

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group June 2012

18th-24th June is Refugee Week

"Everything here is different". – Words spoken during a discussion among a group of people claiming asylum.

I think it is hard for us to comprehend how our "normality" is so alien to some who come here.

"Everything here is different". – Having a baby, raising a family, greeting a friend, going to the doctor, how faith is practiced, what it means to be a man or a woman, and I could go on.

People claiming asylum have often fled persecution and experienced great traumas, bereavements and losses. They must also negotiate a complex and difficult legal process and do all this in a land where "everything is different".

Some struggle with isolation, poverty, destitution and some live constantly "re-membering" or "re-living" past traumas as though they are continuing in the present. They may find themselves unable to engage constructively with others, including those trying to help. Many adapt, thrive and survive, often supporting others, and sometimes keeping their own traumas deeply hidden, seldom if ever shared.

Time and time again I witness those with "the least" giving to those who have even less and I am humbled from my position of safety, security and wealth in local and global terms. Aung San Suu Kyi said, "If you are feeling helpless, help someone". Perhaps this is a message for us all, host and immigrant communities together. Jesus' interactions with people were surprising and were empowering for the outcast, the ill, the lost and the lonely.

Contributed by EMBRACE Member, Linda Agnew

This month...

We confess our roles in global injustice and poverty.

We give thanks for:

- A complex and diverse world and the richness of difference which has now come to Northern Ireland.
- All people, immigrant and host, who celebrate the "other", and work tirelessly to overcome fear, understand difference and strive for justice and peace of mind for the anguished.

Please pray for:

- People from migrant communities working tirelessly to help others who come here.
- People who work in the statutory and voluntary sectors, often frustrated by limited time and resources.
- People living with past traumas which refuse to become memories of the past.
- People who find themselves destitute and those who support them.
- People who find that things they valued in their prior way of life are no longer possible and people who struggle to live with all that they have lost.