

## About Us and What We Do

The Justice and Peace Refugee Project, established in 2001, offers a warm welcome and provides basic support for those seeking asylum (safety) and refuge in our community.

The project ethos is based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Every person has equal value and dignity
- We all have a responsibility to care for one another and to work for a fair society.

We believe strongly in the need for newly arrived people in the UK (no matter how they have arrived) to be treated with respect and dignity. At our project, people at their most vulnerable time, will be safe, valued, cared for and listened to. When suspicion and hostility towards our clients is sadly a common experience, it will not be tolerated on our watch.

*"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy, in other countries, asylum from persecution."*

UN Declaration of Human Rights



## Our Clients

Our clients are people who have come to Britain and are making a claim to stay because of fear of conditions and persecution in their home country. We support individuals and families in their time of extreme financial hardship, instability, vulnerability and isolation while they wait for a government decision on whether or not they can stay (get 'leave to remain'). During this time they are provided by government with the most basic housing and a small weekly subsidy but are unable to work or have access to any other public funds. People may be subject to dispersal to other parts of the country at any time where they must start again to familiarise themselves with a new city, meet other people and find sources of support.

We offer:

- **Weekly food bags and toiletries**
- **Access to second hand clothing, footwear, blankets, home-ware and other essentials**
- **A place to socialise and access free Wi-Fi**
- **English lessons and occasional activities**
- **Signposting to other sources of support.**

When people seeking asylum are refused refuge in our country (after a 'negative decision' by the Home Office) and have exhausted all possible fresh claims, they are then destitute as all government support is withdrawn. For these clients we also provide:

- **A monthly supermarket voucher of £25 and/or alternative financial support.**

## Our Volunteers



Until 2020, the Refugee Project was entirely volunteer-led. Today, with at least 35 current volunteers and two members of staff, the service we provide only remains possible due to the incredible dedication and generosity of our **volunteers** (who give their time, passion and energy to the project operations) and **parish representatives** (who champion the cause in their parish and facilitate food collections and deliveries to the project).

There are a variety of roles and responsibilities for volunteers who can be working face to face with our clients on drop-in days (Wednesdays and Fridays), or ensuring we are adequately prepared by working 'behind the scenes' on a Monday. Volunteering is always subject to DBS clearance and volunteering opportunities fall on the above mentioned days, usually between 10am and 2pm.

**If you would like to know more about volunteering with the project please contact Sara Harris, Project Coordinator.**

## How to support us

**Donations of food, toiletries and clothing** can be received by the Refugee Project at St Vincent's Centre on Mondays between 10.30am and 1.30pm (excluding bank holidays), or by alternative arrangement with the Project Coordinator. A list of what the project currently distributes and what items are most needed can be found on our webpages or be provided by our Project Coordinator.

**Monetary donations** in support of what the project delivers are also most welcome. (Regular or one-off payments to the project have been imperative to us maintaining support to our clients since the Covid 19 pandemic when food collections and deliveries became almost impossible and are still not as they were previously.)

### Our Bank Details are:

Name: DHN Justice & Peace Refugee Project

Sort code: 40-34-18

Account number: 52854058

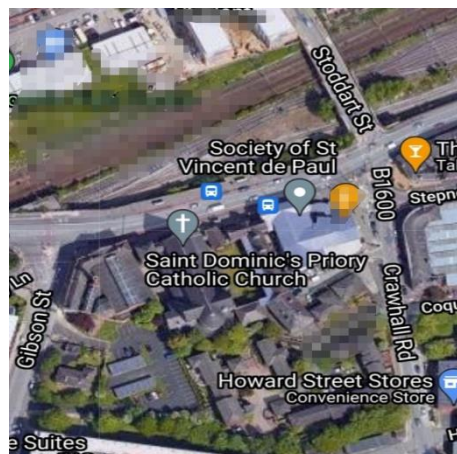
**Cheques** made payable to 'DHN, Justice & Peace Refugee Project' can be sent to St Vincent's Centre c/o Sara Harris, JPRP.

**Standing order mandates and Gift Aid declaration forms** can be provided by our treasurer, Marjory Knowles. Tel: 07929 343418. Email: [marjory.knowles@gmail.com](mailto:marjory.knowles@gmail.com)

## Where to find us



Justice and Peace Refugee Project  
St Vincent's Centre  
New Bridge Street  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 2TQ



For any enquiries or further information about the Refugee Project, please contact our Project Coordinator, Sara Harris

Tel: 07407091184

Email: [sara.harris@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:sara.harris@diocesehn.org.uk)

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HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE



## Refugee Project



"Faith in action is love, and love in action is service."

Mother Teresa

Charity Number 1143450  
[www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)