



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

# Vincentian asylum support

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Communications and Public Affairs

# Vincentian support on the ground

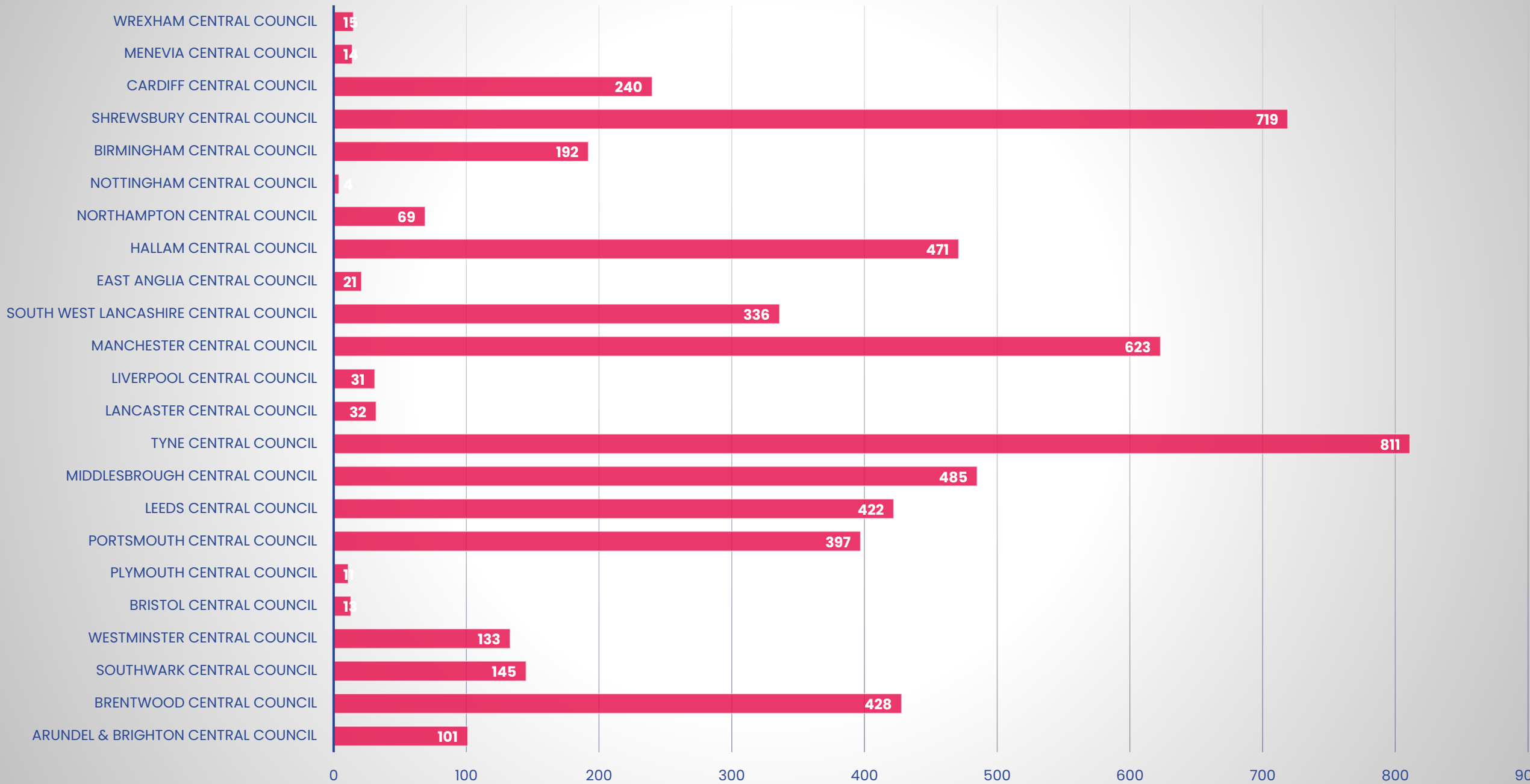
## Members

- Practical assistance (food, clothes and more)
- Visiting those in temporary accommodation
- A warm welcome
- Over 5,000 people helped in 2022-23

