

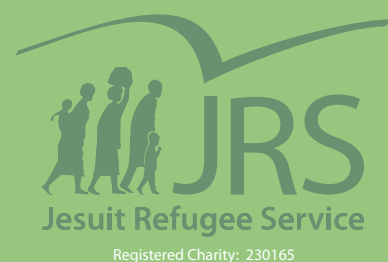
Who is a refugee?

Refugees flee their country out of fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Since in fact they are no longer protected by the State to which they belong, it is the duty of other countries to offer them protection.

Many people also flee their country not because of fear of persecution but because of situations of war or conflict. Many of them cannot be sent back to their country. Some are given humanitarian protection in the UK.

There are tens of thousands of people in the UK who have been left in limbo – with no status, no permission to work, no right to benefits or accomodation – but who also cannot be returned to their country of origin as they are undocumentable or it is too unsafe to return them. They are often left destitute.



10 things you can do

- Pray for asylum seekers and refugees around the world. Ecumenical or inter-faith liturgy resources are available from our JRS office.
- Join our mailing list and inform yourself from reliable sources about issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers. Most prejudices are based on misinformation.
- Voice your opinion against xenophobia and anti-immigration/refugee propaganda. Raise awareness around you.
- Send us information – local press cuttings in particular – showing how asylum seekers and refugees are treated in your area.
- Visit an asylum seeker in detention. Please contact us for more information about this.
Support JRS by volunteering in the UK or abroad,
■ or by helping financially. Look at our website for more information or contact our office.
- Collect toiletries or dried goods for asylum seekers. Contact the office for details of a local project in your area.
- Exchange cash for supermarket vouchers. Ask us for more information.
- Any monetary donations, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated. You can make donations by using the tear-off slip on this leaflet or via the following website:
<http://www.justgiving.com/jesuitrefugeeservice/supportus>
- Share the information on this leaflet with family, friends, colleagues and others. Please write and ask for further copies!



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designed by Michael Conti



...and
then
what?

What does JRS do?

The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic non-governmental organisation, at work in over 60 countries. JRS's mission is to accompany, to serve and to defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

In the UK, JRS works mainly with detainees and destitute asylum seekers.

- **Accompanying** : being with the individual, befriending him or her, but also in some way enhancing that person's dignity and personal growth.
- **Serving** : offering some practical assistance while being with the person.
- **Defending** the rights of refugees : working towards changing qualitatively the person's life for the better by influencing public opinion, lobbying and raising awareness about the real hardships that asylum seekers and refugees face in the UK today.

In the Church no one is a stranger, and the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere ... Man, particularly if he is weak, defenseless, driven to the margins of society, is a sacrament of Christ's presence

Pope John Paul II

Message for World Migration Day, 1996

DESTITUTE ASYLUM SEEKERS

Many destitute asylum seekers visit our office every week. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays to offer practical support including providing financial support for those with no recourse to public funds and with no permission to work assisting with finding furniture for a refugee's first flat in the UK providing a communal space for asylum seekers to spend time with their friends giving them the chance to use phones and computers to keep in touch with solicitors, family and friends referring them to medical and legal services they may need, wherever possible.

"I was afraid to stay home. But, when I came here it was worse than the war



itself. At the beginning I lived in the night bus not

knowing what to do.

JRS put back a smile on my face. They gave me food and now each time I come, I get a cup of coffee and people to talk to – it feels like I have some friends who care for me."

Mahoro from Rwanda

DETAINEES

Some members of staff and volunteers befriend detainees during visits in the Removal Centres. We also provide some detainees with phone cards to be able to phone people outside the centre. This reduces their sense of isolation. We also refer them, when possible, to medical and legal services they may need. When they are released we keep in touch with them and offer practical support.



"When I arrived in the Detention Centre I had to go through many heavy locked doors, like in a jail. I felt there was not much difference between both. I suddenly wondered if I came to England to seek asylum or to spend the rest of my life in jail. It was very stressful. In jail you at least know why you are there and for how long. In a Detention Centre you do not know anything – even what could happen on the day".

Serge from Congo



Accompany
Serve
Advocate

ADVOCACY

All of this work provides a rich source of information and experience for our campaigning and lobbying activities at local, national and international levels. Much of our work in this field is educational — we regularly run workshops and give talks.



"When I came I was 17 years old. I left my country because I had been raped and tortured. If I wanted to stay alive I had to leave. I have already been taken twice to a detention centre. My child can't make friends at school because she was suddenly taken away; she also has concentration problems. I came because I wanted a better life for my child.

Today we are sleeping on the floor at a friend's house. JRS has always been there for me. They give me some money to live, feed my child and travel grants to see my solicitor."

Gloria from Uganda

I would like to support JRS's work

Please add me to the newsletter mailing list.

I would like more information on volunteering with JRS UK.

I am able to help JRS UK's work by sending in information on how asylum seekers and refugees are being treated in my area.

I would like to make a donation to JRS's work by cash or cheque. (payable to Jesuit Refugee Service) Amount enclosed:

I am a UK taxpayer and would like to gift aid my donation to JRS. (Gift aid increases the value of your donation to us at no additional cost to yourself) giftaid it Amount enclosed:

Full name

Address

Post code

Phone

Email

Cut out this part and send it to:
Jesuit Refugee Service
6 Melior Street
London SE1 3QP

JRS will not share your details with other organizations. However we keep your information for our newsletter, other mailings and processing of donations. Occasionally we may need to contact you with a specific query. If you do not wish to be contacted please tick here:

In order to protect identities we have changed the real names and photos are only for illustration. But these are all true stories told to us by JRS UK's clients.