

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group May 2016

Do not plot harm against your neighbour, who lives trustfully near you. Do not accuse anyone for no reason – when they have done you no harm. Proverbs 3: 29–30 NIV

What is it like to feel unwanted?

We will be voting shortly in a very important referendum to decide whether the UK should remain a part of the European Union or leave. Immigration and security are perfectly legitimate topics for discussion by those who are campaigning to leave or to remain. But how does that make you feel if you have come here from another country?

If you are here to study, to work, to join family, or to seek protection, how does it feel to see newspaper headlines and hear speeches saying that people from your country or faith background are a 'problem' a 'burden on the health service', 'benefit scroungers' or 'a terrorist threat'? Some people may be able to shrug off what they read or hear but others, especially if they are isolated already, or have personal experience of negative attitudes, may find that the political speeches, newspaper headlines and casual negative comments combine to create a sense that they are unwanted.

When we hear others talking about these issues are we always well enough informed to challenge extreme remarks? And do we always try our best, even in the face of language difficulties, to break down the barriers that cause isolation and misunderstanding?

In EMBRACE we try to resource people who want to know more about immigration and asylum issues, through information events and resources. See www.embraceni.org/category/about-us/embrace-resources for factual information and www.embraceni.org/category/about-us/embrace-toolkit-for-churches for hints on how to provide a welcome.

We also urge people to pray.

Contributed by Margaret McNulty

Prayer topics

- Pray for our politicians, community leaders and commentators; that they will guard their words when they speak on sensitive issues
- Pray for those who are finding integration in a new community very difficult and who sense that they are unwanted
- Pray for those who counsel or befriend those who are isolated and depressed
- Pray that a living faith will give people hope for the future
- Pray for ourselves, that we will find ways to include people who are isolated and feel unwelcome
- Pray that EMBRACE and other groups will be effective in helping Christians to understand the issues, and provide a respectful welcome for people from other national, ethnic and faith backgrounds