

Are you stuck at home but keen to help refugees and asylum-seekers?

Here are 10 well easy ways to help Asylum-Seekers during Covid-19 and beyond.

- 1. Lend a hand with specific needs.** Being a refugee doesn't dictate what you might need, every human is different, and we are forever in different situations at different times. If you join local mutual aid groups on social media, you'll find that 'refugee needs' are ad hoc and you or a friend might be able to help in an unexpected way. Someone needs a fridge. Someone needs a pram. The most active group is [this one](#), and it also features a list of local mutual aid general Covid groups.
- 2. Donate your old tech.** Not everyone has a laptop or access to the internet. There are a few great organisations who will refurbish your old laptop or pass on your mouse/keyboard to those who really need it. Most will sort out delivery, too. Too many young people are currently without a laptop. Their education has been disrupted enough already and now they are excluded from remote learning. Your first port of call should be [Social Box](#), but [Hope for the Young](#) and [Barnet Refugee Service](#) are also providing this service. [The Bike Project](#) donates bicycles for refugees.
- 3. Send Solidarity.** As part of [Refugees Support Network's ConnectedThroughCovid](#) campaign, you can send a letter, a poem, a piece of art, a story, anything really in the post and we will pass it on. RSN has also been encouraging the young people who receive letter to [send things back](#) to help with their English, confidence and to give them something to do.
- 4. Fundraise for refugee charities.** Most small and medium sized charities in the sector are heavily reliant on trusts and foundations, many of whom have shut their doors at this time because of the economic uncertainty. Funds are needed for a variety of services such as mobile data, for hygiene packages and to keep our 24-hour wellbeing support available. Helping in this way will make the most difference.
- 5. Support Refugee Businesses.** [Buy something from a refugee](#), or write a fake review saying you liked the thing which you chose not to buy.

6. **Get in touch with your local council.** Local councils have been tasked with housing the homeless. Many are facilitating contact-free support for community members who are in difficult situations. This often includes destitute asylum-seekers. Get in touch with them directly asking how you can help.
7. **Offer Accommodation.** Some refugees and asylum-seekers are living in precarious or unsuitable housing. If you have a spare room or know someone that does, or a property which isn't being used, get in touch with [Refugees at Home](#).
8. **'Keep Talking'.** The [Big Leaf Foundation](#) has launched the ['Keep Talking'](#) initiative, where it shared and translates resource sheets and activities related to Arts & Crafts, Music, Photography and Health and Fitness, in order to help with remote learning.
9. **Offer your skills to local migrant services.** Here is a [list](#) of London-based migrant services, which are offering contact-free support.
10. **Become an Activist.** Various different organisations are calling on the government to make things easier for refugees and asylum-seekers. [Freedom from Torture](#), for example, is running an [asylum support campaign](#), calling for an increase in financial support given to asylum-seekers who need it by £20 a week. Sign their letter and spread the word with the hashtag #covidsolidarity. Sadiq Kahn has called for [migrants to be able to access Universal Credit](#), and [Detention Action](#) are pushing as ever to protect migrants in immigration detention. Your support of these campaigns make a difference – the government have [stopped evictions from its asylum accommodations](#) and [released some in detention](#).
11. And if you are in, **get your friends involved.** Hold information sessions on Zoom, write a blog or record a video about why people should care about the welfare of refugees. Make Priti Patel know that when she googles 'asylum-seekers' for the first time, the thing that comes up is a news article about how your university or your synagogue or your church have come out in support of refugees. Know someone who won't listen? Change their mind, so that when the public's feelings about refugees are assessed by politicians, yours will be noted.
12. **Develop your knowledge.** Read books about displacement, watch *For Sama*, enjoy the work of Phosphorous Theatre and get informed about the rights to which refugees are entitled.