

THE PARISHES OF ST PHILIP & ALL SAINTS KEW with ST LUKE'S KEW

Vicar, Revd. Peter Hart
B.A. (Hons), M. ès L., M. Phil

www.stlukeskew.org
www.thebarnchurchkew.org
email: pwhart1@aol.com

The Vicarage
70 Marksbury Avenue,
Kew
RICHMOND
Surrey TW9 4JF

Ecumenical Adviser,
Kingston Episcopal Area

☎ 0208 3921425

Chair, Richmond InterFaith Forum

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Dear Ms Peterken

I am writing to you as the Chair of Richmond InterFaith Forum and as a member of Refugees Welcome in Richmond to request your help to bring 50 Syrian refugees, who cannot be supported effectively in their Middle East region of origin, to be housed and relocated in our Borough. Your assistance in finding suitable self contained accommodation for refugees will benefit women and girls at risk, survivors of violence and torture and those with medical needs or disabilities.

As the Home Office has agreed to fund through all the London boroughs the Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme, we are now in a position to provide potential landlords with a financial package to offer self contained accommodation to Syrian refugees. This includes a landlord's premium, a brokerage service and funding for decorating and furnishing properties.

We are asking if members of your Churches Together group could join us in trying to find landlords in your area who would be willing to rent a property at an affordable rate and for a minimum of 12 months that would allow the refugees to come to Richmond for sanctuary and resettlement.

We are planning for our first family to arrive early next year. Once individuals arrive their rents will be paid through housing benefits. The cost of keeping the property vacant for up to 2 months will be met by the Home Office as will their medical costs and any social care needs for the first year of their arrival. They will be allocated a case-worker to support their resettlement, which will be arranged for through the Council and funded by the Home Office

I also enclose an updated information sheet which sets out the offer to landlords. I would ask that you please distribute these across the churches in your area so that as many people as possible are alerted to the updated offer.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this matter, we sincerely hope you will be able to assist and support our efforts in this very important cause.