

# ON THE MOVE

The Newsletter of Refugees Welcome - Crawley

## Thank You!

**WE HAVE COLLECTED  
over 800 HATS for  
refugees in Greece!**

Thank you to Crawley URC, St Alban's Gossops Green, East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group, St John's Broadbridge Heath, St Mary's Church Slaughtam, St Margaret's Church West Hoathly, St Paul's Methodist Church, Worth parish and many other faith groups and community groups for your wonderful collections of hats for refugees in Greece - we have been overwhelmed by your generosity.

**We will bring you a report from  
the camp in a future  
newsletter...**

Thank you to St Paul's Methodist Church who hosted our training for befrienders and English teachers.

Thank you to Nick Kirby-Turner for training our volunteers in working with people who have experienced trauma. If anyone who missed the session would like to receive an e-copy of the presentation, please email: [RWCanna@gmail.org](mailto:RWCanna@gmail.org)



## URGENT: Please Sign '1,000 by Christmas'

Citizens UK urge us to sign an [open letter](#) calling on Amber Rudd to act now and bring 1,000 refugee children to safety in the UK by Christmas.

**Will you sign the petition to keep pressure on the Home Secretary to #RestartTheRescue?**

2,000 children remain scattered in France after the demolition of Calais. They face uncertainty, insecurity and in some nightmarish cases, even child labour. As winter draws in, time is running out. We can't relent now. The terrible toll that war inflicts on children is something for us to reflect on as we prepare in our own homes for the Christmas season. It's as important as ever that we carry forward the humanitarian values that have guided us for decades.

This nation shares a proud history of compassion and determination. Lets once again make sure no child is left behind. Please sign: <http://bit.ly/2gDMtLG>



## Community Sewing Project

Thanks to all those who have attended the community sewing at the Friary every Wednesday at 6pm for one hour. We had 32 people at our first session. Thanks Izzy for the refreshments!

We have been sharing our memories of happy times in Crawley and our memories from all over the world. The patchwork that we sew will be displayed in the new Crawley Museum and will celebrate 70 years of Crawley New Town.

Come and share your happy memories. No sewing experience needed. We have people with ideas of images to sew working alongside people who are happy to sew the ideas for them. We have shared stories and memories from Crawley, Zambia, Wales, Ghana, Iraq, Lebanon, South London and if you come you can be sure of a great welcome.

Important note: On 14 December for one week our sewing session has a different venue at DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, RH10 6RP. See you there!





## Meetings coming up...

Are you interested in Community Sponsorship? Then why not come along to the next Housing and Business Group meeting - register interest with Ian Irvine via [RWCanna@gmail.com](mailto:RWCanna@gmail.com)

Are you interested in education work? Join the Education Group and contact Henrietta and Izzy via [RWCanna@gmail.com](mailto:RWCanna@gmail.com)

Are you keen to help us recruit new members, build our relationships with key institutions in the town? Join our General Welfare Group via [RWCanna@gmail.com](mailto:RWCanna@gmail.com)

Meetings for all the groups will be held in January. Don't miss the chance to be part of a community welcome for refugees.

Do you know anyone in Horsham who might like to join the Horsham Refugee Support Group? If so, email Jo: [admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk)

Are you under 21? Would you like to be part of the group planning to hold social meetings with young refugees passing through the town? If so, contact David Jeyakumar

## Please Act

**PLEASE WRITE** : Having promised to process claims to come to the UK from young people in the Calais camp, it emerged on 16 November that our government has retrospectively changed the criteria for processing their claims. More than half of them will not even see a start to consideration of their situations.

The government has said that claims will only be processed for children from certain countries - Syria and Sudan. Children from Eritrea are not included.

It is essential for MPs to realise that the retrospective change is unacceptable and does not have the support of public opinion. **PLEASE WRITE** to Amber Rudd demanding that the Home Office amend its guidance on Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 so that it does not discriminate by age or nationality. Also, please write to your MP, asking them to draw the Minister's attention to your concerns and to let you know about her response.

Please write that:

- The government should face up to its obligations and be a leader in accepting those who are young, vulnerable, traumatised and in danger. The Home Office must amend this guidance and meet its responsibility to all unaccompanied child refugees, regardless of their nationality.
- You do not object to certain children being prioritised, but the strict eligibility criteria totally rule out bringing many of the youngsters who had been living in the Calais camp before it was cleared in October. Hundreds of children now face an uncertain future. Please strongly urge the government not to use the new criteria retrospectively, or at least to reconsider them and show compassion in this ongoing crisis.
- In order to stay true to Section 67 of the Act, each child's unique vulnerabilities should be taken into account, rather than applying arbitrary criteria. The government must ensure that a full and proper best-interests assessment is carried out for each individual, respecting the needs of children who have already been pushed from pillar to post in search of safety.