

## Extended guide to specialist VCS services for refugees and people seeking asylum in Middlesbrough

### British Red Cross

- International Family Tracing Service, which helps to trace relatives separated by conflict or disaster
- Emotional and practical support, emergency provisions, family support and signposting
- Proof of Detention by providing a certificate if a client has been detained and visited by the International Red Cross/Crescent
- Assistance with travel costs for clients who have Limited Leave to Remain and whose family have obtained a visa
- OISC regulated casework, including advice on applications for permission to work, travel documents, citizenship, Indefinite Leave to Remain and settlement protection applications

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org.uk/Where-we-work/In-the-UK/Northern-England/County-Durham-and-Teesside-Northumbria-and-Cumbria/LocalServices/Refugee-support>

### Creative Minds

- Cooking classes
- Energy efficiency training
- Mental health training

**Email:** [rbjsaidy@gmail.com](mailto:rbjsaidy@gmail.com)

### Divine Communities

- Healthy living sessions
- Cancer awareness sessions
- Singing

**Email:** [lovienyathi@gmail.com](mailto:lovienyathi@gmail.com)

### **Investing in People and Culture**

- Social activities and events, including the IPC Community Hub, cooking, arts and gardening projects, and film evenings
- English classes, including ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and IELTS (International English Language Testing System) English Language Preparation Courses for students who need IELTS 6 or above for study in the UK, or 7 and above to work as a healthcare professional in the UK
- Cancer awareness
- Refugee employability project
- Awareness raising training

**Website:** <http://www.i-p-c.org>

### **Justice First**

- Advice and support for people who have received a final refusal of their asylum claim
- Helping clients to re-engage with the due legal process and have Asylum Support reinstated
- Assisting in searching for further or fresh evidence to build a new case
- Awareness and training sessions

**Website:** <http://justicefirst.org.uk/>

### **Kurdistan Community Tees Valley**

- Interpreting services
- General advice and guidance to access services
- Outdoor activities

**Email:** [hazhar76@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazhar76@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Mary Thompson Fund**

A hardship fund for people seeking and refused asylum and for settled refugees living in the Tees Valley. The fund can help with various hardship cases where statutory funding is unavailable, including:

- travel to solicitors or to family and friends who are detained
- small grants for school uniforms and trips, and for costs relating to further and higher education courses
- if a victim of crime or any other unexpected expense
- to alleviate destitution when refused asylum

**Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/marythompsonfund>

### **Methodist Asylum Project (MAP) Middlesbrough**

MAP provides practical support and social opportunities to those seeking asylum and refugees, including:

- "Welcome to Middlesbrough" Information Drop-in and Orientation service for newly arriving asylum-seekers
- "Come and Chat" English conversation class
- Clothing and household goods drop-in
- Social activities including keep fit, women-only Pilates, chess club and games afternoon, and singing workshops delivered by Streetwise Opera
- Parent and child group
- Bicycle loan scheme for asylum-seekers
- Facilitating classes (Cooking for Men, and Bicycle Maintenance) provided by Middlesbrough Environment City
- Core basic items of furniture for refugees setting up house for the first time in Middlesbrough
- Regular summer programme of one-off trips and activities each year

**Website:** <http://www.middlesbroughandestonmethodistcircuit.org.uk/map.html>

### **Middlesbrough Tamil Education**

- Homework club
- Ladies social activities
- Sports activities

**Email:** [northeasttamilcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:northeasttamilcommunity@gmail.com)

### **Migrant Help**

Migrant Help's Asylum Help Services assist asylum seekers in the UK to move through the application system and understand the asylum process. They are available to anyone entering the UK and applying for refugee status, or who has had refugee status refused.

- The National Helpline (0808 8000 630) is accessible in 15 languages. This service is free from all landlines, payphones and major mobile network providers (including Orange, O2, T-Mobile, Virgin, Vodaphone, EE)
- Migrant Help have an office in Middlesbrough and clients can call Karen (07815695283) or Ali (07815695059) for an appointment
- Information on the asylum process and application for support, in print and audio formats, is available on the national website

**Website:** <http://asylumhelpuk.org>

### **North East Women in Action**

- Supporting women experiencing domestic violence and isolation
- General advice and guidance to access services

