

A Quick Guide to getting involved in Syrian Resettlement

Understandably there has been a huge focus on people fleeing the devastation in Syria in the last few years, but the reality is that there are relatively few Syrian refugees in the UK compared to other European countries. Those who manage to get here under their own steam are treated just like other asylum seekers, and given accommodation while their claim is considered. The government pledged in December 2015 to extend the [Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme](#), which has been running since 2014, and take 20,000 vulnerable Syrians direct from refugee camps in the Middle East by 2020.

Initially councils were approached to help with accommodation, but the housing shortage meant that many councils felt unable to sign up to the scheme. Since then Citizens UK has taken a leading role in refugee resettlement. You can find out more about its Refugee Welcome Committees and the National Refugee Welcome Board [here](#).

Even with this initiative the target of 20,000 is unlikely to be reached: by February 2018 just 10,500 Syrians had been resettled, so churches and community groups are being encouraged to sign up to the [Community Sponsorship scheme](#), loosely based on the long-standing and very successful Canadian sponsorship model.

If you want to find out more about Community Sponsorship, full details of the government scheme are [here](#) in the R2C2 Resources Section. Christians, and Catholics in particular, may be interested in how [Caritas](#) is delivering Community Sponsorship in the North West.

[*ABOUNDING IN LOVE: The vital role of the church in befriending and loving Syrian refugees*](#) is an excellent guide to ways of showing God's love to Syrian refugees, either here or abroad.