**Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

Panel for Social Responsibility Contact:

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**The Issues**

We hope to build upon learning from Nottingham Citizens’ [Sanctuary report](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/newcitizens/pages/1162/attachments/original/1487947241/Embargoed_until_21-02-17_Final_Sanctuary_Report.pdf?1487947241) here in Leicester. It was the result of a comprehensive listening exercise with refugees and asylum seekers; and with supporting organisations.

British Red Cross published a report about destitution of failed asylum seekers called [Can’t Stay Can’t Go](http://www.redcross.org.uk/en/About-us/News/2017/March/Red-Cross-report-reveals-plight-of-asylum-seekers-trapped-in-destitution)

A useful guide to supporting refugees is available [here](https://issuu.com/theuniversityofwinchester/docs/print_refugee_brochure_2?e=2137537/46284033)

**Support for Refugees**

**Collection of items:**While it is good and helpful to collect useful items to be distributed to those in need – whether food, clothing, toiletries or anything else – groups working in this area know best what is needed so it is best to contact them direct to check before donating.

[Leicester City of Sanctuary](https://leicester.cityofsanctuary.org/) lists local groups and projects providing support services in this area.

St Martin’s House in Leicester hosts the [Welcome Project](https://leicester.cityofsanctuary.org/welcome-project) on Thursday mornings for food and toiletries donations.

**Further information and resources**

We do not claim this to be a comprehensive resource but it provides useful pointers.

The Church of England provides some useful information and guidance for churches [on this](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/migration) link.

[Local organisations working to support refugees Feb 17 update](https://www.leicester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Local-organisations-working-to-support-refugees-Feb-17-update.docx)

We aim to keep this list as accurate as possible. Please help the co-ordination of local efforts by [mailing us](mailto:alison.adams@leccofe.org?subject=Refugees) details of any other local activities and organisations working in this area.

**Resources for thinking about migration issues**

[Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)](https://ccme.eu/)

[Jesuit Refugee Service UK](http://jrsuk.net/)

[Refugee Resource](http://refugeeresource.org.uk/)

[Refugee Council](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/)

[The Children’s Society](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/)

[Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN).](http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/)

[Citizens UK](https://www.citizensuk.org/leicester)

Safe Passage [Refugees Welcome](http://safepassage.org.uk/refugees-welcome/)

[Caritas Social Action Network](http://www.csan.org.uk/category/migration/) – liturgies, resources, theology, case studies on migration.

**Financial assistance to support refugees**

[Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/)works with partners and agencies to support practical and political action to help those fleeing, and address the longer term issues. Donors wishing to support refugee relief in Europe can donate to Christian Aid to support work partners.

[Tearfund](https://www.tearfund.org/) has an emergency fund to bring desperately needed help and support. They are partnering with church groups in Europe, enabling them to offer care, support and aid to those that have already fled and are in huge need. The Tearfund Refugee Appeal will fund this vital work in Europe as well as helping some of the millions who are displaced or refugees within the Middle East.

[British Red Cross](http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/News/2015/September/British-Red-Cross-launches-urgent-appeal-for-Europe-refugee-crisis) also has a Refugee Appeal.

**Prayer and Church resources**

**Church of England Prayer for Refugees**  
Heavenly Father,  you are the source of all goodness, generosity and love.  We thank you for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives. Help us now to open our arms in welcome, and reach out our hands in support. That the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored.  We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Lord,  who fled persecution at His birth  and at His last triumphed over death. Amen

**Tearfund Prayer**

Lord God, help us to rememberthose who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome,strangers in foreign lands,people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes.We lift up to you those who are escaping persecution and conflict,such as the thousands from East Africa and the Middle Eastwho are camped in Calais, having fled death, torture or ruthless exploitation.So many carry wounds, mental and physical.So many have suffered so much.Lord Jesus, give us more of your compassion for their plight,soften our hearts to their situation,and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf.And Lord, we pray for an end to the wars, poverty and human rights abusesthat drive desperate people to become refugees in the first place.We give thanks for staff and partnersworking in these troubled countries,and ask for more of your blessingso we can bring life, dignity and hope to those that remain. Father, we thank you that you are Lord of all the earthand all its people are loved by you. We pray these things in the name of your sonwho was himself born into the troubled life of a refugee.Amen

**A prayer from Cafod by Annabel Shilson-Thomas entitled ‘Leaving Security Behind’:**

God, our fellow traveller,give us courage to leave security behindthat we may take the path of riskand become your pilgrims.Give us courage to tread the road of dispossessionthat we may reach out to those we meetand share their load.And give us grace to listen to those whose voice is lostThat we may hear their cry and shout out for justice. Amen.

**A Prayer for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

For Racial Justice Sunday (September 13th), Churches Together in Britain and Ireland had as its theme ‘Hospitality and Sanctuary for All’. Resources (which could be used more generally) are available on their website.

[Thinking Biblically about Immigration](http://www.jubilee-centre.org/tba-immigration/) – a booklet from the Jubilee Centre, free to download

Immigration and Justice: how local churches can change the debate on immigration in Britain – a booklet available at £3.50 from the [Jubilee Centre,](http://www.jubilee-centre.org/immigration-and-justice-booklet/) with four sections:

Part 1 examines immigration in contemporary Britain. It digs into the data, suggests some useful categories for thinking about immigrants, and explores perceived anxieties around EU migration.  
Part 2 offers a biblical foundation to the issue of immigration, considering how Israelite society responded to immigration, and how they were called to model something more than justice.  
Part 3 seeks to apply this biblical knowledge as a Christian framework for contemporary Britain.  
Part 4 proposes a set of initiatives for local churches to take as missional responses to the challenges and opportunities presented by immigration.

[A Christian Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in the Mediterranean](http://www.worldea.org/news/4555/a-christian-response-to-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-the-mediterranean)– an article by Thomas Albinson, WEA Ambassador for Refugees; includes pointers for both reflection and action.

[Immigration and the Bible: A Guide for Radical Welcome](http://christianchurchestogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Immigration-Bible-Leaders.pdf) – small group discussion guidelines produced by United Methodist Women in the US