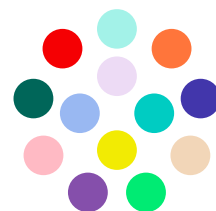


'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' Matt 25:35

Welcoming the stranger



An evening of stories and sharing, for Refugee Week

21 June 2025, 7:00-8.30PM, St Peter's Church Hall, Shoreham-by-Sea


As part of National Refugee Week, we warmly invite you to an evening celebrating and supporting refugees within our community. Hear from local organisations about the challenges faced by refugees and how our community can come together to make a positive difference.

How can we welcome the stranger?

1. Become involved in a local charity or organisation supporting refugees and asylum seekers:

- the [Adur Ukraine Support Association](#), supporting the health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees and promoting Ukrainian heritage and culture.
 - Watch the Ukrainian Choir, Saturday 21st June, 1pm, Ropetackle Arts Centre, Shoreham
- [Worthing 4 Refugees](#) - creating a culture of safety, integration and justice for refugees and displaced people.
 - Screening of film 'Life is Beautiful – A letter to Gaza'
Thursday 19th June, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Goring-by-Sea
- [Adur 4 Refugees](#) - a group set up to support the refugee families who came to this area under the Syrian Resettlement Scheme.
- [Voices in Exile](#) - supporting refugees, asylum seekers and those with no recourse to public funds in East and West Sussex and Surrey.
- [The Hummingbird Project](#) - a Brighton based charity working locally with young refugees and campaigning nationally.
- [Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group](#) - supporting people affected by immigration detention at the two immigration removal centres in Gatwick
 - There is always a need for donations of men's clothes, particularly joggers, sweaters, t-shirts and trainers.
- [Refugee Tales](#) – a charity sharing the stories of asylum seekers and walking in solidarity with people who have been detained.

2. Host an asylum seeker or refugee

- [Refugees At Home](#) connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and people seeking asylum who are in need of somewhere to stay.
- Or foster an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child for West Sussex County Council:
 - Watch [Rose and Phil's fostering story - Fostering West Sussex](#)

3. Donate to the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton refugee crisis fund, or any of the charities above: [Refugee Crisis Fund | Arundel & Brighton Diocese](#)

Some Facts about Refugees

(taken from the Refugee Council www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)

- At the end of 2021 around 89 million people were forcibly displaced across the world. Of these, 27 million were refugees, while 53 million were internally displaced.
- 72% of the world's refugees are living in countries neighbouring their country of origin. Developing countries look after most of the world's refugees.
- Turkey is the biggest refugee hosting country in the world. At the end of 2022 Turkey was providing safety to 3.7 million Syrian refugees.
- 41% of displaced people across the world are children.
- There is no such thing as an 'illegal' or 'bogus' person seeking asylum. Under international law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in any country that has signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and to remain there until the authorities have assessed their claim.
- A European regulation allows countries in the EU to return an adult asylum applicant to the first European country they reached. This means that countries on the edge of Europe have responsibility for a lot more people seeking asylum than others.
- The UK is home to approximately 1% of the 27 million refugees who are forcibly displaced across the world.
- In 2022, the UK ranked 17th in Europe for the number of asylum applications per head of population.
- In the UK, a person becomes a refugee when the government agrees that an asylum seeker meets the definition in the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
- Official resettlement schemes are a safe way to claim asylum, but they are very restricted (1% of the world's refugees). There were 2,044 people granted protection in the UK through resettlement schemes in the twelve months to March 2025. This is 15% (374) fewer people than arrived the year before.
- Since January 2022, 95% of those who crossed the Channel claimed asylum in the UK, and a third are still waiting for a decision. Of those with a decision, 66% were granted protection.
- There were 38,023 people detected arriving by small boats in the year to March 2025. 6 in 10 of these were from just 5 countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Eritrea, Iran, Sudan, most having a positive refugee decision rate of between 80% and 98%.
- It can sometimes take years for claims to be decided, leaving people in limbo.
- Almost all people claiming asylum in the UK are not allowed to work and are forced to rely on state support – this is as little as £6.43 a day to live on (for food and everything excluding accommodation).
- The UK Government has the power to detain asylum seekers. There is no maximum time limit in place for people held in detention, meaning people can be held indefinitely.
- Newly granted refugees often face destitution and homelessness. They are given 56 days to leave their asylum accommodation and find their own accommodation.



REFUGEE WEEK 2025
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