

## Afghan Refugees: How we can help

As people arrive in the UK seeking refuge, there are lots of opportunities for people to get involved such as offering vacant properties and housing for refugees, as well as community and cultural activities, English language support and other options. Donations – specifically baby equipment, clothes and homeware – are also being welcomed in some areas. Councils are leading on resettling families and those who want to help can [search their postcode on this website](#), to find the specific help their council is looking for.

### Donations of clothes and other goods

**Many donation points have already received more items than they can store, so most charities are not currently asking for donated items.**

### Housing

Councils are looking for self-contained flats or houses, available on an open-ended/rolling lease and with rent affordable within the Local Housing Allowance for the relevant area and size of property. They favour properties in larger towns rather than rural locations, to minimise the risk of isolation. Any landlords who would consider letting to a refugee family are invited to contact their local council who will put them in touch with the relevant district council, who can go into more detail about tenancies etc.

- The contact details for Devon are [corpor.refugeeresettlement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:corpor.refugeeresettlement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk);
- The contact details for Plymouth are [houseletenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:houseletenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk)

### Cash Donations

The Refugee Council has an appeal [to help Afghans resettling](#) in the UK.

The British Red Cross is [appealing for donations](#) and is already supporting hundreds of people newly arrived from Afghanistan.

### Community Sponsorship

There may be the opportunity for community sponsorship, which allows parishes to welcome a family. Community sponsors provide housing for the refugees and support them in integrating into life in the UK. They help to arrange access to medical and social services, English language tuition and support towards employment and self-sufficiency.

### Prayer and reflection



The World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) will be celebrated on Sunday, 26 September. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for WDMR 2021 is *Towards an ever wider "we"*. In response to his call to ensure that "after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those', but only 'us'" <https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>

In a new video, <https://tinyurl.com/br6p7k75> the Holy Father asks us to learn to live together in peace and harmony, building a future enriched by diversity and intercultural relations.

Reflections and other communication materials, available at the link below, can be downloaded, published, used and shared freely. Download The Material: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J7oB2azgKCwiHdCLt4oPMIbLTpfzMLpk>