



Ripon City of Sanctuary

Supporting British hosts & their Ukrainian guests

Who we are

We are one of 125 groups around the country making up the City of Sanctuary network. Our shared goal is to create a culture of welcome for refugees in the UK.

The Ripon group was set up in 2016. We have 6 areas of activity:

1. Providing direct **support for refugee families** in the Ripon area. Until April 2022 this meant only Middle Eastern families, but it now extends to Ukrainians.
2. **Campaigning** locally, regionally and nationally for the right of refugees and asylum-seekers.
3. Going into all **schools** in Ripon, plus many in local villages, to help raise a generation of young people who understand refugee issues.
4. **Awareness-raising and myth-busting** to help correct the narrative around refugees.
5. Collecting and distributing **high-quality used clothing** for refugees in the wider region (centres in Wakefield, Hull, Teesside and Leeds).
6. Running a **Community Sponsorship scheme** to bring 2 families to the UK/Ripon from the Middle East.

Our team is made up entirely of volunteers.

What we offer Ukrainians & their hosts

1. **Face-to-face meetings** to help get up to speed with a range of issues around hosting, including preparing your home (and yourselves), applying for Universal Credit, having a moving-on plan, and dealing with trauma. These meetings are also a good way for hosts to get to know each other, begin supporting one another, and introduce their guests.
2. A **private Facebook group** with loads of detailed information, plus anyone can ask a question, offer/request furniture and quality used clothing, etc.
3. Any host can **contact us at any time** with a question, problem or idea.
4. Our national umbrella organisation, City of Sanctuary UK, offers a range of **Zoom sessions** to help hosts prepare, both before and after matching.
5. We offer a small but successful **matching service** for local hosts.
6. We run a **drop-in for Ukrainians** from 9am-11am every Monday- Thursday in term-time, downstairs at Holy Trinity Church Ripon. The cost is 50p per session to cover hot drinks. This is for Ukrainian peer support only, although once a week there will be a British person present to help with signposting and anything else that may come up.

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