <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/>

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE

FOR THE WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2019



Dear brothers and sisters,

Our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, promote and integrate.... If we put those four verbs into practice, we will help build the city of God and man. We will promote the integral human development of all people... Migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, help us to read the 'signs of the times.' Through them, the Lord is calling us to conversion, to be set free from exclusivity, indifference and the throw-away culture. Through them, the Lord invites us to embrace fully our Christian life and to contribute, each according to his or her proper vocation, to the building up of a world that is more and more in accord with God's plan.

In expressing this prayerful hope, and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Way, I invoke God's abundant blessings upon all the world's migrants and refugees and upon all those who accompany them on their journey.

Pope Francis has been outspoken on the issue of migration. On a visit to Kenya the Pope said that the world's response to the refugee crisis would be 'a test of our humanity.'

Pope Francis has challenged world leaders to do more to protect refugees and migrants, insisting that they should be treated with respect and helped at every stage of migration.

30 PEOPLE EVERY MINUTE

are forced to leave their homes as a result of war, violence, natural disaster, climate change or persecution.



A SPARK OF HOPE

KAREN GOLDSMITH has a long history with Arundel and Brighton, having previously worked for the Diocese for a number of years.

In 2019 Karen travelled to the Greek island of Chios to volunteer with the Chios Eastern Shore Response Team (CESRT). Working with CESRT provided Karen with first-hand experience of the extreme difficulties and dangers faced by people arriving in Europe as asylum seekers and refugees:

'When a refugee boat lands, CESRT attends to offer immediate humanitarian aid. Having risked everything in their flight from war, violence and persecution, refugees are

sent by people smugglers to make the perilous crossing from Turkey, crammed into unseaworthy inflatables low in the water. Drownings do happen and all those making the journey arrive exhausted, anxious and disorientated. With clothing wet from the crossing, people are glad of a friendly welcome from our team, who distribute blankets, food, drink, dry clothing and other essentials.

'Police transfer new arrivals to the island's only refugee camp; capacity is 1,100 with the majority of the island's refugee population of 6,000 forced to live rough in muddy fields beyond the camp, using whatever they can find for shelter. Conditions are terrible without water supply, sanitation or heating.

'My experience of Chios has been one of the Gospel writ large. The refugees there have endured unimaginable loss and trauma and live in extreme poverty. These are good, decent people – many of them are highly educated professionals – who love their families and long for peace and safety. Their courage, kindness and quiet dignity is amazing. For Muslim and Christian alike, strong faith and trust in God sees the spark of hope shine out from the darkness.'

Karen is happy to give talks about her experience in Chios to parishes within the Diocese. To contact Karen or find out more about the work CESRT undertakes turn to page 2.



HALF OF THE WORLD'S REFUGEES ARE CHILDREN

Thousands take flight without the protection of parents or other family members.



GATWICK DETAINEES WELFARE GROUP

ANNA PINCUS is the Director of Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG), a charity that supports people at risk of deportation held at two government immigration removal centres: Tinsley and Brook House.

GDWG provides an invaluable lifeline to those in detention and their families, assisting relatives who wish to visit their loved ones and providing practical goods such as: second-hand clothing, international phone cards, and small amounts of money to those experiencing great hardship and destitution.

Anna explains the difference that the Refugee Crisis Fund has made to people being detained within our Diocese:

'If you take off by plane from Gatwick Airport you will pass two immigration removal centres situated at the airport's south perimeter. These buildings, built on a category B prison model, hold up to 700 immigration detainees at any one time.

'The people held there are not incarcerated because they have committed a crime. There is no judicial oversight of the decision to detain, nor do individuals know how long they will

¹ Stats taken from Oxford University's Migration Observatory:
<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/immigration-detention-in-the-uk/>

be there; it can be days, months or years. The longest I know someone to have been detained is nine years!

'Being held in detention can be extremely isolating. We have 70 trained volunteers who visit people in detention weekly, conveying hospitality and welcome in spite of the context of the visits. The support offered by our volunteers is a lifeline; they provide transformative, unconditional friendship and acceptance to people who often have very little support.

