



# Refugees at Home Impact Report

Refugees at Home was set up to address the homelessness crisis among refugees and asylum seekers.

Since we formally began operating in February 2016 we have provided over **70,000 nights** of accommodation – nights that would otherwise be spent sleeping on park benches, night buses or worse. (Data as at 24.4.18)

This report is to tell you a bit more about our impact – who we have helped in the last 2 years and what we have done to help them. Plus, of course, what we plan to do next.

To support us or find out more please go to our website:

[www.refugeesathome.org](http://www.refugeesathome.org)



Some of our team

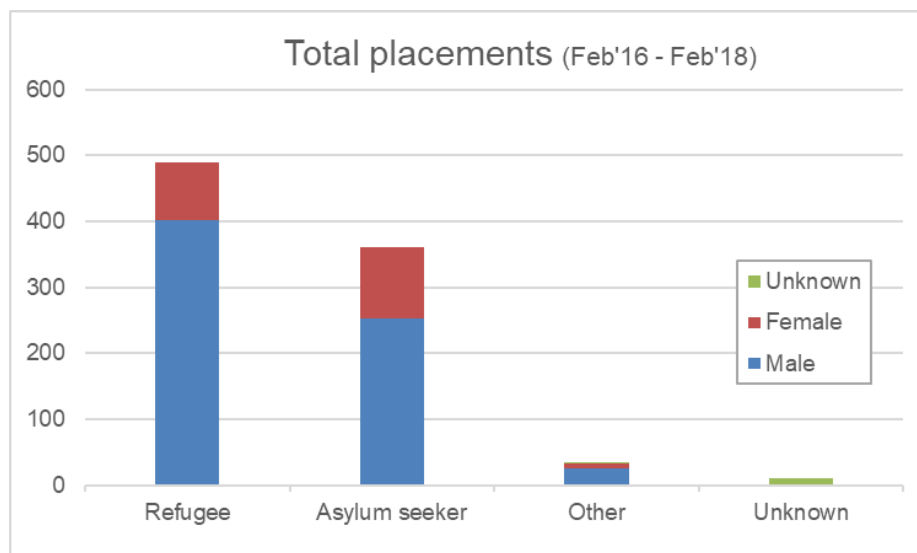
## What we do

We introduce destitute refugees and asylum seekers to registered hosts who have a spare bed.

We host adults of any nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or political persuasion; if someone needs hosting and we are in a position to help, we will do our very best to provide that help.

The people we help are:

- **Refugees:** people who have been granted refugee status following a successful asylum application who need a little help to establish their lives in the UK
- **Asylum seekers:** people who have applied for asylum and whose application is ongoing. This includes people who have arrived in the UK informally and reported to the Home Office.
- **Refused Asylum Seekers:** people who have been refused asylum and are appealing
- We also support a small number of people who have 'other' statuses e.g. those who have right to remain through a family member and whose relationship has broken down, or those who have been identified as victims of human trafficking.

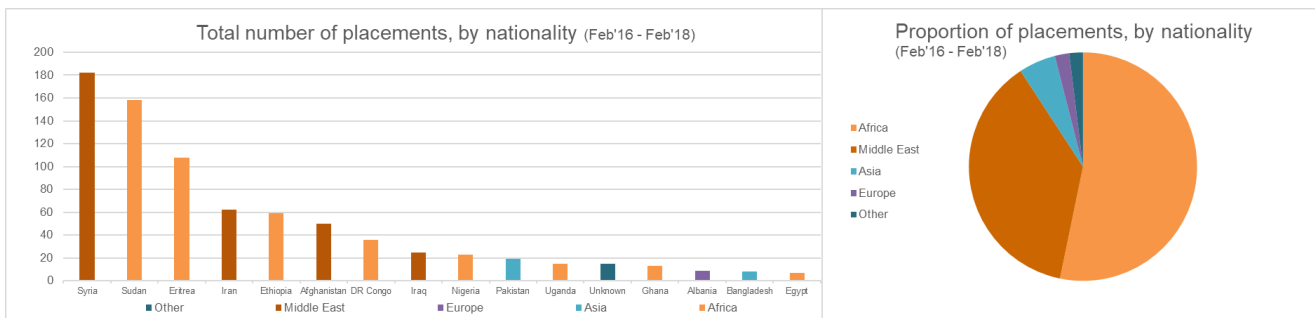


## Our guests

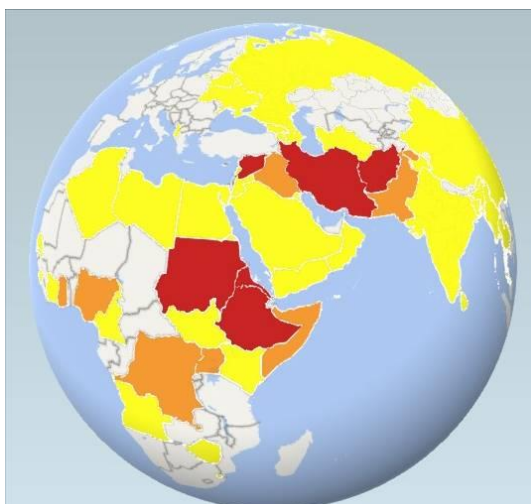
We had hosted 533 individuals from 54 different countries (and some stateless people, too) by our second birthday. 90% of our guests come from just 5 countries – Syria, Sudan, Eritrea, Iran and Ethiopia.

We ask referrers and guests searching and extensive questions to ensure guests are suitable for hosting, and our hosts are all visited by volunteers with professional expertise in home assessment. This ensures host placements are as happy and successful as possible.

We operate a policy of complete transparency- if we know something about a guest we will share it with a potential host.



