

REFUGEES  
AT HOME  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
2021–2022



# INTRODUCTION

## **Connecting refugees and asylum-seekers with hosts since 2016**

Refugees at Home is a charity that arranges temporary hosting for asylum-seekers and refugees in need. Since we started nearly seven years ago we have placed over 4,120 guests with hosts, both individuals and families, in dozens of towns and cities across the UK, from London to Liverpool and as far north as the Scottish Highlands. This represents over 250,000 nights of accommodation.

This year we have seen a huge rise in Ukrainian guests. Their need is urgent, but it is important to remember that we host people seeking refuge from many different countries around the world. That work goes on.

The following report gives detail on who we have helped, how we have helped them and what impact we have had in the last 12 months.<sup>1</sup>

# UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine has had an unprecedented impact on the work of Refugees at Home. Following the launch of the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme in March, our host numbers have increased six-fold, and our number of placements has trebled.

By the end of August this year we had made placements for over 800 Ukrainian families. This represents two thirds of our total placements since February and the beginning of the Russian invasion.



Kathy (centre), hosting Vasyi, Oksana and family

“  
WATCHING THE EUROVISION  
SONG CONTEST WITH OKSANA  
AND SOLOMIYA, WHEN UKRAINE  
WON, SOLOMIYA LEAPT OFF  
THE SOFA. IT WAS JUST A  
LOVELY MOMENT”

**Kathy**

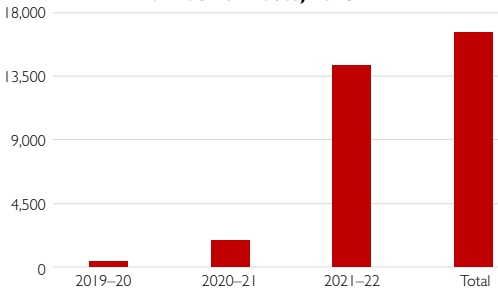
<sup>1</sup> The graphs in this report show the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022, unless otherwise specified

# HOSTS

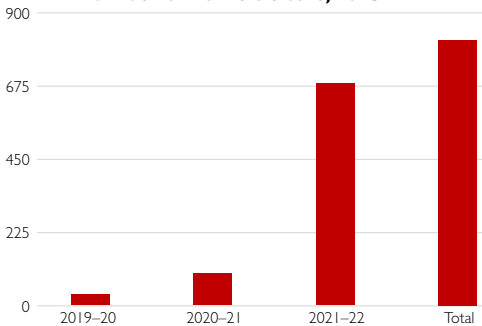
During the recent crisis in Afghanistan, some 1,200 generous people came forward to offer their services as hosts and by the end of 2021 we had almost 2,000 hosts signed up.

**Following the invasion of Ukraine, a further 12,000 people came forward to open their doors to the newly arriving guests – an increase in host numbers of 600%.**

Number of hosts, 2019–22



Number of home visitors, 2019–22



# HOME VISITORS

All of our hosts and homes are professionally assessed by trained home visitors before a placement is made. The huge rise in host applications prompted by the Ukraine crisis created an urgent need for home visitors, and in early March we ran a campaign to recruit more people with experience in home visiting to undertake our essential host and home assessments.

**We now have over 800 volunteer home visitors, up from under 100 in 2020–21.**



Magda and Martin with guests AT (front) and AA (back right)

“ AT IS A DOCTOR FROM SYRIA AND HAS JUST PASSED HIS FIRST EXAM ON HIS JOURNEY TO BE RECOGNISED AS A DOCTOR IN THE UK. AA IS A BED'UN FROM KUWAIT. OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN ENRICHED BY HAVING THESE LOVELY YOUNG MEN TO STAY”

Magda

# REFERRALS

We have had 2,071 referrals in 2021–22. Our referrals come through a range of charitable partners, including RefuAid, the Refugee Council, British Red Cross and many others.

In the past, most of our guests (and all asylum seekers) have been referred to us by these partners, but Ukraine has witnessed a large rise in the number of guests self-referring – over half of all the guests by August 2022.



