

Refugees and what you can do

Where can refugees go?

- **Go back home:** If the immediate violence, persecution, war or forced migration ends then some refugees can go back to their home countries. This is what many would prefer but it is rarely possible.
- **Stay in the first country they get to:** With limited access to key opportunities like work, education or medical help, most end up living in terrible conditions.
- **Settle in a third country:** Some refugees are 'processed' by authorities and sent to begin their lives afresh in a country they often hadn't expected. Among those currently hosting the most refugees are Turkey, Colombia and Germany.



How can churches help refugees?

Relationships

- Given help with documents and legal issues
- Finding places, being shown around their neighbourhoods, locating the supermarkets, invitations to dinner and day trips, etc.)
- Navigating the banking world, schools and universities, medical, and transportation systems
- Learning how to use local technology
- Understanding cultural phrases and local customs
- Faith and community opportunities

Practical

Some people arrive with nothing. **Are there ways to help meet core needs?** Shelter - Transport - Food and water - Furniture - Clothes - Hygiene products - Child care

Prayer

The best way to help right now is to pray, not least for the very few Afghan Christians remaining in their country. Their calling will now be to live as a faithful follower of the Lord in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Keep in mind that the Lord will build His church so pray confidently.

Prayer is one of the most powerful acts you can do as a church. Make it part of a sermon to pray for refugees and the troubles they face. Set up prayer rooms where people can go to learn more about the refugee crisis, so they can get more focused in their intercessory prayers.



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for God's praise everywhere!

Give and Serve

As the tens of thousands of Afghans begin to resettle, or indeed refugees from any number of countries around the world, we may well find that we ourselves are called to witness and serve in our own neighbourhoods.



-**Listen** to their stories. Ask the basic questions - about family and friends, occupation, relaxation, and motivations. Maybe you could pray with a refugee.

-**Teach** church-based ESL (**English as a Second Language**) classes. Speaking and understanding is key to fitting in.

-**Time**. Invite them to **be your guest** to church or a walk in the park or to dinner. Better still, invite them into your kitchen; that's where real

conversations happen! Refugees need friends. Drink tea together.

- Speak with your local council; Maybe your church could **furnish a house** for a refugee family, or help find work. What might you most need if you were in their shoes?
- Set up a **friendship programme**. Intentional, prayed-filled friendship opens doors and helps refugees settle and thrive in a very new way of life. Many things in your society will be different from their previous culture so a trusted friend can be a real help.

Further afield

While refugee ministry may be relatively new for us, Europe is already home for many refugees, Afghans among them, who will make their way to different countries and put down their roots once more. Thousands have arrived by land and sea over many years.

There are also ways to help financially. **Platform 67 has already been supporting established refugee ministries. Our staff have visited several of these ministries and been deeply moved by what the Lord is doing.** Maybe this is something you would like to help support.

Our partners provide:

- health care and trauma counselling
- logistics, everything from food to legal counsel
- language classes
- extensive evangelism and discipleship



Why do we help such work? **Our big goal is to see refugees come to a profound faith in the Lord and be equipped to begin new congregations among their own peoples, wherever they settle.**

No wonder prayer is needed!

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