Placements by nationality of guests



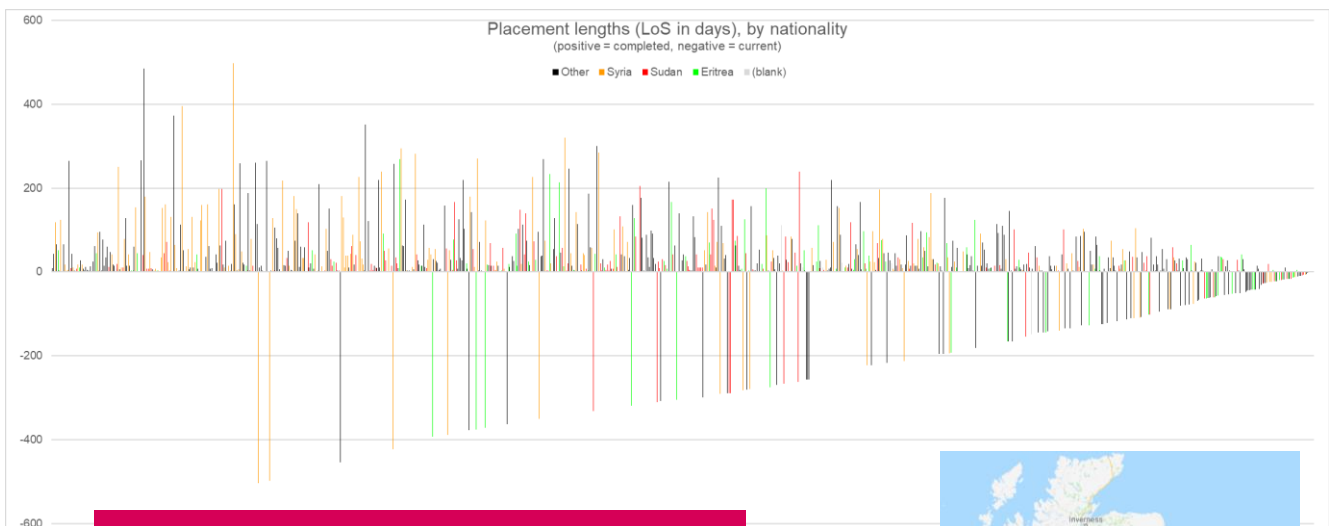
Country of origin of our guests

## Our hosts

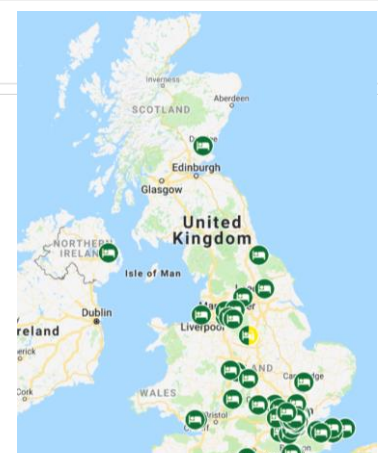
We don't record information on our hosts' age, sexuality, religion, profession etc – we focus on whether they have available accommodation and whether our home visitor (a volunteer with a professional background in home assessment) feels that they would be a suitable host.

- **We have 1,120 potential hosts across the UK**
- Many of our active hosts are in and around large cities, as guests often want to be in those locations (because of support services, community links and the availability of jobs and education).

Stays vary from 1 night to several months or even years. Most of our guests stay for less than three months, but even a very short stay can make a huge difference to guests' ability to move forward and successfully build a life in the UK.



Length of stay per guest (completed stays at top)



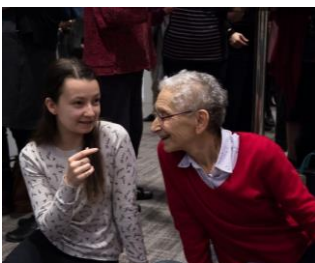
Location of hosted guests as at 24.4.18

## Our referrers

Most of our guests are referred by an established refugee or homelessness support charity e.g. Crisis UK, St. Mungo's (the few exceptions are refugees with good English and references).

Our referrers are responsible for:

- Assessing the guest for suitability for hosting
- Supporting them during the hosting relationship
- Arranging arrival and the end of the placement
- Developing a move-on plan with the guest and supporting them to deliver that plan.



Some of our guests and hosts



## **What we don't do**

We do not host:

- Unaccompanied minors
- People with complex mental health issues
- Anyone with drink or drug abuse problems
- Those with serious convictions (including convictions for violence)
- Anyone not engaged with the asylum process e.g. trying to stay or work in the UK illegally.

We do not provide other casework, e.g. legal or housing advice.



## **What next?**

We have grown from exponentially in the last two years so we need to put in place some formal structures, and the funding and governance to support them- while staying focused on helping as many people as we can. We want to keep the whole process as simple and pragmatic as possible- for guests, hosts and referrers.

In the next few months we are planning:

- A new website, providing clear and accessible information for guests, hosts and referrers
- Additional paid staff members to offer out of hours and weekend cover without relying too heavily on volunteers
- Some more IT support so we can investigate future database options
- More media and publicity to normalise hosting and recruit hosts in our high-demand areas
- A refreshed hub network across the country to support hosts, including links with other groups
- A formal fundraising team and financial strategy team so we have a clear pipeline of funds to pay for all this

If you want to help, please go to our website [www.refugeesathome.org](http://www.refugeesathome.org) and click on 'volunteer'. We'd love to hear from you!

## **The small print**

All data is as at 8.2.18 unless otherwise stated.

We have removed details of a small number of guests where they may have been identifiable due to data in the public domain.

If you have questions or comments on our data, please drop us an email at [info@refugeesathome.com](mailto:info@refugeesathome.com)