

THANK YOU PRAYING FOR REFUGEES

THANK YOU: prayer ideas to reflect on our own safety, and to thank God for the presence, gifts and contributions of refugees

Supplementary PowerPoint template available, with Bible verses, call and response, and additional material.

Background

Across the UK and Ireland, members, volunteers, officers and employees of The Salvation Army are responding to the needs of newcomers. Many of these people are seeking sanctuary here in the UK. Whether they are Ukrainian, Afghan, from Hong Kong, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea or any number of other countries, they all have some things in common. They have left their home country, will have had a traumatic experience before leaving and/or on their journey to the UK or Ireland, and they are strangers in a strange land.

The prayers below, shaped around The Salvation Army's five mission priorities, could guide a congregation in giving thanks for all the beautiful things that God has brought out of these dark situations through his redeeming love.

To Share the Good News

'He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."' (Mark 16:15)

We thank you for the good news! We thank you for your message of love and forgiveness. We thank you that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We thank you for Christians across the UK and the world who boldly live out this good news, both within refugee communities and in service to them.

Leader: Lord, thank you for desiring fullness of life.

Response: Lord, thank you.

To Serve Others Without Discrimination

'He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.' (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

We thank you for Salvation Army corps and centres across the UK and Ireland who have chosen to welcome the stranger. We thank you for the welcome hubs, the resettlement teams, the hosts, the conversation cafés, the English classes, the



Response: Lord, thank you.

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We thank you for your heart for justice and reconciliation. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us your commitment to restore humanity's relationship with you. Thank you for all those who reflect your heart in their work for justice and reconciliation in our world: for those who advocate for newcomers to the UK who are trapped in systems they don't understand; for those who engage tirelessly with

You might like to show the photo at the end of the PowerPoint template. These paintings were produced by young men seeking asylum who were attending a Salvation Army migrant hub and were used as part of the corps Christmas celebrations. Invite the congregation to consider the people, situations and countries that this represents. Give thanks for missional activities like this, and the hope and transformation that they bring.