

EMBRACE Support for migrant people, including those seeking refuge in Northern Ireland

September 2017

EMBRACE seeks to provide financial support for migrant people, including those seeking refuge in Northern Ireland where there is a clear need and no other means of support either statutory or charitable. Funds are always given through a third party rather than directly to individuals.

Assistance for Syrian Refugees being brought here through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme

We have been working with the Delivery Consortium for the Syrian VPR scheme and have been in receipt of many donations to our emergency fund from individuals, churches and other groups to support refugees.

These donations have been used to assist the process of integration for the Syrian refugees by providing among other things electricity and gas in their new homes along with a number of essential items.

The first refugees arrived in December 2015

2015 - 16 (4 months)	VPR scheme support	£875.00
2016 - 17 (12 months)	VPR scheme support (221 individuals)	£5244.29
2017 – 18 (5 months)	VPR scheme support	£4434.00
Total no of Syrians under VPRS helped to date 632		£10,553.29

Support for new refugees

EMBRACE provides support for new refugees who have come through the asylum process, whose statutory support may be delayed, leaving them without any income.

2016 – 17	New refugee support (6 individuals or families)	£535.00
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Support for destitute asylum seekers

Some people who come to Northern Ireland to seek asylum are unsuccessful in their applications but cannot be returned to their home country. They lose their benefits of accommodation and living allowance, and are not permitted to work. They are destitute and have no means of changing their circumstances. It is thought that each year 50 –100 people in Belfast may be in this situation, and may remain so for several years. Many are assisted by other members of refugee communities.

EMBRACE and other charities have been helping fund short-term shelter, food and other essentials for people in this situation.

2016 – 17	Support for destitute asylum seekers (25 individuals or families)	£1597.00
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Support for destitute migrant workers

Changes to benefit entitlements has caused significant hardship to many EU migrants who may have found themselves without employment and unable to access any support in the UK. We have been able to work with support organisations to support them short term while they find work or by providing flights back to their home country.

2016 - 17	Travel support for destitute migrant workers (7 individuals or families)	£740.08
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Other Support

Support was given to refugees, asylum seekers and destitute migrant workers for other items/services deemed necessary.

2016 – 17	Miscellaneous items/services (9 individuals or families)	£602.75
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2017-18 Summary for first 5 months 5 month total - £8807

Support for Syrian VPR scheme refugees £4434

Support given to meet other needs £4373

Food/support for destitute asylum seekers - 12 cases

Accommodation for destitute asylum seekers – 9 cases

Accommodation for destitute migrant – 1 case

Funds for refugees awaiting benefits - 15 cases

Return home travel for destitute migrants – 3 cases