

Refugees Welcome

A better future for refugees and
asylum seekers in Milton Keynes

Who We Are and What We Do

We are Refugees Welcome Milton Keynes
and our objectives are:

To relieve financial hardship among those seeking
asylum and those granted refugee status
particularly by the provision of support, advice and
translation services.

To advance the education of the public in general
about the issues relating to refugees and those
seeking asylum.



What's the Issue?

According to the British Red Cross, there are more than 15 million refugees worldwide, mainly from war zones including Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and Sudan. In 2015 the UK received nearly 39,000 asylum applications of which less than half were granted. Nearly 120,000 refugees live in the UK - that's 0.18 per cent of the total population.

What's Milton Keynes Doing About it?

Milton Keynes was quick to offer all-party political support to refugees and for our work to help them. Labour, Conservative and LibDem party leaders are patrons of RWMK. Five families have settled in with our help and we expect more to arrive in the course of this year as part of the government's commitment to welcome 20,000 Syrian refugees into the UK by 2020. Funding for this comes direct from central government and not from the local rates.

rwmk.org.uk

Refugees Welcome Milton Keynes is a Charity Registered in England and Wales (No.1171591)

Who's a Refugee, Who's an Asylum Seeker?

What's the difference between the terms *refugee*, *asylum seeker* and *migrant*?

Refugees are in the UK legally and with the right to work, having satisfied the UK authorities they would be at risk if returned to their home country. *Asylum seekers* have sought protection as *refugees* but their claims have not yet been assessed.

Migrant is a description covering anyone moving from one country to another to seek a better life. They may or may not have a legal work permit.

We work with *refugees* and *asylum seekers*.

Encouraging Integration

We believe integration is crucial for our refugee families as they become part of their local communities. We work hard to ensure they don't feel isolated. Our volunteers often act as befrienders or buddies. We award small grants to aid employability and foster relations with neighbours and friends. For example we provide families with financial help to join a work training scheme, get driving lessons, rent a laptop, access swimming lessons for children, provide travel to a museum or place of interest, learn cooking or other life skills...

How we work with others

We work with MK Council and the local branch of the British Red Cross (BRC).

The Council provides the funds from monies allocated for the purpose by central government and identifies accommodation from the local private housing sector. The Council also provides school places where the capacity is available.

The BRC provide the day-to-day support for the families including language learning, interpreting and transport needs.

We at RWMK contribute local community support. We help refugee families furnish their houses, buy equipment and materials, provide modest grants, encourage integration and do public relations work to highlight the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

This includes a Talks Team happy to be invited into your school or organisation. If you would like to hear more, get in touch at office@rwmk.org.uk

How You Can Help Us

Learn more about our work: by signing up for our regular newsletter at rwmk.org.uk

Make cash donations via our **LocalGiving** site on rwmk.org.uk/donate

Tell us about your skills and experience — office@rwmk.org.uk

And come and join our team working for a worthy cause.

