



REFUGEE CRISIS

**FIVE WAYS
TO RESPOND**



Diocese of Canterbury

CHANGED LIVES ⇨ CHANGING LIVES

Bishop Trevor has spoken of the need for compassion and a focus on the humanity of all those affected by the refugee and migrant crisis. He has said that it is our ‘moral duty’ to take their situation seriously. Archbishop Justin has also stated that the situation being faced now is a ‘complex and wicked crisis that underlines our human frailty and the fragility of our political systems.’ Here are five ways we as Christians in the Diocese of Canterbury can respond to the continuing crisis, while undergirding all our work in prayer:

A Prayer for Refugees

Almighty and merciful God

whose Son became a refugee

and had no place to call his own;

Look with mercy on those who today

are fleeing from danger,

loveless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;

inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;

and guide the nations of the world towards that day

when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

(by Bishop Trevor)

Calais Eviction: Actions Update

Please see the Bishop of Dover’s latest statement regarding Calais:

www.canterburydiocese.org/bishop-of-dover-speaks-of-human-tragedy-in-calais

1 – ACT

Archbishop Justin has said that: “The Church has always been a place of sanctuary for those in need, and Churches in the UK and across Europe have been meeting the need they are presented with. I reaffirm our commitment to the principle of sanctuary for those who require our help and love.” It is a call to churches to act and be prepared to respond to those in need from other nations in our midst. So what practical support can you give?

DONATE – HUMANITARIAN AID

The camp in Calais is now being dismantled. Despite this, the need to support migrants and refugees will continue as they disperse to other areas on the coast or in towns. If you would like to offer humanitarian support please always make sure you contact the group first before you start collecting to check they are currently accepting donations, when their next scheduled delivery date is, or check their wish-list to make sure you are collecting the items most needed.

Please also be aware that many of these grassroots organisations are run by volunteers and ordinary people doing this work around their regular jobs, and so they will deal with your enquiry as best, and as quickly, as they can.

- **Seeking Sanctuary** – A local Kent Christian group who work with L’Auberge des Migrants, providing on the ground support and aid to migrants in Calais. Please keep checking their website for updates on what is needed or how you can best support them: seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/
- **Calaid-ipedia:** This is a one-stop information site for many of the groups who have been working in Calais. They have a regularly updated breaking news section. Please check for the latest on the dispersal and any items they are are www.calaidipedia.co.uk/camp-news.
- The **UK Government** has a dedicated tool on its website to help refugees: www.gov.uk/help-refugees
- **Worldwide Tribe:** theworldwidetribe.com/ourwork/
- The Salvation Army Canterbury Calais Appeal More info here: www.canterburysa.co.uk/calais-appeal/Dunkirk
- The Refugee Women's Centre supports women, families and minors in and around Grande Synthe, Dunkirk and Calais more info here: www.dunkirkrefugeewomenscentre.com/
- Catholic Workers’ House Calais: mariaskobtsova.org/urgent-needs/

DONATE - FUNDS:

Many groups involved with migrants and refugees, welcome monetary support as this means they can buy goods directly as and when needed, as

well as keep projects going. Consider raising funds for an organisation over above sending physical goods.

- **Bishop Advent Justice Appeal** – Launched by the Diocese in December 2015, the Bishop’s Advent Justice Appeal was set up to raise funds to help the Diocese form a coordinated, long-term response to the refugee crisis. With a Kent Refugee Officer now appointed, a second post working in Calais with our link Diocese of Arras is still being developed. Funding for this work is still required. It is possible to donate online here www.justgiving.com/campaign/aplacetocallhome, or by cheque, made payable to CDBF, with “Justice Appeal” written on the back and sent to Advent Justice Appeal, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton’s Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ.
- **Christian Aid** - a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide. www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation
- **Seeking Sanctuary via Caritas Social Action Network** – CSAN is the social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. If you indicate on your donation form that your gift is ‘For Calais’ it will be directed to groups working in those areas. These included Seeking Sanctuary who can access the fund to purchase items directly themselves. uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005810
- **Doctors of the World**