YOU ARE DOING GREAT AND INVALUABLE WORK FOR US UKRAINIANS. THANK YOU FOR OUR SAFETY AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE”

Kateryna

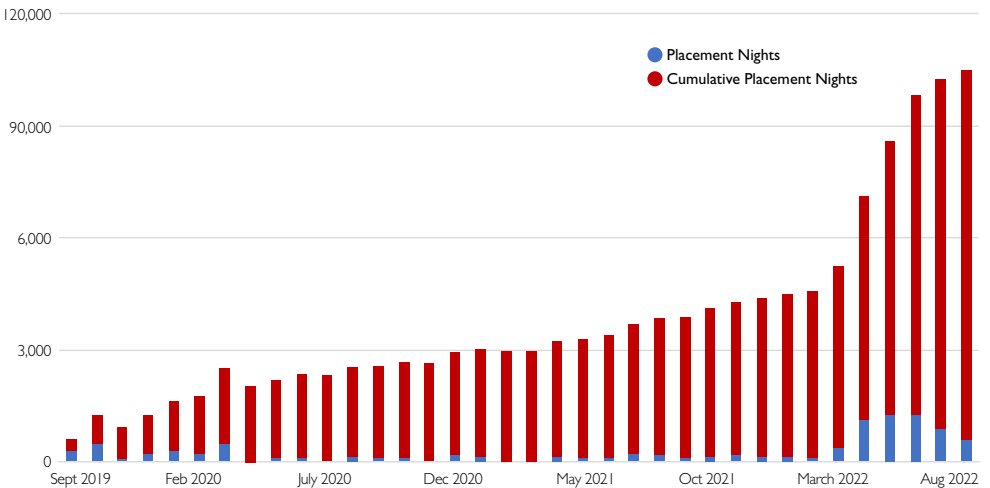
# PLACEMENTS

We have made almost 700 placements over the year. While the majority have been single people, since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis we have seen many more families needing accommodation and we have been working to find hosts with more than one spare room to accommodate them.

The average length of stay in 2021–22 has been 101 days. As many of our recent guests are part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, which has a minimum hosting period of six months, we are seeing longer durations for many of our placements.

**We have recently celebrated our 250,000th placement night – that is a quarter of a million nights when our guests would otherwise have been homeless.**

Cumulative placement nights by month 2019–22



# PLACEMENT CITIES

Guests prefer to be hosted in cities, close to amenities and to their fellow nationals. This year nearly half of our placements (290) have been in London, with Manchester coming in second with 30 placements.

Although London remains the main destination city, our geographical reach has grown, and guests have found placements across the UK, in Newcastle, Liverpool, Nottingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Plymouth and Penarth.



Yasier and Howard

“

IT'S PROVING A RICH EXPERIENCE HAVING YAASIER AS A HOUSE GUEST. A ROHINGYAN MUSLIM AND A YORKSHIRE CHRISTIAN WHO HAVE MUCH MORE IN COMMON THAN MANY MAY EXPECT”

Howard



# ABOUT OUR GUESTS

Since 2016 we have hosted guests from over 70 different countries.

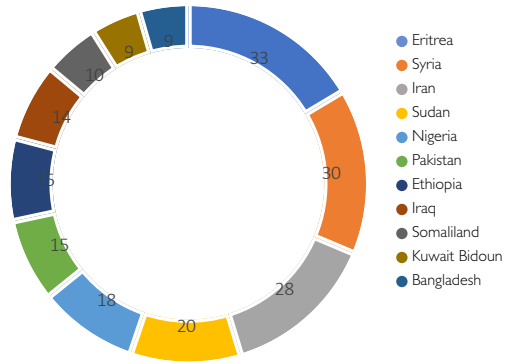
The graphs below show the huge impact that Ukraine has had on our work. Refugees from Ukraine only started arriving at the beginning of 2022, but by the end of August Ukrainians were making up the vast majority of guests (814).

We also host guests from some 70 other nations, all of them fleeing war, conflict and persecution in their home countries.

