



A message from Joanna Eames, Chair of Horsham Refugee Support Group

Dear churches,

We are so grateful for the support you have provided us over the last 8 years since we began, and you have often asked us to let you know if we need more help.

### **The needs in our community have grown**

We are facing huge demand on our services and are supporting around 250 people, both refugees and asylum seekers. The needs are an ever-changing picture as people are moved on and new families arrive in the area.

For the last year, we have been partnered with Sussex Aid for Refugees, who were providing all clothing requests from their warehouse. However, the demand on their services has also increased dramatically and they have had to reduce their outreach, focusing now on the Crawley area and ceasing the support to us.

As you know, we are entirely volunteer-run, and our team of around 40 wonderful volunteers has reached capacity. We are opening recruitment again this month. This recruitment drive is for the Horsham area and expanding into the Billingshurst area, as families are starting to be moved there as well.

### **How you can help**

- **Pray!**  
Although we are not set up as a Christian organisation, many of our team have faith and would be grateful for your prayers over the developing situation we are facing.
- **Clothing: arrival packs**  
Sussex Aid for Refugees used to provide a bag for each individual when they arrived in the country with nothing. This would be basic clothes, underwear and a pair of shoes for each member of the family, and would be provided usually within a week. It can be a mixture of second-hand and new items. Could your church agree to provide some of these when needed?
- **Clothing: additional items**  
Children grow and clothes wear out. In addition to the arrival packs, we are often asked by destitute people to provide more clothing or shoes. Could your church help with these one-off items, or hold regular 'community closet' events that we can signpost people to? We are already signposting to St Mark's Clothing Exchange once a month.

- Financial support  
Perhaps you can help us to provide these items through giving, as a regular or one-off donation. We are so grateful to those of you who are already supporting our work in this way. We are developing this area of our website but for now you can contact our treasurer at [nick@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk](mailto:nick@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk)
- Volunteers  
Please share with your congregations that we are actively recruiting volunteers for our organisation. We are in need of volunteers for administration, befriending, reading/homework support for young children and some specific tutoring needs for teenagers and adults. Our recruitment process includes references, a DBS check, safeguarding training and induction, so does take time but is important for those we work with. Anyone interested should get in touch with us through our email [admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk)

We are grateful to all of you for your continued support of our organisation.