Refugees and migrants across Europe are living in appalling conditions including pregnant women and very young children, many of them unaccompanied. Most lack essentials such as safe drinking water, adequate food, sanitation and proper shelter. Doctors of the World are meeting the needs of refugees on Greek islands as well as in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, and through clinics in nine European countries including France, Germany and the UK. They have been providing medical help on the ground in Calais since 2003. Every donation will help provide crucial support. www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/pages/refugee-crisis
- **Save the Children** – An appeal directly to support refugee children across Europe and in the countries they are fleeing from to provide aid and support: www.savethechildren.org.uk/about-us/emergencies/child-refugee-crisis-appeal
- **Migrant Offshore Aid Station: MOAS** is a registered Foundation based in Malta. It is dedicated to preventing loss of life at sea by providing assistance to those who

find themselves in distress while crossing the Mediterranean Sea in unsafe vessels:

www.moas.eu/

- **Tearfund** – Their Middle East Emergency Appeal is focussed on helping those who have been displaced by violence in Syria and Iraq:
www.tearfund.org/en/latest/middle_east_emergency_appeal/
- **UNHCR** – They are working on the ground from Syria to Central African Republic, Iraq to South Sudan providing life-saving protection for those who have had to flee their homes. Donate donate.unhcr.org

2 - SERVE

Local Authorities across the country are welcoming UNASC and Refugee families and Kent has been at the forefront of this welcome. Volunteers are at the heart of service delivery and crucial to service development. Some organisations, particularly those long-term projects based in Kent would welcome volunteers to help support their services to refugees and migrants. Listed below are organisations who offer a range of volunteering opportunities below.

- **Kent Refugee Action Network**: An independent charity that provides help and support to asylum seekers and refugees, including minors who have arrived in the United Kingdom unaccompanied by an adult. There are befriending, support and class room assistant opportunities: kran.org.uk/vacancies-2/volunteer/
- **Migrant Help UK** A national charity based in Kent offering advice and support to vulnerable migrants in the UK. As well as running an advice line, they run and support numerous projects. Migrant Help U.K is looking to appoint volunteers to act as Syrian Resettle Support Workers in Kent and in Essex: www.migranthelpuk.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/

- **Mental Health Support for Volunteers:**

A group of 25 qualified therapists under the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy and the UK Centre for Psychotherapy are offering a single pro bono therapy session to volunteers who are returning from the refugee camps across Europe. If you are interested in grounding your experiences from the camps or needing some support as you adjust to coming home, please contact Elizabeth on counsellingvolunteers@gmail.com.

- **Kent Kindness**. Kent Kindness is a volunteer group setup to give additional support to the young unaccompanied asylum seeking men aged 16-17 who come to the Cranbrook reception centre. The aim is to help and supplement the activities and facilities already provided by the Kent County Council staff, and to work in partnership with them. They warmly welcome volunteers aged 25 or over to help in a number of ways: cooking and bringing in cakes on Tuesday afternoons, getting involved with organising and running extra sports or sporting events, helping establish and run a gardening plot at the centre, taking part with other volunteers in teaching English in one or more 2 hr sessions. No qualifications or previous experience is needed and they supply resources. They also urgently require some voluntary help with admin assistance. kentkindness.org.uk
- **Samphire** is an independent charity, based in Dover, who support and advocate for ex-detainees nationwide who face destitution and hardship after detention. People released from detention are not allowed to work in the UK or to access social support. Samphire is also engaged with communities in Dover and Kent to challenge misconceptions about migration and to support communities to celebrate diversity and inclusiveness. Possible volunteer roles are: Office/administrative volunteer, Fundraising volunteer, Awareness volunteer (help organizing events and talks or developing blog and awareness raising literature)

