

Refugee Week 2024 - Topics for Prayer

- In 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the number of people displaced by war, persecution and natural disasters had increased to 110.8 million. **Pray for an end to the drivers of global displacement: conflict, persecution, and climate change.**
- Many refugees embark on long and dangerous journeys in the search for safety and the opportunity to build a new life in a peaceful country. Sadly, thousands of refugees never make it, or are caught up in the hands of traffickers and people smugglers. **Pray that governments around the world will recognise the need to offer safe routes to safe homes in order that refugees might find sanctuary.**
- The United Kingdom and Ireland benefits every day from the contributions of asylum seekers and refugees who live among us. Spend some time thanking God for their gifts, talents and courage. **Pray that our nations will increasingly recognise and celebrate the contributions forced migrants make to our society.**
- The [Lift The Ban](#) campaign, supported by the UKI Territory, is calling on the UK Government to give asylum seekers the opportunity to work. **Pray that government ministers will listen to the testimonies of those who are desperate to contribute but are often left in limbo for many years, and that they will act.**
- Several corps in the UKI Territory are helping refugees through the [Community Sponsorship Scheme](#). This allows corps volunteers to help some of the most vulnerable refugees in the world, by sponsoring them to be brought from refugee camps and be resettled in their communities. **Pray particularly for Thirsk and for the family they welcomed last year, for Preston which will be welcoming in the very near future, and that others may be moved to welcome refugees in similar ways.**
- The Salvation Army in the UK and Ireland has a membership increasingly made up of those from a refugee background. **Thank God for the gift of newcomers to our corps and centres. Pray that we will listen to and learn from one another, and develop the kind of loving, welcoming communities that God calls us to be.**
- A large number of corps and centres work closely and share their lives with those who are seeking refugee status. Many of these individuals and families live on a tiny living allowance, in properties that are not fit for purpose, and with great uncertainty about their future. Unaccompanied child asylum seekers are also increasingly being supported by our specialist centres. **Pray for the many corps and centres who regularly offer hospitality and love to those in the asylum system.**



- Many people in the asylum system and those supporting them are currently experiencing a huge amount of anxiety and distress due to concerns over the implementation of the Rwanda Act. For many, this is adding to the significant trauma they already have experienced. **Pray that they will be able to access the support they need and protect them from the potential negative impact on their mental health.**
- In the wake of the Ukraine crisis, people across the UK and Ireland opened their hearts and homes to people needing sanctuary. As of May 2024, 205,500 people had been welcomed to the UK through the Ukraine Scheme, and over 104,000 Ukrainians welcomed in the Republic of Ireland. This shows that people across the British Isles are full of compassion for refugees. **Thank God for this generosity of spirit and that this may continue to grow and overflow in our communities.**
- The Salvation Army's Homeless Services Unit and Employment Plus teams across the country are increasingly working and journeying with refugees and asylum seekers. **Pray for all the Employment Plus team members across the territory and in particular the HSU teams at Barrack Street, George Williams House, Cardiff, and Springfield Lodge.**