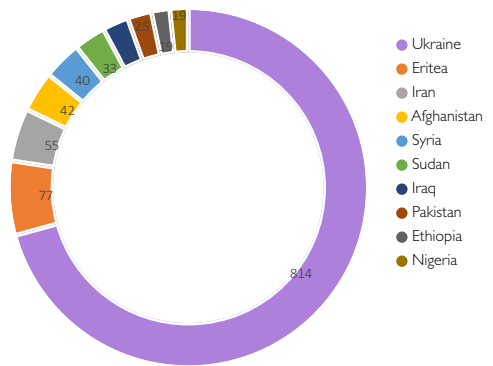
A major change we have witnessed as a result of Ukraine has been the huge rise in the number of female guests. In all previous years the majority of our guests have been male. This year, for the first time, women (60% of guests) outnumbered men.

Most of our guests are between the ages of 17 and 35, but we have seen a much broader range of ages since the war in Ukraine, with many refugees arriving as families, often with children, grandparents and even great-grandparents. This year our guests' ages have ranged from ten months to 80 years. We do not host unaccompanied children.

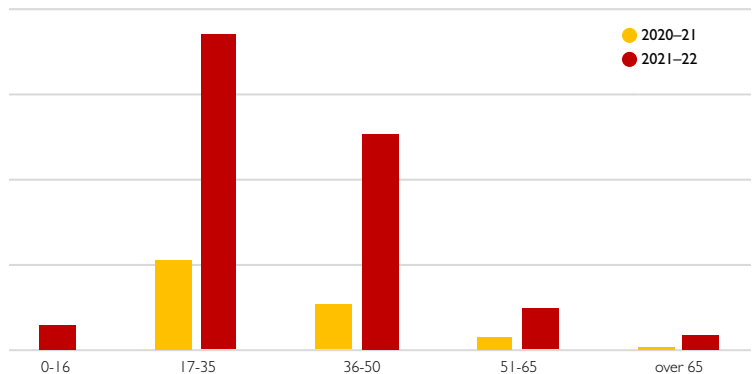
**Guests by country of origin 2020–21**



**Guests by country of origin 2021–22**

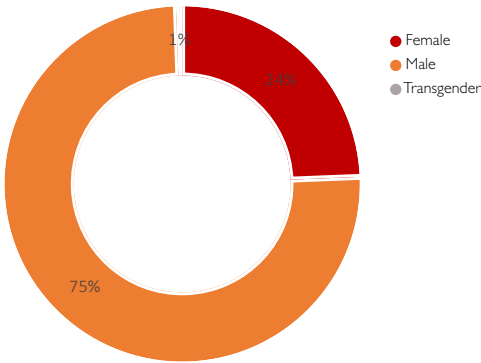


**Age of guests 2020–21 and 2021–22**

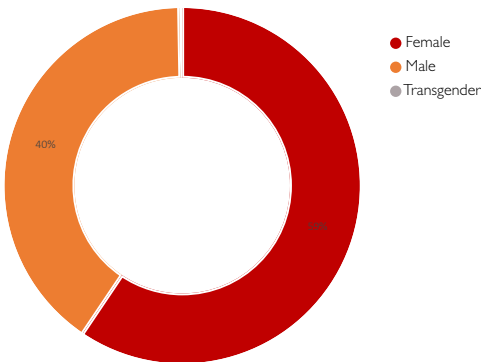


# CONCLUSION

**Gender of guests 2020–21**



**Gender of guests 2021–22**



This has been the most extraordinary year since we launched Refugees at Home.

The number of people seeking our support has skyrocketed; hosting has increased by 600%; our home visitor numbers are up by 800%; and the demographics of our guests have been transformed. More than 60% of our guests are now Ukrainian. We now have to find homes for women, for families and for children. And for the first time, our hosts have to get involved in the complexities of visas and government red tape.

To manage these changes we have completely overhauled our operation, quadrupling our number of permanent staff. It has been a period of major upheaval and more than ever before we need support to maintain this new level of activity.

But while Ukraine has changed Refugees at Home, we must never lose sight of the fact that we pledge to give refuge to all those in need. Over the years we have hosted, and continue to host, people from more than 70 different countries. That core commitment remains.



THE WORK THAT YOU ARE DOING IS AMAZING. THE DUE DILIGENCE, THE CONSTANT SUPPORT BOTH FOR HOSTS AND GUESTS, THE ORGANISATION, SKILLS, SENSITIVITY AND KNOWLEDGE. STELLAR ORGANISATION: BRAVO!"

Nicola



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