www.samphireproject.org.uk/help/volunteer/
- **Kent Refugee Help**: A small charity supporting immigration detainees held in Dover Immigration Removal Centre (DIRC) and in HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Pentonville, Wandsworth and Elmley. They need support through financial donations but also through volunteers willing to befriend, support and potentially act as surety for those detained in Kent and London.
- The Refugee Tales : refugeetales.org
- **Asphaleia training** www.asphaleia.co.uk/ventures/training.html
- **Refugees at Home:** www.refugeesathome.org/
- **Faversham and Villages Refugees Solidarity Group** fvrsq.wordpress.com/
- **Whitstable Calais Solidarity Group** whitstablesolidarity.org/
- **Canterbury Welcomes Refugees** is working in partnership with our Diocese to bring a refugee family to the safety of Canterbury: www.youtube.com/watch?

[v=nVJI5Athdoo](#) For more info contact Domenica our Diocesan Refugee Officer
dpecoraro@diocant.org

- [Young Lives Foundation](#) (YLF): An independent children's charity dedicated to delivering quality services tailored to supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Kent. This also includes young unaccompanied asylum-seekers. There are opportunities to be Accompanying adults and appropriate adults, who give support to children seeking asylum during assessments by local authorities. ylf.org.uk/get-involved/volunteers/

Fostering

- KCC Kent Fostering: Kent fostering is currently looking for carers in Kent to look after older children (aged 13-18), brothers and sisters so they can stay together, disabled children and unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. They are running a number of events in October November and December for those who would like to find out more. They also hold regular online web chats where fostering staff are available to answer any questions you might have about the fostering process if you aren't able to make one of the live events.
www.kentfostering.co.uk/events
- Home for Good: A Christian organisation working with a number of local authorities across the UK, compiling a database of people who have space in their homes and may be interested in exploring further the possibility of fostering unaccompanied asylum-seeking children for a few days in an emergency, short term or long term:
www.homeforgood.org.uk/respond/
- The No Accommodation Network – although they currently have no link in Kent, this informal network of agencies providing accommodation for migrants who have no recourse to public funds, is looking to widen its reach. They deal mainly with asylum-seekers whose asylum claims have been rejected, but for a variety of reasons have not been deported: nacom.org.uk/agencies/south-east/

3 - CAMPAIGN AND ADVOCATE

Campaigning, signing petitions, writing to your MP, and working with activist groups are all powerful ways to give a voice to migrants and refugees and to stand alongside them. There are numerous petitions aimed at improving the

quality of life of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the UK, or to facilitate family reunification.

- UNICEF UK Please add your name to UNICEF petition to the Home Secretary Sajid Javid. The petition states:

“Right now, across the world, children are being forced to make dangerous journeys to Europe to reach their family in the UK. This is because the UK’s family reunion refugee law doesn’t consider their siblings, grandparents, aunts or uncles family. We call on you to change the definition of family within the UK’s refugee family reunion law.”

#ACHILDISACHILD www.unicef.org.uk/keeping-families-together-petition

- The Children's Society www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-lobbying/child-refugees-and-young-migrants
- JOIN Refugee Action CAMPAIGN TO LIFT THE BAN preventing Asylum Seekers from working!

People seeking safety in our country are banned from working. Unable to provide for themselves and their families, they’re often left to live in poverty. www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban/ Sign the petition here:

act.refugee-action.org.uk/page/29178/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=Website_Button1

- END TO INDEFINITE DETENTION- CAMPAIGN DETENTION ACTION : detentionaction.org.uk/campaigns/indefinite-detention-in-detail/takeaction
- Petitions – a number of parliamentary petitions have been opened with reference to the refugee crisis. If a petition receives 10,000 signatures the Government will respond to it, 100,000 and it will be considered for debate in parliament. Here is a link to all petitions currently available to sign::
petition.parliament.uk/petitions?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=refugees&state=open&commit=Search
- Detention Forum: This is a network of organisations working together to challenge the UK's use of detention. The UK is currently the only country in the UK to enact a policy of indefinite detention. www.detentionforum.org.uk

- Migrants Rights – Organisation bringing together migrant activists and support organisations, think tanks, academics, faith groups and public sector representatives to advocate for a rights-based approach towards migration in the UK: www.migrantsrights.org.uk/about
- Keep alert for any marches or events organised to show solidarity with refugees and migrants.

