

Support that Churches can offer to **Asylum Seekers** and **Refugees**

1. **Register at Welcome Churches** * SEE AT THE END OF the document
2. Help with **registering** at: preschools, schools, GP's, and dentists
3. Joining the **local library**: books, access to Wi-Fi and computers. Churches can also offer a laptop and their Wi-Fi and support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees to fill in electronic forms
4. Engage with the Local Colleges to see if they offer **English classes (ESOL)** for Refugees and Asylum Seekers
5. Churches can offer **conversational English**: informal chatting. Events that allow for talking and socialising and activities are ideal (cycling, gardening, time to tell their stories, games)
6. Creating a **safe space** to talk and socialise with children being cared for in the same area but time to relax (don't ask the Refugee to tell their story, wait for the person to open up at their own pace, in their own time)
7. Councils should offer an **integration programme** with an Integration Officer. Find out who that is and liaise with them
8. The Council may have **provision** for use of swimming pools and gyms etc
9. **ARC** (Application Registration Card) for Asylum Seekers and eligibility for £37 per week
10. **Councils** are now receiving £10 000 per Ukrainian Refugee – ask questions from Council about how they are offering support with this money
11. Help/go with a family to show them how to use the **buses and trains**, to understand booking and buying tickets and explaining the routes etc. Help to download the Bus/Train apps
12. Create opportunities for Refugees where we can **learn from them**, through gardening, teaching cooking lessons, and sharing their culture
13. **Job Centre** introductions to help with CV writing. Organise a trainer to do Food Hygiene and First Aid courses. These qualifications often support them in their job application
14. As a Church we might be able to help **food banks and baby banks** etc who might then be providing support to these families

Resources

Upbeat communities - <https://www.upbeatcommunities.org/>

A charity called Baby Basics have an Amazon wish list and the link is below:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/333FVEMF7TEH4?ref_=wl_share

Education - links with schools. Refugee education uk (<https://www.reuk.org/>) - this organisation had a very interesting speaker and provides support on how to access education when you are a refugee. They produce education welcome packs and helpline.

Reset UK - <https://resetuk.org/> Community sponsorship - a group of people come together to welcome a refugee. They secure housing, make a resettlement plan and then support.

A matching website is now live - www.homesforukraine.org.uk

The sanctuary foundation - <https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk>



Welcome Churches:

Refugees and Asylum Seekers are a very transient people group. Often, through no choice of their own, they are required to move around the UK at short notice. This means that they can arrive in a new place feeling isolated and being unfamiliar with their new surroundings. When they move, they often want to find another church community quickly, who can welcome them and support them.

Welcome Churches is building a **Welcome Network** of churches across the UK who are committed to welcoming refugees into their church and community. **It is FREE to join and you can apply online.** The Welcome Network is a simple-to-use web platform and national referral system. This will help refugees, churches and other organisations find the churches around the country who are committed and equipped to welcome refugees. We look forward to profiling your church on the Network too.

To apply to join the Welcome Network, please fill out our online application form at welcomechurches.org/join

<https://youtu.be/5V86ybJzQPA>