



# Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship

Building Bridges | Changing Lives

**Do you watch or read the news, and worry that there's nothing you can do to help the plight of refugees? Now, Community Sponsorship means you can do something practical in your own borough.**

## **What is Community Sponsorship?**

It's based on a successful Canadian model, in which community groups accept major responsibility for sponsoring and resettling a refugee family into a local area. Backed by a government initiative, the local community group raises the necessary funds and is hands-on in helping the family settle in the community, learn English and find work.

## **Why go for Community Sponsorship?**

The Canadian experience shows that Community Sponsorship leads to faster settling in and integration of refugee families. Several faith communities are working together in our borough to set up a new charitable organisation, Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship (KCRS), to make this happen in our area.

## **What is involved in community sponsorship?**

Kingston Borough Council and the Home Office approve sponsor organisations and their proposals. The sponsor locates suitable housing and tops up the rent payments if they exceed the local housing benefit rate, for two years. The Home Office and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees match a family up with the available accommodation. The Sponsor provides formal resettlement support for one year, and possibly for longer on an informal basis. KCRS will collaborate with Refugee Action Kingston, which has in-depth expertise in helping refugees and asylum seekers.

## **So how can I help?**

To help refugee families settle and thrive here in Kingston, we need contributions of money, skills and time. We also need offers of affordable accommodation, and are looking for organisations and individuals who want to become members of KCRS and support this important work. Details of our launch event can be found overleaf.

**Get in touch: e-mail us at [KingstonCRS@gmail.com](mailto:KingstonCRS@gmail.com)**



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You're warmly invited to join us for our

## Launch Event

Wednesday 6th June 2018

18:00 to 19:30

at

All Saints Church

14 -16 Market Place, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1JP

*Refreshments, information, short talks*

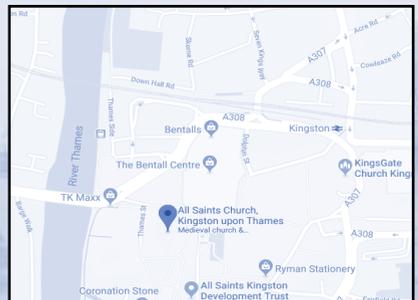
*Working together, working for good*

*We want you with us too.*

### How to find us:

**By rail:** five minutes walk from Kingston railway station, opposite John Lewis

**By bus:** five minutes walk from both the Fairfield and from Cromwell Road bus stations



**Get in touch: e-mail us at [KingstonCRS@gmail.com](mailto:KingstonCRS@gmail.com)**