



**home
for good**

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



Intercessions for young refugees

Feel free to use and adapt these intercessions and prayers for individual or corporate use.

For the Hat-tê·bāh initiative

Loving God,

We pray for the Hat-tê·bāh initiative,

and for those who work to support child refugees.

We ask that you would bless the awareness training on Friday 24 March, in the Liverpool Diocese.

We thank you for the expertise The Children's Society is bringing to the training, empowering others to welcome young vulnerable refugees.

We pray you would bless the partnership of The Children's Society, Mothers' Union, Home for Good and Liverpool Diocese.

We approach your throne of grace with boldness in this time of need, and ask that this initiative would not only reach every diocese, but impact the lives of hundreds of young people, and the communities they enter.

In Jesus' powerful name we pray,

Amen

We thank you that you care for those on the margins, and we pray especially for refugees and unaccompanied children.

Help us to reach out to young people who are in need, welcoming refugees into our communities with open arms.

May we have your eyes as we provide places of sanctuary, and may we grow in compassion towards those on the margins.

Amen.

On the journey

Ever-present God,

most of us will never have to decide whether or not we should flee our home.

For this we are truly thankful.

Whether it is through war, oppression, religious persecution or other fears, we commit into your hands

those children and families who have chosen the journey of a refugee.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Their journey is dangerous,
the road they walk is treacherous
and their destination is not guaranteed.
At the end of their journey,
we pray 'they' become one of 'us'.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Seeking a new life

Giver of new life,
thank you that we are a new creation
and that your mercies are new every morning.
We lift up children who are setting foot in our country for the first time today.
May they experience warmth, welcome and love.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Anything new is full of opportunities and uncertainties,
Loving God, we pray child refugees' uncertainties will be stilled
and the opportunities our nation can offer become apparent.
In this, we are particularly mindful of children arriving on their own.
Lord, for those arriving in our community,
let us play our part in answering our prayer.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

For us and our nation

Lord of all,
understanding all the complexities and intricacies of this world is beyond us.
Reconciling the evils we see children fleeing alongside your love is deeply
challenging.
Help our faith to grow and our trust in you to flourish, so that we do not just lean on
our own understanding;
but trust your will and wisdom with all our heart.
Your kingdom come
your will be done.

Whenever we see refugees as simply statistics or a problem,
rather than people made in God's image;
forgive our lack of perspective.
Thank you that you freely invite everyone to be part of your kingdom.
Forgive us when we allow self-interested nationalism to overrule our heavenly
citizenship and God-given common humanity.
Your kingdom come
your will be done.

Guide our Government, Lord,

particularly the Home Office, as they make decisions about asylum applications.

Give them wisdom and discernment that transcends targets.

For the role our local government plays, we see the pressure housing and caring for refugees can bring.

Thank you for those who work tirelessly to welcome vulnerable young people into our community.

Give us the patience, love and energy to be part of this provision for child refugees.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

Under all these pressures on government budgets,

we thank you for organisations, like

The Children's Society, Mothers' Union, Home for Good and the Church of England.

who are unceasing in fighting for the rights of refugee children.

We praise you because we know that every gift, action and prayer

we make is transformed into something truly meaningful.

In supporting the marginalised and voiceless,

we see your will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hallelujah!

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

Two prayers for children seeking refuge and asylum

God of compassion,

we have seen the harrowing images

of children fleeing danger and desperately seeking safety;

of families risking everything without the assurance of anything in return;

of young people whose only hope depends on finding refuge in an unknown country.

Lord, may we offer a welcome

as warm as the one we would offer the child who once fled to Egypt.

God of hospitality,

we are thankful that this crisis isn't going unreported,

and for the immediate sanctuary provided by our nation.

But when the cameras stop rolling,

may our welcome be ever-flowing and our compassion unceasing.

Lord, may our love for those seeking refuge be steadfast,

no matter the political climate.

We make this our prayer,

in the name of your Son, who offers hope to the weary,

respite to the traveller and peace to all your children.

Amen

Hamid's Story

We invite you to be inspired by praying through Hamid's story. Out of respect to Hamid, please do not change Hamid's words or amend his story or details about his story (such as names and location) in any way, and please only use the images provided.



'The entire world knows the situation in Afghanistan is very bad. Every day there is war, innocent people get killed. People can't go to work, children can't go to school. The situation is very bad.

'I didn't want to leave my country, but I had to. I was forced to leave after I got shot in the war. One of my hands doesn't work now. I couldn't go to work, I couldn't go to school, so I had to leave my country.

'It was very difficult on the way to the UK. We had to go through jungles and mountains but didn't have a vehicle. In Iran, police don't treat Afghan refugees well. They provoke them and get money from them.

'Once I was left alone in Iran's mountains, it was very cold and I was really in danger. It was difficult.

'When I got to England, police arrested me. But their behaviour was very good, they gave me clothes and they were very good with me.

'I didn't know anyone in the UK, I don't have any relatives here. So I was in a shared house and someone from The Children's Society visited, that's how I first knew about them.

'When I saw my worker I was very happy. He was from my country and speaking my language, I told him all my difficulties and he helped me with my problems. When I met him I became very happy.

'The Children's Society took me to a doctor. I couldn't go there on my own because I didn't know about the hospital and didn't know how to get there, but The Children's Society took me. They also took me to a youth club, and introduced me to a mentor who visits me two or three times a week and supports me.

'When I first came to The Children's Society, I didn't know anything. If I went to a shop, I couldn't buy anything because I didn't know the price. But my mentor helped me with this. Now I don't have any difficulty.

'I want to become an engineer in the future. I hope The Children's Society will continue supporting me in the future too.

'Young people who come to the UK and don't understand English, I want them to visit The Children's Society. They are a good organisation and they help people resolve their problems. I am very happy with The Children's Society, I want to say thank you.'



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Light a candle for young refugees

As part of our Hat-tê-bāh initiative to welcome refugees, we are inviting everyone to take a simple action; to prayerfully light a candle for children who have fled violence, war, persecution or natural disaster.

You will need:

- *a candle*
- *matches.*

Set up your candle in a place where it is safe to light and read through all the instructions before beginning.

- *As you strike the match, pray about the conflicts, disasters and persecution that have led children to flee their country: Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Sudan, and others.*
- *Hold the match upright so that it burns slowly, leaving destruction in its path. Pray for the renewal, restoration and reconciliation of nations so that no young person feels they have to flee their home.*

- *As you light your candle*, pray for children facing serious dangers crossing seas and from traffickers as they move from their own country to a new and unknown land.
- *After your candle is lit and the match extinguished*, breathe slowly and spend a minute focusing on the light. Think about the images of light used in the Bible: invite the light of Christ to replace the darkness these young people have faced. Pray that God would be a lamp for their feet and a light on their path. Ask God to show you ways that you can allow your light to shine before others, so that others may see your good deeds and glorify God.
- *Just as a candle turns potential into light and energy for many*, thank God for the talents, gifts and potential of these young people. Ask God that young refugees will reach their potential through the welcome, nurturing and encouragement we offer.
- *Extinguish your candle* and pray that there will be an end to people needing to seek refuge.