



WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

REFUGEE FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations!

Things have been going well recently for our 21st family. The father has now passed both his IELTS and PLAB1 exams — IELTS is the fiendishly difficult English Language exam required of doctors from abroad who want to practise in the UK, and PLAB1 is the first of two clinical exams required by the NHS. He has also got a part-time job, which means that the family is no longer hampered by the benefits cap, and they have secured a long-term rental property in London. The mother is also a doctor, and they needed to be within the M25 area to be eligible for funding to enable them both to do their remaining exams. We are helping them source donated furniture for their new home and wish them much happiness there.

More good news

Volunteers from both WISE (Wycombe Islamic Society) and WRP have been active in helping a refugee family of a mother and five children who moved to Wycombe, not realising that they would be hit by the benefits cap. They then found themselves committed to paying £1,350 rent while only receiving £1,666 per month. Thanks to perseverance from volunteers and a contact at WISE, the mother has now landed a job at a care home and is earning enough for the benefits cap to be lifted.

Making the grades

You may have experienced the wonderful cooking of Imad the chef, whose family was supported by WRP when they first arrived from Syria. His daughter Dana, working in her second language, has just achieved the top grade (9) in all ten of her subjects at GCSE. Huge congratulations to her!

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THE RIGHT TO WORK

Lift the Ban

If asylum seekers were allowed to do paid work, the UK Treasury could benefit by £97.8 MILLION each year, through reduced outgoings in the form of subsistence payments, and increased revenue from tax and National Insurance contributions. Instead, while waiting for their claim to be heard, they receive a payout from the Home Office of £37 a week per person. Out of this, they have to buy food, clothes, toiletries, over-the-counter medications, cleaning products, bus fares, phone credit and now school uniforms.

Wycombe Refugee Partnership is now helping asylum seekers as well as refugees in High Wycombe. We have obtained funding – and are seeking

Good news
from our families

Give asylum seekers
the right to work

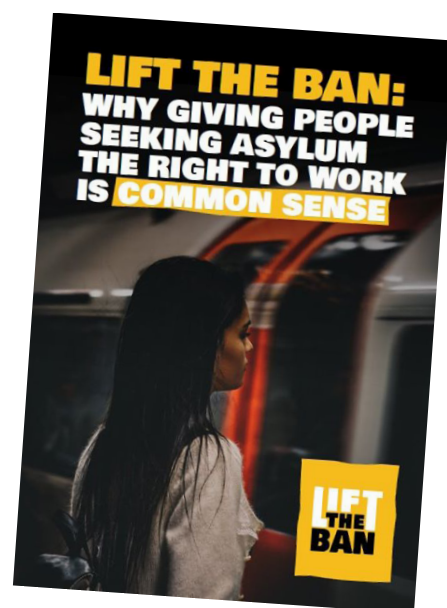
Come to our AGM

How you can
support WRP

An invitation to our AGM

19th September, 12.00
Online meeting, Zoom

Wycombe Refugee Partnership's AGM will be held on 19th September 2020, 12.00–13.00. The meeting will take place online via Zoom. If you would like to come along, please contact Hannah, our administrator, and she will add you to the guest list: administrator@wycombe-refugees.org.



more – to take halal chickens and other food to needy refugees and asylum seekers twice a week. In addition, we source donated goods for them.

You can read the full report on asylum seekers and paid work here:
<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Lift-The-Ban-Common-Sense.pdf>

OUR ETHOS

The Golden Rule



What is known as the Golden Rule – treat others as you would wish to be treated – features as a fundamental in most religions and philosophies about living a good life. Most, though not all, of the people who set up and run Wycombe Refugee Partnership are either Muslims or Christians, and we see that Golden Rule as an outworking of our faith, whether we have learned *Love your neighbour* or *As you would have people do to you, do to them*. It is a continuing delight that we can continue acting together with loving kindness, which was the original name of our organisation, before we adopted Wycombe Refugee Partnership.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Can you help?

We are always in need of contributions.

At the moment we are looking for:

- Bikes in good condition
- Cycle helmets in good condition, bike locks, pumps
- A desk chair for a 12-year-old
- Bedding

And the following volunteers:

- Van-drivers with vans
- Someone experienced with Universal Credit to support and advise our families
- An Albanian-speaker to be a contact person
- Qualified ESOL teachers



Make a donation today!

Online payment can be made at:

www.totalgiving.co.uk/charity/wycombe-refugee-partnership

Cheques payable to "Wycombe Refugee Partnership" may be sent to:

Wycombe Refugee Partnership, c/o All Saints Parish Office,
8 Castle Street, High Wycombe, HP13 6RF

Contact us

 www.wycombe-refugees.org

 0845 643 2873

 contactus@wycombe-refugees.org

 Refugees Welcome in Wycombe

...challenges faced us from all directions. No money. No house. At high risk of Covid-19 due to exposure. Government services inaccessible...

This was the experience of one refugee family who arrived here in March this year. Luckily, we were able to help them, and now they have shared their story in a letter to WRP, which accompanies this newsletter.