**Email:** [newia@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newia@hotmail.co.uk)

**Telephone number:** 07474858566

### **North of England Refugee Service**

- Advice on issues within the asylum application process, including access to and concerns about Asylum Support
- Advocating for clients' rights to Asylum Support, including supporting clients to appeal against the termination of Asylum Support
- Help to register with GPs and access to other health services, and assistance with applications for HC2 Certificates
- Liaising with Freedom from Torture to help clients with the production of specialised reports pertaining to torture and abuse, and liaising with GPs to obtain medical evidence to support applications for Asylum Support
- Advice on rights to welfare benefits and housing support for refugees, and assistance in accessing mainstream services, such as education and employment opportunities
- Raising awareness of and providing non-directive advice and information on Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR), which is available to people with no recourse to public funds
- Supporting the delivery of English classes, including ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and IELTS (International English Language Testing System) English Language Preparation Courses for students who need IELTS 6 or above for study in the UK, or 7 and above to work as a healthcare professional in the UK
- Working with statutory organisations, local authorities and the Job Centre Plus to raise awareness of refugee and asylum issues, and documenting local issues to raise with policy makers

**Website:** <http://www.refugee.org.uk/>

### **Open Door North East**

- Manages 21 houses, providing a home for 64 refugees and 15 destitute people seeking asylum
- Destitution drop-in for asylum seekers who have no recourse to public funding
- Women-only drop-in, including craft and needlework activities, access to computers and internet and the Little Stars Mother and Toddler group
- The Refugee Advice Project, where refugees can access move-on, welfare benefits and housing advice.

- Refugee Employment Support Project, where refugees looking for work or volunteering opportunities can access advice and guidance
- English classes, including ESOL Entry Level 1 and Pre Entry for beginners, and IELTS English Language Preparation Courses for students who need IELTS 6 or above for study in the UK, or 7 and above to work as a healthcare professional in the UK
- Other courses, including the Sew 2 Work programme
- Open Door is a founding member and a national steering group member of the National No Accommodation Network (NACCOM), which raises awareness and supports projects tackling destitution amongst people seeking asylum

**Website:** <http://www.opendoornortheast.com/>

### **Regional Refugee Forum**

An independent, self managed membership organisation for Refugee-led Community Organisations working across the North East, currently with 45 active member groups. Its core aim is to empower its members to become effective advocates and actors in change. It has various working groups:

- The Health Working Group is currently engaging with all Healthwatch teams across the region, contributing evidence to Clinical Commissioning Groups, and delivering workshops to students of nursing and medicine at the region's universities
- The Community Safety Working Group engages with the region's police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners, and has representation on the Crown Prosecution Service Race Hate Crime scrutiny panel
- The Stronger Families Working Group delivers workshops to student social workers studying at Durham and Sunderland Universities, is producing information on parenting in the UK and is working with Family Law solicitors to increase the community's knowledge of their rights
- The Regional Refugee Forum co-chairs the Move on and Economic Inclusion subgroup of the North East Migration Partnership, working with the Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office, HMRC and Job Centre Plus and others to close the move-on gap and tackle issues around conditionality in job seeking
- Contributes to the national campaign coalitions Still Human Still Here and The Detention Forum

**Website:** [The Regional Refugee Forum North East Facebook](#)

### **Restoration of Human Rights**

- Activism training
- Management courses
- Cancer awareness sessions
- Vulnerable children sessions
- Cooking

**Website:** <http://www.rohrzimbabwe.org/>

### **Romanian Assembly**

- ESOL classes
- IT classes
- Advice and guidance for those looking for work
- Counselling and family support
- Activities for families

**Email:** [ileana.deans@gmail.com](mailto:ileana.deans@gmail.com)

### **Straightforward**

- Women's issues, particularly FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)
- Improving health and well-being
- Relief of poverty
- Health awareness
- Advocacy and advice
- Guidance and counselling

**Email:** [straightforward421@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:straightforward421@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Tees Valley Iranian Community**

- Outdoor activities for new arrivals and families
- General advice and guidance to accessing services

**Email:** [Pariholdway@gmail.com](mailto:Pariholdway@gmail.com)

### **Tees Valley Mano River Union**

Supports BME communities , particularly those from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Ivory Coast

- Advice, support and links to services
- information on health services, education, legal aid, training and employability services
- sports and recreation activities
- interpreting service for members with language barriers

**Email:** [manoriverunion1@gmail.com](mailto:manoriverunion1@gmail.com)

### **Tees Valley of Sanctuary**

Part of the national City of Sanctuary network, the Tees Valley of Sanctuary is working towards developing a culture of hospitality and welcome in the Tees Valley for people seeking sanctuary. It has a number of streams working on particular themes:

- Schools of Sanctuary
- Sports of Sanctuary
- Musicians of Sanctuary
- Faith Groups of Sanctuary

**Website:** <http://tees-valley.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Compiled by the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency with information provided by the organisations listed