

CRSN

Craven Refugee Support Network



WHO ARE WE?

A loose umbrella group formed from several groups around the district of Craven.

We have a **website** <https://cravenrefugees.org/>

And **Facebook** pages

[Craven Refugee Support Network](#)

[Settle Area Refugee Support](#)

[Bentham Area Refugee Support group](#)

LOCAL GROUPS - for local contacts see the CRSN website

Bentham Area Refugee Support Group

Malhamdale

Settle & Area Refugee Support Group

Skipton Refugee Support Group

Upper Wharfedale Refugee Support Group

CITY OF SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

<https://cityofsanctuary.org/>

The movement emphasises a welcoming environment for refugees wherever they have come from.

Skipton is a Town of Sanctuary <https://skipton.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Two Craven schools are Schools of Sanctuary. There is a Maternity Stream & a Schools of Sanctuary stream along with others, including one for colleges.

CAMPAIGNING AND RAISING AWARENESS

A lot of general information is available on the internet through refugee charities Facebook pages & Twitter feeds.

We hold public talks on current issues including sessions on Zoom. These are advertised online or by email. To join the central mailing list message charles_snaygill@yahoo.co.uk

Local groups also hold events and can keep you informed of their activities through email.

There is a national campaign against the Anti-Refugees Bill (Nationality & Borders Bill) currently going through parliament. The **#Together with Refugees** campaign brings together most of the national refugee charities & many local ones.

There are also campaigns for the safe passage of unaccompanied children & to reunite families <https://www.safepassage.org.uk/>

HOSTING WEEKEND & DAY VISITS

These are groups who will host guests either for a weekend or a day out. More information is on the website. Often, they will welcome some help which might involve food preparation or guiding a walk for visiting refugees & asylum seekers.

Bentham Area

Settle

Malhamdale

Upper Wharfedale

People and the Dales <https://peopleandthedales.org/> has a summer programme of visits from groups from surrounding areas.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Skipton received seven families for resettlement, mainly from Syria in 2016 through VPRS, the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Settle has one Syrian family who arrived in 2019 through a Community Sponsorship scheme. We still support requests for specific help where it is needed, for example paying for some swimming lessons for one individual.

North Yorkshire does not take asylum seekers partly because the costs of rents are high. Connections have been made with groups supporting asylum seekers in Lancaster, Nelson, Darwen, Keighley, Leeds & Bradford.

WE SUPPORT

Biasan (Bradford Immigration and Asylum Seekers Support and Advice Network) need specific items, especially for recently-arrived male asylum seekers. Text/phone 07896 619041 or 0778464194325 or check their Facebook page.

Abigail Housing (support for destitute asylum seekers in Leeds and Bradford) always need toiletries as well as other items as requested.

It is always good to check with these organisations what is needed.

Solidaritech <https://solidaritech.com/> based in Bradford take computers of all kinds, tablets & mobile phones which they clean up & repair. These are then allocated to charities who help asylum seekers & refugees. Some of our local groups will collect donated items & take them to Bradford. The items should preferably not be more than 5 years old.

The Ripple Effect <https://therippleeffect.info/>

Refugee Support Europe <https://www.refugeesupporteu.com/>

FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

Local and national organisations are all in urgent need of funds. Some examples are here but there are many more refugee support charities.

Craven Refugee Support Network has its own [Just Giving page](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/skiptonrefugeegroup)
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/skiptonrefugeegroup>

Refugee Council <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>

Refugee Action www.refugee-action.org.uk

Care4Calais <https://care4calais.org/> – this organisation has donation drop off points around the country. You can also volunteer in the UK, sometimes working from home doing important admin & support. See also their Facebook page

Donating goods locally If you have items to give & would like them to be collected, contact the local group nearest to you and they will try to organise it. Baby clothes & good quality toys are often wanted.