'We have seen first-hand the difference the Diocesan Refugee Fund makes. Donations to the Refugee Fund have helped people in crisis, who are marginalised and have no other source of support as they are not eligible to receive benefits.'

'Thanks to the fund, we were able to give supermarket vouchers to families who were destitute, had no access to food banks and would otherwise have been without money to buy food.'

Anna Pincus GDWG

The Refugee Crisis Fund has made a real, practical difference to the people GDWG encounters as Anna explains:

'A grant from the Refugee Fund enabled the family of a blind man in detention to visit him before he was returned to Zimbabwe. This was the last time he would be visited by his wife and daughter. For the price of two rail tickets, the family were able to say goodbye, which was of huge importance to the man's child, who will remember that her father was forced to leave and did not disappear without care.

'Another family were able to travel from the north of England to an important bail hearing. Their presence at the hearing demonstrated that the person being held had a loving, close, genuine tie with his family. This was a significant factor in him being reunited with them and given bail.

'Without your fund we would have had to stand by and watch; because of your generosity we were able to make a positive intervention.'

DID YOU KNOW?

Immigration detention is overseen by the Home Office although detention and removal centres are frequently managed by private companies.

According to Oxford University's *Migration Observatory* approximately 24,700 people entered immigration detention centres in the UK in 2018, including 63 children. Roughly half of those detained had claimed asylum in the UK and were waiting for their application to be processed.¹¹

DID YOU KNOW?

The United Kingdom is the only country in Europe that detains people, including asylum seekers, in immigration detention centres without a release date. Indefinite detention is both a breach of human rights and of the rule of law. 'No one', as the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights says, 'shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.' Around one third of immigration detainees are held for longer than 28 days - Gatwick Detainees website.

VOICES IN EXILE



Brighton charity Voices in Exile (VIE) works with refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, who have no access to public funds, across East and West Sussex and Surrey.

Their team helps migrants, who are destitute for all sorts of reasons beyond their control, to access services, get legal advice, obtain small hardship grants, receive provisions through their foodbank and develop their potential through a programme of learning. VIE

have used money from our fund to help a wide range of people including a family from Syria, as Director Mel Steel explains:

'The Yabroudi family, a mother and her three adult daughters, arrived in England as part of the Syrian resettlement programme. The family had complex mental and physical health needs with only one sister able to leave the house regularly. Although they were keen to learn English, the



family's isolation meant that they struggled to access mainstream services.

'Money from the Refugee Crisis Fund helped us to provide the family with a dedicated caseworker able to assist them with many of their practical and legal needs. As she got to know the family, she felt that it would be beneficial for them to have a volunteer mentor.

'In July 2018 the family were matched with one of our volunteers, a practising psychotherapist with professional experience of using art therapy to help people who have experienced trauma. One of the sisters had previously been a keen artist; through gentle encouragement, small steps and simple conversations the sisters started to draw. This allowed them to focus on something positive also providing an opportunity to open up, in an unpressured way, about some of the experiences they lived through in Syria.

'Support is ongoing, the family's volunteer mentor has made important progress, managing to encourage the family to venture outside as far as the garden – something they were previously unable to do. Their interest in gardening has developed as a result and their mentor is now working to encourage them to visit a nearby allotment. They have started to make connections with one of their neighbours, who brought them a gift. Their mentor reports that she is learning too and is being taught to cook Syrian food!'

£5

enables a VIE client to travel to and from VIE's office to attend a vital casework meeting, one of their advice sessions or their weekly food bank.



'The refugee crisis is a huge challenge, not only in Europe and the Middle East, but in many other parts of the world where large numbers of refugees live deeply uncertain and perilous lives... As a Catholic community, and as a country, we need to be committed to helping refugees over a long period. To sustain that effort, we need moral imagination.'

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Cardinal Nichols visits Christians in makeshift camps in Erbil. Christians, Yazidis and others have sought refuge from ISIS violence in their former homes around Mosul and the Nineveh Plain.

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The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) aims to tackle poverty in all its forms by providing practical help to those in need.

