



Refugee Support Small Grants Programme 2023



“We have already proved we can deliver excellent support but desperately need additional funding to be able to expand what we can offer.”

In 2023 we once again supported Christian projects that help refugees arriving in England from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

Funded by the Benefact Trust, we offered small grants between £500 and £5,000, and considered applications for things like personal items, expenses for volunteers or facilities, integration and settling, language support and home items.

Applicants

We received 66 applications requesting a total of £251,514.83.

50 of the organisations had not been previously funded by CUF/NN.

Approvals

In total, 37 projects received funding of £129,499.68 in grants.

The projects are expected to reach and benefit 4,562 refugees.

15 organisations are Anglican churches; four are Pentecostal churches, three are Baptist churches, seven are Free churches, one is a Methodist church, one is an Orthodox church, three are Catholic churches, one is a URC church, and two are registered Christian charities.

11 projects are aimed at both Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, 16 project focuses exclusively on Ukrainian refugees and 10 project focuses exclusively on Afghan refugees.

St Mary le Tower Church, Ipswich, Suffolk, £5,000

This project will deliver support to 75 Afghanistan male refugees by offering 3 day per week sessions with English classes, refreshments, a gardening project, a choir, arts and crafts activities and a running club. The grant will be allocated to employ a manager for The Sanctuary Day Centre to run the activities and engage with refugees staying in a local hotel. The project outcomes and outputs are to improve wellbeing, recruit up to 30 volunteers, improved English communication skills and to engage local mosques.

Transforming Plymouth Together, Devon, £5,000

This project will support 5 Ukrainian and 5 Afghanistan refugees by facilitating a trip to spend a week at Nethercott Farm. The project aims to address issues of isolation and provide opportunities for the refugee families and children to enjoy the outdoors away from their current living conditions. The grant will cover outdoor clothing, accommodation, and food. The project outcomes are to improve physical health and wellbeing by offering physically with good nutritious food, fresh air and activities. In addition, the project will help improve confidence, improve mental health and provide a positive, enjoyable experience.

Burlington Baptist Church, Ipswich, £3,000

This project would like to support 20 Ukraine refugees by providing household items to help set them up in their new homes. Items that will purchased include kitchen utensils, cutlery, crockery, ironing boards, coat hangers, swing bins etc. up to the value of £150 per refugee/s.

CHARIS, Somerset, £4,500

This Christian charity will support 45 Ukraine refugees by providing 3 English language beginner courses. Each course will run for 2 classes per week for 2 hours each. The project outcomes are to improve confidence, communication English language skills at intermediate level and for beneficiaries to access other support at the charity's hub.

SJOG (St John of God Hospitaller Services), Darlington, £5,000

This Christian charity will support 150 Ukraine refugees by providing welcome boxes. The boxes will include items hygiene and care products, SIM Cards (funded via Vodafone Charity), colouring books and pens for children and information on local services and providers in Ukrainian language. This grant will also contribute to their current Homes for Ukraine Project which is supporting refugees into their homes and addressing the breakdown of sponsorship placements.

Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Bexley, £4,200

Based in Christ Church Bexleyheath this Ukrainian community group will support 200 Ukrainian refugees by providing English classes twice a week and a women's support group once a week. Outcomes include improved communication skills and confidence and community cohesion.

Vineyard Community, Richmond upon Thames, £4,000

This project will support 600 Ukrainian and 10 Afghan refugees by extending their current provision of casework hours for welfare and wellbeing support. A free hot lunch and refreshments along with training workshops will also be provided.

Together Kent, Kent, £4,860

This project will support 10 Ukrainian and 30 Afghan refugees by providing seven art healing sessions for two hours per week, seven employment support and coaching sessions for two hours per week, and refurbishing accommodation for one new Ukrainian family.

The Catholic Parish of St Joseph, Cambridgeshire, £858.26

This project will support 10 Ukrainian refugees by providing English classes for three hours per week, and by providing social activities. The classes will be held every Monday teaching two ability levels. In addition, social activities every Tuesday will also be facilitated.