4 - GET INFORMED

Archbishop Justin has said that: “As Christians we believe we are called to break down barriers, to welcome the stranger and love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:34), and to seek the peace and justice of our God, in our world, today.” It is important therefore to educate oneself in the facts and arguments in order to be able to help break down those barriers, and respond to the concerns others may have in the community regarding migrants and refugees.

- Article on the realities of working with asylum seekers and refugees The Guardian www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/20/secret-life-refugee-support-worker-homeless-asylum-seekers
- Official statistics: resettlement data from 2003 to present here: www.unhcr.org/uk/resettlement-data.html?query=data
- Refugee Council www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/stats
- UNHCR Resettlement Fact Sheet www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/resettlement/5bb62a7f4/resettlement-fact-sheet-august-2018.html?query=statistics
- Resettlement Fact Sheet UNHCR www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/resettlement/5bb62a7f4/resettlement-fact-sheet-august-2018.html?query=statistic
- The Global Displacement Report 2018 provides an in depth description of the current refugees’ struggles in a global perspective. To read the report www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/5b27be547/unhcr-global-trends-2017.html
- For the UNHCR fact sheet: www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html

- For comprehensive Government Statistics on Refugee and Asylum Seekers: www.gov.uk/government/statistics?keywords=asylum+seekers+and+refugees+&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date=
- For the latest Government Statistics on Asylum updated to November 2018 2018 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/november2018
- The Refugee Council have compiled some useful facts around refugees and asylum seekers: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy_research/the_truth_about_asylum
- Red Cross: facts and figures relating refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in the UK, dispelling some of the myths. www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Refugee-support/Refugee-facts-and-figures
- Highlight webinar/ overall website: anglicanalliance.org/
<https://anglicanalliance.org/refugees-europe-can-church-help/>
- The Episcopal Church in America has much inspiring work and stories about how they are supporting refugees through their [Episcopal Migration Ministries](http://www.episcopal.org/episcopal-migration-ministries) service.
- Online forums and twitter feeds – many of the online forums listed above recount first-hand experience of particularly the Calais jungle experience and can provide a useful insight. Others to try are:

@Solidaritywithrefugees

@ Mobile Refugee Support

@Brighton Voices in Exile

@Hummingbird Project- Refugee Aid and Solidarity

@caritasfrance

@RefugeeInfoBus

Worldwide Tribe in Calais www.facebook.com/theworldwidetribe.

Sign up to the UNHCR's twitter feed twitter.com/refugees

5 - PRAY

There are a number of prayers and spiritual resources available to help churches to reflect and remember refugees and migrants, as well as those communities and organisations trying to meet their needs.

- Seeking Sanctuary prayers – This local Christian organisation working in Calais has compiled a series of prayers, many by local ministers. It includes a prayer commended for use by Archbishop Justin: prayersformigrants.weebly.com/
- Church of England – prayer for the refugee crisis: www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-refugees
- The Salvation Army work with Refugees www.salvationarmy.org.uk/refugees
- Bible Society – Refugees and the stranger. Resources and videos covering what the Bible says about refugees featuring theologian Paula Gooder. www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/articles-about-the-bible/what-does-the-bible-say-about-refugees/
- United Reformed Church: 'At home in a strange place' - A collection of resources to enable, encourage and stimulate 'sacred conversations' on migration. It for use in congregations and by small groups. urc.org.uk/at-home-mission.html



All images are courtesy of Secours Catholique.

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