

Help Refugees in the UK

Communications Pack

July 2016



Home Office



HOME SECRETARY ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP SCHEME FOR REFUGEES IN THE UK

A new scheme to encourage community groups to directly sponsor a refugee family was launched by the Home Secretary and Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday 19 July.

The Full Community Sponsorship scheme will enable community groups including charities, faith groups, churches and businesses, to take on the role of supporting resettled refugees in the UK.

A Help Refugees in the UK webpage has also been developed for GOV.UK to make it easier for any member of the public to support refugees in the UK and allow local authorities to focus support on the goods and services that refugees need.

The sponsorship scheme and webpage have been launched as part of the Government's commitment to resettle thousands of the most vulnerable refugees in the UK.

The Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, said:

"The response of the British public to the refugee crisis has been one of overwhelming generosity and many have been moved to make kind offers of assistance.

"This is a ground-breaking new development for resettlement in the UK and I wholeheartedly encourage organisations that can help to offer their support.

"I hope that this new approach will help bring communities together and support these often traumatised and vulnerable families as they rebuild

their lives, and contribute to and thrive in our country."

Sponsoring organisations must have status as either a registered charity or community interest company, the consent of the local authority in which they wish to operate, and a comprehensive plan for resettlement, in order to apply for the scheme.

The Home Office will consider all offers of sponsorship before passing them to local authorities for clearance.

All Syrian refugees arriving in the UK, including those under Full Community Sponsorship will have been through a thorough security vetting process.

Sponsors will be responsible for providing housing for the refugee family, as well as helping them to integrate into life in the UK, access medical and social services, arranging English language tuition and supporting them towards employment and self-sufficiency.

The scheme was launched at Lambeth Palace, as the first community group to be approved to receive a refugee family, and the Government is working with a number of prospective sponsors and local authorities to enable their participation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

"The Full Community Sponsorship Scheme presents churches and other civil society groups

with the opportunity to provide sanctuary to those fleeing war-torn places.

"Refugees, like all people, are treasured human beings, made in the image of God, who deserve safety, freedom and the opportunity to flourish."

"It is an enormous privilege to welcome a family to live in a cottage in the grounds of Lambeth Palace. I am hugely grateful to the Home Office and Lambeth Council for their tireless work and support in enabling this to happen."

The 'Help Refugees in the UK' webpage is initially being piloted in nine local authorities.

It has been designed to enable local authorities to specify the type of donation they most require to support refugees in their area.

Users can select from a range of options for donations, including goods such as baby equipment and clothes, group and cultural outings and the use of vacant housing that must be self-contained and available for a period of at least 12 months.

Offers of help made by members of the public in all non-pilot areas will be considered centrally by the Home Office before being passed on to local authorities.

The webpage will be rolled out to further local authorities across the country in the coming months.



Organisations and charities can support refugees through **community sponsorship**

Find out more on **GOV.UK**

 Home Office

Suggested messages to share

Community Sponsorship

- The Home Secretary has announced the launch of a community sponsorship scheme for refugees in the UK. bit.ly/2ad2TMu
- Find out how your organisation can become a community sponsor #SupportRefugees: bit.ly/2ad2TMu

You can help refugees by providing:

- Help with **housing**
- **Childcare** support
- Help **settling in**
- **Jobs** and career advice

Find out more on **GOV.UK**

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'Help Refugees in the UK' webpage

- The new 'Help Refugees in the UK' page on GOV.UK makes it easier for the public to support refugees: bit.ly/2ad3yxm
- There are many ways you can help to support resettled refugees in the UK: bit.ly/2ad3yxm



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Amber Rudd
Home Secretary

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Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

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[Download the images](#)



- The Government has also pledged more than £2.3 billion in humanitarian aid to Syria and neighbouring countries. We are providing more than £60 million in response to the Mediterranean migration crisis, which includes life-saving humanitarian assistance within Europe. The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors to the Syria crisis.
- The 'Help Refugees in the UK' website is initially being launched in nine pilot local authorities. They are City of Nottingham, Broxtowe, Wiltshire, Cornwall, Cambridge, Coventry, Gateshead, City of York and Lambeth.
- The resettled families under Full Community Sponsorship will be granted Humanitarian Protection, meaning they will have permission to stay in the UK for a period of five years. During this time, they will have the right to work, to claim relevant benefits, to access the NHS and attend school. After five years the resettled family will have the option of applying to extend their leave in the UK.
- All Syrian refugees arriving in the UK, including those under Full Community Sponsorship have been through a thorough two-stage vetting process. The UK works closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who have their own robust identification processes in place. This includes the taking of biometrics, documentary evidence and interviews.
- To follow updates on Community Sponsorship follow the hashtag '#supportrefugees'



- General Information: www.gov.uk/helprefugees
- 'Help Refugees in the UK' webpage: www.gov.uk/help-refugees
- Community Sponsorship Guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship
- Announcement news story on GOV.UK:
www.gov.uk/government/news/community-sponsorship-scheme-launched-for-refugees-in-the-uk