Making a Difference to Maidstone, Medway, £4,000

In an expansion of their existing support, this project will support 20 Ukrainian and 10 Afghan refugees by training more refugees in their retail shop and warehouse as volunteers. Items such as food, clothing and homeware will also be provided through their food bank, along with referrals and signposting.

City Life Church Southampton, Southampton, £3,992.80

This project will support 15 Ukrainian refugees by providing furniture and white goods for families and individuals moving into independent accommodation. Items such as new bedding and household basics will also be provided. One-to-one support sessions will be delivered to identify family's needs and referrals will be made by a dedicated Homes for Ukraine Advice and Support worker.

Diocese of Hereford, Herefordshire, £4,700,

This project will support 400 Ukrainian refugees by providing financial support to five local hubs across the diocese to deliver training and sessions designed in consultation with hub coordinators in response to local needs. In addition, transport costs for refugees, volunteers, hosts and coordinators will also be provided.

Women Arise, Leeds, £3,650

This project will support 40 Afghan refugees increasing their current provision of ESOL classes from one class per week to two hour, two classes per week. In addition, transport costs will be covered enabling refugees to travel from their current residence at the hotel to the Bridge Community Church to attend family events such as film nights. Items such as baby/child necessities and household equipment will also be provided.

Bridgeway Mission, Essex, £5,000

This project will support 80 Afghan refugee women by providing opportunities for them to socialise, enjoy leisure pamper activities (nail polish, nail removers, face sheets, foot spa, and face spa), make friends and integrate with British women in the community. The projects outcomes are to improve confidence, reduce loneliness and isolation and improve English language skills.

JCT - Joining Communities Together, Coventry, £4,996.36

This project will support 25 Ukrainian and 25 Afghan refugees by providing welfare support such as helping refugees register with a GP, delivering information sessions and providing small support packages with household items, hygiene items, clothing and food. Wellbeing and inclusion sessions will also be provided with activities such as sewing, walking groups, and a chit chat café which will provide opportunities for refugees to socialise.

Parkstone United Reformed Church, Bournemouth, £4,986

This project will run a two-week programme of support alternating weekly between wellbeing related activities including arts, tai chi, music and meditation. These sessions will run for 2-3 hours reaching eight-20 people per session. In addition, a fully qualified psychotherapist will be able to support a group of eight people, a women's lunch club will be delivered, sessions focused on integration and support and a celebratory cultural event will be facilitated.

St Mary's Church, Ferndown, Bournemouth, £700

This project will take 17 Ukrainian refugees to the beach and stay for three nights at the Sandyholme YMCA. The outcomes are to improve connections and relationships between the church and Ukrainian families, improve communication, improve wellbeing and create opportunities for enjoyment.

St Michael's & All Angels Church Farnsfield, Cheshire West and Chester, £4,801.56

This project will support four Ukrainian and 17 Afghan refugees by providing support for transport, English classes, art lessons, trips and other welfare support.

Christ First Watford, Hertfordshire, £5,000

This project will support 300 Afghan refugees and build on their previous round 1 funded project by providing sports and youth activities, driving lessons, creative and cooking sessions, cycling provision and community parties and events.

Emmaus Transformation Trust, Surrey, £4,358.40

This project will build on their current support called The Ukrainian Hub by delivering two self-employment workshops, two social media training workshops, alterations, repairs and sewing workshops and a series of wellbeing activities such as arts and crafts. The outcomes and outputs are to support 150 Ukrainian refugees to improve their mental health, English skills and employability.

Christ Apostolic church Mount Zion international, Blackburn with Darwen, £3,000

This project will support 10 Afghan and 10 Ukrainian refugees by delivering food packages and providing tea and coffee with opportunities to connect. The outcomes are to improve wellbeing and reduce food insecurity.

The Hope Foundation, Liverpool, £5,000

This project will furnish properties for refugee families that have been staying in hotels or hostels. The organisation partners with local landlords to allow the council to refer families who have been living in hostels and hotels for as long as 18 months. Long-term support will also be provided with ESOL classes and welfare support. 10 Ukrainian and 75 Afghan refugees will be supported.

