



HOST NATION NORTH WEST

Connecting refugees with host communities

Signposting our refugee friends to support organisations

At HostNation, we don't ask you to provide professional support. Instead, our scheme offers friendship and all its benefits; helping a refugee feel more at home in the city, having somebody to talk to and have fun with. You can also help your refugee friend with their English skills.

However, if your refugee friend needs more specialist or integration support, this signposting guide provides a range of Greater Manchester organisations that you could help to connect them with.

Refugee advice and support

Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN)

<http://mrsn.org.uk/>

Help refugees and asylum seekers get support, immigration and general advice, food parcels and necessities for those suffering hardship. Range of asylum seeker and refugee advice services including immigration advice through their drop in centres - <https://mrsn.org.uk/reopening-our-drop-in-centre/> Football for adult refugees on Sundays. Elder refugee support to tackle loneliness. Based mainly in Moss Side.

Refugee Action

<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/refugee-action-greater-manchester/>

Give advice and guidance to those struggling to navigate the asylum system. Help those with refugee status to settle into their new homes and communities – everything from helping children into schools, to support on booking doctors appointments, and ensuring they get a hot meal when they arrive. They support people who suffer violent attacks or other hate crimes, to ensure they know their rights and get the help they need.

WAST: Women Asylum Seekers Together

<https://www.wastmanchester.com>

Support women who are seeking asylum in the UK. Run a weekly drop in/ support group sharing information and connecting women with specialists such as domestic abuse agencies, local food banks, legal aid, immigration advice etc. across Great Manchester. Has an active campaign group, a food bank, a choir, a basic English Language class and more.

British Red Cross Refugee Support Services

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee>

Offer emergency help, one-to-one support and casework, special services for children and families, and help reuniting families. In Greater Manchester email GMRS@redcross.org.uk

Greater Manchester Together

<https://www.greatertogethermanchester.org/>

Church of England organisation which helps in areas including homelessness, loneliness and isolation, mental health and wellbeing, and supporting displaced people. They have places of welcome across Greater Manchester, community led food projects, and training for grassroots community leaders. Good for those whose faith is important.

Revive

<http://www.revive-uk.org/>

Refugee and asylum seeker support organisation which offers a wide range of services, including asylum support, emergency support, benefits advice, immigration advice, transition support to those granted refugee status, ESOL classes, wellbeing and employability support including IT courses, activities and volunteer opportunities. Runs Drop in services in Beswick (Tues 11.30-4) and Salford (Weds 11-4).

Skills, training, employability support

Rainbow Haven

<https://www.rainbowhaven.org.uk/>

A place of welcome, support and opportunity for displaced people in Manchester and Salford. Provide community drop in sessions (Tues and Thurs from 9.30am) and support for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants. Health and wellbeing support, skills and employment, family support including a 'mama and baby' group weekly. Based in Gorton.

Mustard Tree

<https://mustardtree.org.uk/>

The Mustard Tree is a charity providing food and face to face support to people who are on a very low income or homeless. They run The Freedom Project, a training opportunity where people can learn new skills, find work and overcome barriers, focus is on employability, gaining skills, suitable accommodation and addressing money worries. They run lots of courses, clubs and classes, including ESOL English classes, art classes, computer confidence and job clubs. They offer help with furniture, household items and food. Based in Ancoats Manchester.

Refugees & Mentors

<https://refmentors.org.uk/>

Supports refugees and vulnerable migrants to improve their employment prospects and get jobs. Offers a mentoring programme, courses and workshops including pre-employment training, English classes, job applications and CV help. Also runs the Rainbow Haven Work Club, employment related information, guidance and support for refugees, vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers. Based at Longsight Business Park, help people all over Greater Manchester.

Places to go for activities & well being

Many of the organisations mentioned above offer wellbeing and health activities..
Additionally :

Manchester City of Sanctuary

<https://manchester.cityofsanctuary.org/>

A non-religious organisation wanting to create a more inclusive welcoming city. MCofS provide opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to connect with local Mancunians through activities, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

Growing Together Levenshulme

<https://www.facebook.com/GrowingTogetherLevenshulme>

A therapeutic space and support network, otherwise known as 'the garden', is a set of allotment plots in South Manchester offering weekly therapeutic horticulture sessions to refugees and people seeking asylum. All of this community organisation's participant-led activities are focused on improving mental wellbeing and physical health, as well as building confidence, skills and a sense of community.

Music in Action

<https://www.musicaction.org/>

Music and Singing with Torture Survivors
Every Thursday, Z Arts Hulme

Mustard Tree

<https://mustardtree.org.uk/>

Creative Writing Club Weds 12-1pm
Art Club Every Friday 12-1pm
Art Drop Friday 1-3pm

Warm Hut

<https://warmhut.org/>

Warm Hut is a Refugee Support organisation supporting the African Community in Salford and Manchester. Their mission is that African people gain a better insight into living abroad, have a positive attitude towards life in the UK, maximise their well-being, and feel empowered and enabled to contribute to the host country. They have projects including ICT and English Conversation Club, The Gents (for men), Golden Age (for older people) and a Homework Club for children and young people. They are based in Salford.

LGBTQ support

Rainbow Migration

<https://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk/>

Rainbow Migration supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) people through the asylum and immigration system.

Provide practical and emotional support to improve self-esteem and confidence, reduce isolation, and help access health services and housing. They give specialist legal information and advice to LGBTQI+ people who are seeking asylum or making partnership applications to live in the UK with their partners. They have partnerships with several law firms to whom they can refer asylum seekers for quality legal representation.

LGBT Foundation

<https://lgbt.foundation/howwecanhelp>

Services and activities include: a range of support groups; face-to-face counselling; a helpline, email and pop-in service; a befriending scheme; a sexual health programme, a substance-misuse project; organisational training; a range of guides and resources; a national website; advice surgeries; LGBT infrastructure support; various research projects and policy campaigning. Based Chester Road, M15.

ESOL (English lessons)

ESOL English Classes

Some of the organisations above organise ESOL classes, including Revive, WAST (for women asylum seekers).

Caritas - Manchester Office, St. Aidan's Centre

<https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/>

St Aidan's Centre is in Wythenshaw, Northern Moor. They run a weekly ESOL class Tues 12-2 and Well Woman Group, for female refugees and asylum seekers to talk, cook together and learn English (Thurs 10-12).

Mustard Tree : ESOL Beginners or Intermediate level Tues /Weds. On Zoom.
And English Conversation Club Weds 10-11am.

Also:

There is also a comprehensive list of English (ESOL) classes listed on the Manchester City of Sanctuary's website here :

<https://manchester.cityofsanctuary.org/english-classes-in-greater-manchester/>

Housing

The Boaz Trust

<https://boaztrust.org.uk>

Manchester based charity providing shared accommodation and 1-1 s support for people who have become homeless after claiming asylum.