

## **Bristol Churches: Ask from Bristol City Council to House Refugees in Our City**

Bristol Churches have a long history of supporting refugees, asylum seekers and those seeking sanctuary in Bristol. Recently, many churches have stepped up to partner with Bristol City Council and collaborate together to open 15 Welcome Hubs for Ukrainian refugees across the city. The Council has been overjoyed at this response and the testimony it gives to the generosity and hospitality of the body of Christ.

We have been approached by our friends in the Council again with a new 'ask'; one which allows us to deepen and widen support to refugees from many nations who seek sanctuary here.

The ask is to help them **source medium and long term housing for refugees** through landlords and hosts in our congregations and networks. Many of these refugees have already been here for a long time and are currently stuck in hotels. The needs are as follows:

### **Landlords:**

The Council needs landlords with homes to let which could house...

[Afghan families](#) (1-4 bedrooms, 2-5 year term)

[Syrian families](#) (1-4 bedrooms, 2-5 year term)

[Ukrainian families](#) (2+ bedrooms, up to 1 year initial term)

[Ukrainian individuals in an HMO](#) (3+ bedroom HMO\*, up to 1 year initial term)

Houses are let through Bristol City Council who essentially act as the letting agent and offer a range of perks such as guaranteeing rent, repairs and managing the let. Houses will be needed throughout the next year, so even if you are mid-tenancy, please contact the Council (through the links above) to register future interest.

### **Paid lodgings:**

[Host a refugee](#): Refugee Welcome Homes offer a supported scheme for hosting paying refugee lodgers in your own home. This includes single Ukrainians (for a 12 month term), but also single refugees from other nations across the world. Alternatively, if you would like to offer a rematch for a Ukrainian *family* in your own home (rather than single), contact the Council at [homesforukraine@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@bristol.gov.uk)

### **Unpaid lodgings:**

[Host a destitute asylum seeker](#): Bristol Hospitality Network has 10+ years of experience placing destitute asylum seekers in unpaid placements in homes. The term of this is open-ended due to the nature of asylum claims which do not have a clear end date but has regular reviews, support and training from the BHN team.

\*House of Multiple Occupancy



We appreciate that the city is experiencing a housing crisis, and we are praying in faith that we would see miracles of provision and abundance in making this ask.

Many of you have already approached us about other ways to support refugees and asylum seekers from *all* nationalities in the city e.g. continuation of the Welcome Hubs, or hotel visits. We met on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October to discuss this on a call with church leaders and would be delighted to send you the recording and talk with you further about some of the opportunities to engage. Please do email Claire and Joseph using the emails below.

Many thanks and God bless,

Andy Street  
**Chair, Christian Action Bristol**

For more information, click on the links provided or contact:

Claire Fenner Crawley and Joseph Davies  
**Good Faith Partnership**

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