

York Area Quaker Meeting

The Refugee Crisis: Ways in which Friends can offer help

Refugee Action York (RAY) are not only gearing up for new arrivals but do a lot of work with the existing population of asylum seekers and refugees. (R&AS) They are appealing, at present, for new Trustees to join them. They could also do with money. Many Quakers have been and are involved with them. They are likely to be a key organisation if R&AS are resettled in York. (refugeeactionyork.org)

City of Sanctuary are concerned with making York a more welcoming place for refugees and others. They badly need practical help (especially with managing their money and their website) as they struggle to provide practical support to destitute AS and to alter the “narrative” to one where migrants are seen in a positive light. (york.cityofsanctuary.org)

Solace is a Leeds based organisation providing therapy and other help to R&AS who have been tortured or abused. Many Quakers have been involved with them. They always need money for small discretionary grants for destitute clients. (solace-uk.org.uk)

Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN) and **Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** (PAFRAS) have both worked in Leeds for a number of years in particular supporting those who are destitute. Both need money and volunteers. (lassn.org.uk) and (pafaras.org.uk).

38 degrees is a campaigning organisation who are currently raising money to provide new arrivals with food clothes and money. (38degrees.org.uk)

Disasters Emergency Committee, Christian Aid, Save the Children, Oxfam and other well known aid organisations are already helping the R&AS in the Middle East, in transit and in Europe.

Refugee Action is a national organisation that helps all refugees and has a very good website with all sorts of ideas on how to help. (Refugee-Action.org.uk)

Avaaz has a place where you can offer to volunteer or to call on government to give more help. (Avaaz.org)

Boaz Trust Offers accommodation to asylum seekers, mostly in greater Manchester. Their website links to **The No Accommodation Network** which is offering advice to those wishing to help in this way across the UK. (boaztrust.org.uk)