



GUIDE: TALKING ABOUT HOSTING



THANK YOU

Thank you so much for telling others about our hosting programme. To date, the Refugees at Home network of hosts have provided over 6,000 people a place to stay. But this is not enough.

The need for safe places for refugees and people seeking asylum has never been greater than it is today.

Any of us could be refugees, in different circumstances. Refugees at Home connects people with a spare room to refugees and people seeking asylum in need of somewhere to stay. We don't think people who come to the UK for sanctuary should end up on the streets.

Refugees and people seeking asylum are fleeing war or persecution in their own countries. But many who come to the UK in search of safety find themselves facing homelessness and destitution. They may be without statutory support for long periods, or need some additional help to build new lives.

We can provide you with other materials to share which will help to promote hosting including [postcards](#), [pens](#) and [badges](#), just get in contact with us with how many you need and we will send them to you: info@refugeesathome.org

Please do let us know when you'll be speaking to your community about hosting; we're able to promote what you are doing, and we always love to be sent photos of your activities we can share.

Quick facts

A **REFUGEE** is a person who has fled their country of origin and is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted. In the UK, refugees have been granted some form of leave to remain. Refugees also arrive through government-led programmes.

An **ASYLUM SEEKER** is a person who has fled their country of origin and is seeking international protection. In the UK, this is someone whose claim for asylum has not yet been decided on by the Home Office or have had their initial claim refused and are appealing this decision.

Who do we host?

- Refugees
- People seeking asylum, who are receiving no statutory support
- People arriving via family reunion or the Homes for Ukraine programme, as well as people with other immigration status.

Who can be a R@H Host?

- Individuals or families with a spare room in their home
- People willing to provide a short-term safe space to a refugee or person seeking asylum
- Has permission of the property owner to host
- In locations with good transport links to towns and cities
- Will agree to have a home visit and to have references taken
- Refugees at Home hosts are diverse, we have hosts with children, couples, housemates and single people.

Who don't we host?

- People who have significant mental health conditions or a criminal conviction
- People without refugee status who are not engaged with the immigration system in the UK.

The R@H Process

You can explain that whilst what we do is simple - we match people with spare rooms to refugees and people seeking asylum who need them - we are very careful in the process we follow to decide whether someone is suitable to be hosted.

1

We carefully assess the suitability of people for hosting and take up references. People either refer themselves to us, or work with an organisation who know them well and will provide support.

2

Once we're happy that someone is suitable for hosting, we begin to look for hosts who can offer what the guest needs. We match up host preferences with guest requirements to make the most suitable match.

3

Hosts are provided with full details about the potential guests and have time to ask questions, before committing. Hosts make all decisions about whether they accept a guest or not, no pressure is applied to host someone you don't feel right about.

Tips for your talk

- Use our presentation slides - feel free to edit these to make them relevant to your area refugeesathome.org/greenbelt/
- Find a hosting story to share - refugeesathome.org/stories/
- **Make it relevant** to your community, if you know that there is accommodation locally for people seeking asylum, or local organisations supporting refugees, highlight this
- **Ask the R@H team** for information about hosting that has already taken place in your area, and what current levels of need are
- Include a 'call to action' - sign up to host, or share our need for hosts.

Share the impact of hosting

- 100% of guests feel respected in their placement and by their host
- 100% of guests feel well supported by R@H during their placement
- 99% report feeling safe in their placements
- 65% of our guests this year who have had placements moved into private accommodation.



- 88% of hosts would recommend hosting to a friend
- 90% of hosts say the best thing about hosting is being able to do something practical to help refugees or people seeking asylum
- 92% of hosts feel that offering hosting is a meaningful activity
- 72% of our hosts go on to host someone else after their first placement with us