

# Get Involved: Pray

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**EMBRACE Prayer Group**  
**October 2015**

## **Hospitality and Sanctuary for All**

'Every day hundreds and thousands of people set out to cross whatever barrier is in the way to find safety and a better life. When people are deprived of their homes, their families, and familiar surroundings, they will be grateful for welcome, hospitality, safety and compassionate concern in their new environments.

There is a challenge here to consider working to make your city, town, village, church, school, college, university, club or place of work, a Sanctuary committed to building cultures of welcome and hospitality, especially for those in greatest need and danger. Primarily, this is a commitment to helping make the most vulnerable people among us safe from harm.

How we relate to each other, and in particular to people seeking sanctuary and safety will be central to humanity. How we treat those who are in greatest need for safety will be the measure by which we shall judge personal, national and international morality and spirituality.

"The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself"  
[Leviticus 19: 34]'

Source: Racial Justice Sunday 2015 – Sanctuary for All (<https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2015>)

As we continue to pray for the people of Syria and prepare to welcome the 50 to 100 Syrian refugees who may arrive here before Christmas, let us strive to remember the needs of all our neighbours as we try to build a place of hospitality and sanctuary for everybody.

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## **A prayer for hope**

Lord, hear our prayers for Syria.  
For those who have lost loved ones,  
For lives interrupted, educations stalled and families separated.  
Lord, bless your people.

We thank you for the work of partners,  
For the hospitality of neighbours, the generosity of strangers,  
For those who give of themselves to help others  
For those who refuse to be silent in the face of injustice  
Lord, bless your people.

Lord, give the people of Syria hope,  
For peace and justice to prevail,  
For there to be new beginnings for all people living in that land,  
For freedom to replace fear and for there to be a better tomorrow  
Lord, bless your people.  
Amen.

Source: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/syria-crisis-appeal/prayers.aspx>