## St Vincent's centres

- Immigration advice
- English classes
- Practical and material assistance
- Hot meals

## Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants supported by members – 2022–23



## 10.1 Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support, by local authority, per million population, as at the end of 2016



# Asylum Seekers

- Help people in temporary accommodation
- Practical support in hotels (no access to suitable food, internet facilities, often isolated from the community)
- Hot meals and clothes
- Immigration advice (Leeds and Bradford)



Mohammad and Nawaf (left to right)  
who volunteer in our Newcastle CSP

# Refugees

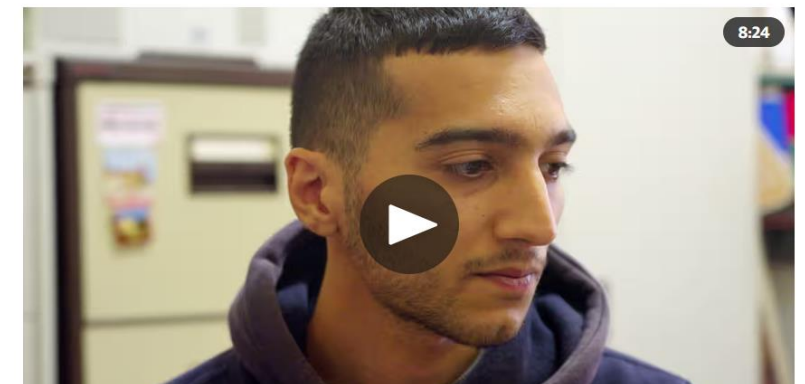
- English classes
- Employment support
- Ukrainian response
- Support to newly recognized refugees at risk of homelessness



From left to right: Kathy Fay, Jim Lynch (Conference treasurer & district president); Mary Lynch (Conference secretary); Cathy Bradley (Conference president) & Bahareh Jahanifar

## **'We're going to see people dying on the streets': homeless refugee crisis grips Liverpool**

City struggling to cope with fallout of policy that reduced window for successful asylum seekers to vacate Home Office housing



# People with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

- No access to social security support
- Practical and material assistance
- Often at risk of exploitation and modern slavery
- Around 175,000 children affected
- Four times more likely to be behind on at least one essential bill (81% against 20% for the UK population)



# Afghan resettlement scheme

- UK Government resettlement scheme – over 12,000 Afghans were resettled because at risk
- Telford Conference – support for over 200 Afghan citizens and families
- Afghan food, welcome events, cricket matches
- English classes



Afghan families enjoyed a Ramadan celebration organised by a Conference in S





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# **Policy and advocacy work**

## **– Tackling the root causes**

# Influencing policymakers and legislation

- Nationality and Borders Act
- Illegal Migration Act
- Toolkits and briefings for members
- Letter to the Home Secretary – signed by over 100 faith leader
- Love the Stranger (Bishops' Conference)
- Lift the Ban coalition



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## 8 things you should know about the Nationality and Borders Bill

and actions you can take to change it

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# Helping members to turn concern into action

- Email your MP – over 700 members took action
- Webinars and fact sheets
- Joining forces with other faith groups and national charities
- A Year of Encounter



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**We must protect people and children seeking sanctuary on our shores**

**URGENT:** Please support our calls for a compassionate and fair asylum system

We believe that our asylum system should be just and compassionate. The Illegal Migration Bill will effectively remove the right to claim asylum and will leave people in need of sanctuary with no support and at risk of detention or deportation to Rwanda.

Many people who are forced to flee their homes in desperate circumstances simply have no other choice. If this bill becomes law, thousands of people forced to flee their homes who need a safe haven will not be able to find safety and security in the UK. We believe this Bill lacks humanity and respect for human dignity.

If passed in its current form, this Bill will:

- Effectively remove the right to seek asylum and find sanctuary in the UK;
- Place thousands of people in detention centres, including children;
- Tear families apart;
- Leave thousands of people at risk of destitution and homelessness.

We cannot let this happen.