Vineyard 53, Cheshire West and Chester, £4,801.56

This project will continue facilitating their weekly refugee women's group by providing sewing activities and opportunities for the refugees to make friends, learn skills and provide some positivity away from the hotel housing. Appropriate and safe toys for under-fives will also be purchased for the children. 100 Afghan refugees will be supported. The project's outcomes include increased confidence, increased cultural understanding for both volunteers and refugees, reduced social isolation and improved wellbeing.

St Peter's Church, Balsall Common Solihull, £769.80

This project will support 25 Ukrainian refugees by providing an ESOL programme with signposting and advice giving. Outcomes include improved employability and communication skills.

York City Church, North Yorkshire, £4,000

This project will support 75 Ukrainian and 25 Afghan refugees by providing a welcome café. Beneficiaries will be supported with integration, friendship and gain confidence learning English.

The United Church, Winchester, £500

This project will support 45-50 Ukrainian and 18 Afghan refugees by providing weekly social sessions on a Saturdays. Hot food and drinks with games, children's toys and arts and crafts activities will be available.

Windsor Baptist Church, Windsor and Maidenhead, £3,460

This project will deliver weekly sessions such as cooking groups, social drop ins, easter basket making and family activities for 50 Ukrainian refugee families. Outcomes include improved communication for the parents and children, opportunities for expression through art, improved English language skills and opportunities for sharing of food and culture.

St Barnabas Dulwich, Southwark, £2,000

This project will support 45 Ukrainian refugees by providing summer trips for the refugee youth group to the seaside, London and London Zoo. They will also facilitate an Easter Pysanky Egg painting workshop for families and host a networking brunch for refugee families to make friends and receive welfare and services advice.

Toxteth Women's Centre, Liverpool, £5,000

This project will support 10 Ukrainian and 100 Afghan refugees by continuing their provision of recreational activities and English language classes. The recreational activities include Zumba, pamper activities (nail painting, hand massage, henna) and craft activities along with two family parties. Essential items such as clothes and kitchen equipment will also be provided.

Mosaic Church Ltd, Leeds, £2,500

This project will support 10 Ukrainian and 150 Afghan refugees by delivering an easter and summer camp with sports and crafts, along with cooking sessions and community visits each fortnight with essential items given.

St Barnabas, Clapham Common, Southwark £4,000

This project will support 72 Afghan women refugees currently staying in a local hotel by providing two welcoming meals, essential items (toiletries, clothing etc.), welfare and services support, welcome walks and use of the space for wellbeing.

St Chad's Community Project, Durham, £2,500

This project will support 100 Afghan refugees by facilitating weekly cooking sessions and an after-school club in the community kitchen. The sessions will be run in collaboration with Bridgebuilders.

Living Grace Church, Northampton, £1,891

This project will enable an Afghan English teacher to support young people currently being housed in a hotel to transition into the British school system. The classes will be held 5 days a week for 1.5 hours each. The outcomes are to improve English language skills for young people, improve educational attainment, improve confidence, improve attendance and overall wellbeing.

Dynamic New Anglian Networks, Chelmsford, £3,000

This project will support 35 Ukrainian refugees by providing essential items for those moving to new homes or accommodation. English language classes will also be provided four hours per week with employment support.

Dynamic New Anglian Networks, Colchester, £4,330

This project will support nine Afghan refugees by providing peer-to-peer English language lessons. An Afghan lady who has been a teacher in the past will plan and deliver the 2 hour, twice weekly classes helping refugees to gain confidence and improve their communication skills.

Christchurch Catholic Church Eltham, London, £1,000

This project will support 70 Ukrainian refugees by providing art classes, chess classes, a toddler group and a support group each Saturday. A closing family event will be planned with opportunities for the children to share their art projects.

St. James Mangotsfield Bristol, Bristol, £945.50

This project will support 40 Ukrainian refugees by facilitating their social group with cooking activities along with singing, wellbeing, reflection, children's activities and English classes.