

Welcoming Ukrainian refugees

14th March 2022

Curial staff have received a number of expressions of interest in hosting refugees from the conflict in Ukraine. It is heartening that there is such an interest, and the government is developing the arrangements to make it possible. Some parishes, clergy and laypeople have been working for refugees from other conflicts and have useful experience to share.

Further guidance on how the Church can respond corporately is expected soon from Caritas Social Action Network following a meeting with Michael Gove on Monday. If you would like to be kept informed of the Diocese's developing response, or contribute to it, please contact Paul Bodenham (caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

In principle there are three kinds of response the Church can make:

1. **Hosting refugees in personal property:** Individuals can now register their own spare rooms or vacant properties direct through the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme (<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>)
2. **Hosting refugees in Diocesan property:** If you or your parish is considering offering accommodation in a presbytery or vacant diocesan property, please contact Rachael Oxspring (property.manager@dioceseofnottingham.uk) in the first instance.
3. **Community sponsorship of refugees:** Parishes in Derby are among those already offering a collaborative package of support for a Syrian refugee family under the Home Office's community sponsorship scheme. Caritas is exploring the potential for a simplified scheme to help parishes and ecumenical groups respond collectively to this latest crisis, including peer-support for those offering accommodation under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Please contact Rachael and / or Paul as appropriate with any queries or expressions of interest.