## Email your MP

First name \*

Last name \*

Email address \*

Address 1 \*

Postcode \*

I would like to be kept updated with the latest news and work by the SVP \*

☐ Yes ☐ No

Next



# Mobilising young Vincentians

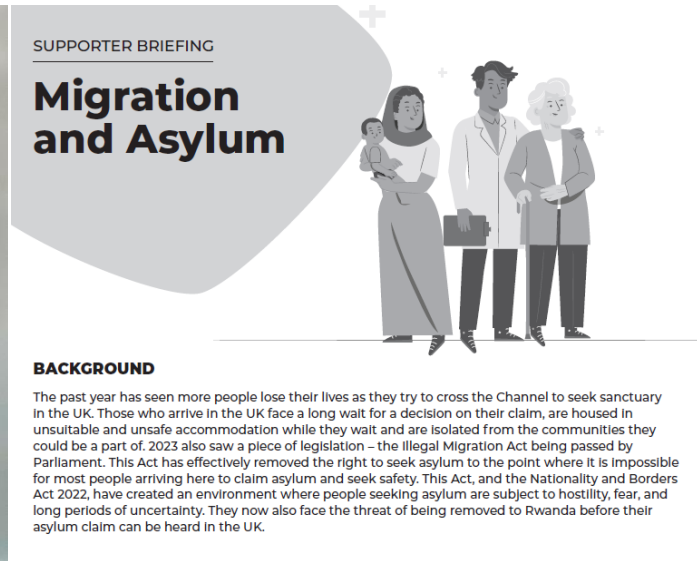
- Forget me not Lent campaign
- MP engagement
- Visits to Parliament





# Research and publications

- Reflections and recommendations on Resettlement report
- Supporter briefing for members ahead of the General Election
- Asylum temporary accommodation policy briefing
- Transnational families research project – University of Reading and St Vincent's Leeds



📅 April 28, 2022 👤 tcnadmin 🗨️ human rights, Nationality&Borders Bill, svp

## by Hollie Scorer

[illegible]

Although both have been faced with extensive waiting times and uncertainties about the future, the two couples' horrid war cases, they remain determined to share the kindness they have received from the Home Office and to help others in a desperate need of support.

Mohammed and his family were forced to leave their peaceful life in Syria in 2011, experiencing the devastating loss of loved ones and the breaking of their dreams.

Mohammed has a strong desire to work full-time and the best possible way to help his family and himself is by volunteering at St Vincent's and to help others in need. He has been a volunteer since 2012 and has helped to pave the way to a brighter future in the UK.

Volunteering at St Vincent's has helped Mohammed to find a sense of purpose and to be part of St Vincent's as a volunteer and to stay busy instead of sitting home. He has been able to help others in need and the Home Office takes such long time to consider cases such as mine.

Mohammed says: "I want to help other people as part of St Vincent's as a volunteer supporting this community."

After 10 years in the UK in 2016, Mohammed and his family were deported from the UK over a year ago. Nawal was an undocumented migrant and had suffered from a long and painful immigration treatment, including false imprisonment.

Mohammed says: "I am very grateful to the Home Office for regarding me as a



ment for the volunteers, says: "We have seen the amazing energy, commitment and passion of the volunteers who have come to the UK seeking sanctuary, and we have benefited hugely from folks like Nawaf and Mohammad who are so grateful to be here. It's a privilege to have them." If we look at lifting the ban on those seeking asylum being able to work in the UK, it's not just about the people who have a myriad of skills, knowledge and experience which they want to use, and businesses across the UK are struggling to find the staff they need to run their fairly hectic, social care and hospitality. We know that work gives a sense of value to the individual, as well as contributing to the national economy which benefits us all."

Jaz continues to collaborate with Asylum Aid, a charity which helps refugees and asylum seekers, and Nawaf and Mohammad and Nawaf in the hope that he can make a real difference.

"The recruitment market in hospitality is the toughest I've known in 20 years and I believe that allowing skilled refugees to work legally would help employers to find the staff in equal measure", he concludes.

[for response to the Nationality and Borders Bill](#)

Submitted by [kirstylf@svp.org.uk](mailto:kirstylf@svp.org.uk) on Tue, 06/07/2021 - 17:51



# Media

## Compassion in the Asylum system



We believe in a different approach.





# Engagement with Ministers and other policymakers

- Meeting with the Minister for Veterans
- Working with faith groups and civil society groups
- Media coverage





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# Questions?

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