

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group January 2016

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

Last year UN mental health professionals visiting UNHCR camps for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Turkey saw many cases of post-traumatic stress disorder in children and adults, severe depression of wives following the death of their husbands, addiction to prescribed medicines, and children who were very sad that they have missed out on schooling. The situation had been very difficult for women and children, people with mental illness and survivors of rape or sexual abuse. Nonetheless the visiting professionals noted that what family support there had been had been very important and that faith had played a major role with many people.

As the first 51 Syrian refugees from camps like these settle in to Northern Ireland not knowing English, not knowing anything about their new city and still suffering from traumatic experiences we must collectively show them a graceful and generous welcome. They're in Belfast to restart their lives and rebuild their futures which must be a concern considering our city's troubled history. Those who are victims of our own troubles will know something of what they have suffered and be able to understand them better than any. They may need psychological help – those who need it must be enabled to access it with all the demands that there are on overstretched mental health services.

PRAYER

Let us pray for those bereaved or injured by the war, for those grieving lost livelihoods, for those in need of psychological treatment. (Psalm 147 verse 3).

Let us ask God to bless those working to provide places for children to play, draw, dance, sing and learn.

Let us pray for the work of churches in bringing peace, for a listening ear and understanding heart, for strength to walk the long road of rebuilding and healing.

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