The SVP's Good Shepherd Conference in St Leonards-on-Sea is part of a local initiative called 'The Links Project' which offers help and advice to asylum seekers, refugees and new migrants in the region. Refugee Crisis Fund grants given to the St Leonards SVP have helped their volunteers provide practical support to those in need including everyday important items such as: food, legal advice, travel costs, second-hand furniture and school uniforms. Hansi arrived in St Leonards from Angola:





'Hansi was a very strong Catholic and eventually decided to join our SVP Conference. He was initially refused leave to remain in England and with nowhere to live, or means to support himself, moved in with an SVP member's family. During this time, our Conference supported him financially and emotionally.'

'Hansi was very active and ran the Hastings Half Marathon to raise funds for the SVP. He was very much part of our Conference until his appeal to remain in the UK was accepted and he moved to Manchester. We were delighted when Hansi was given indefinite leave to remain. While we were very sorry to see him go, we have stayed in contact. He is now a married teacher with a small child - and is President of his local SVP Conference!'

'Our SVP has worked with asylum seekers for many years and has shared people's joy whenever they are given leave to remain.'

Money from the Refugee Crisis Fund helped the SVP in Brighton provide essential household items to asylum seekers and refugees through their Furniture Scheme. SVP member Peter explains more:

'People are referred to our SVP Furniture Scheme by local authorities, social workers and organisations such as Voices in Exile. They have usually been given unfurnished accommodation and are not able to afford essential pieces of furniture such as beds, sofas and wardrobes. We provide a voucher up to the value to £110 to be exchanged for furniture at Emmaus, a charity based in Portslade.'

'Our SVP supports people of all ages and backgrounds; one family we helped were Coptic Christians forced to seek asylum because of religious persecution in Sudan. The family included a teacher, doctor and dentist who were unable to work in the UK and had to rely on a local food bank. Donations from the Refugee Crisis Fund enabled us to provide them with the much-needed furniture they may have struggled to obtain elsewhere.'

'We have just had a wonderful delivery of furniture and now have a home and friends helping us. Thank you so much.'

*Ghazi and Amena,
helped by the SVP.*

DONATE TODAY

Donate to our Refugee Crisis Migrant Fund to support our brothers and sisters in need

Please return this form to:

Finance, Bishop's House, The Upper Drive, Hove, BN3 6NB

My Details: [Please use BLOCK LETTERS]

TITLE: FIRST NAME(S):

SURNAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

By giving us your email, you consent to being contacted via this method.

TEL:

By giving us your telephone number, you consent to being contacted via this method.

I would like to make my contribution by: (please tick)

Standing Order £..... per week / month (circle)

Please complete the form on the next page

One off payment £ *Please make a bank transfer to: RCD Arundel and Brighton
Sort code: 40-05-20 Account: 60116939 with the reference 'Migrant Fund'*

Donating online via: www.abdiocese.org.uk/donate

Cheque £..... made payable to Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (Mark on the back: Migrant fund) Please write your Gift Aid number on the back of your cheque, if you have one.

Gift Aid helps our church to thrive! Gift Aid your donation with no extra cost to you.

I would like to Gift Aid my donation (please tick)

I wish to Gift Aid the donations I will make in the future or have made in the last 4 years to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the relevant tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference. I confirm I have read and understood the notes below.

Signed:

Date:

STANDING ORDER IS THE BEST WAY TO GIVE

Please set up your Refugee Crisis Migrant Fund Standing Order instruction

TO: (NAME OF BANK)

ACCOUNT HOLDER(S):

ADDRESS:

POST CODE:

SORT CODE:

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ACCOUNT NUMBER:

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GIFT AID DECLARATION NUMBER:

							Migrant
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Please pay the sum of £ _____ Monthly* / Quarterly* / Annually*
(*Circle as appropriate)

Commencing on ____ / ____ / ____ and thereafter until further notice

Signed:

Date:

To: HSBC Bank plc, 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY

Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account number: 60116939

This donation can be Gift Aided. Please sign up to Gift Aid on the previous page.

Please return this form to the Finance Team in Hove and NOT your bank.

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

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