

4 September 2015

Christian Aid statement to sponsoring churches on the refugee crisis

Deuteronomy 10: 17-19

"... You shall also love the stranger..."

Matthew 25:35

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Today we are witnessing an unprecedented flight of people across the globe: the result of many factors including war, famine, poverty and climate change. Hundreds and thousands of people are making death-defying journeys across the seas and on land, even daring to cross heavily secured borders. They are simply seeking to survive. Many are reluctant migrants, heavy hearted as they leave their lands, their ancestors, brothers and sisters, parents, friends and relatives.

In our 70th anniversary year we are reminded of Christian Aid's early work with refugees following the second world war and our mandate remains: we cannot desert those in need nor set boundaries to compassion. We were set up by the church that carries a divine mandate to welcome the stranger. Our response to human need is not fear, but love. We are called to stand with the oppressed, the marginalized and the excluded in their suffering, their struggles and their hopes. A ministry of being with and speaking up for uprooted people upholds the principles of prophetic witness and service. To this end, Christian Aid has added its voice and solidarity on the current crisis; our statement is attached and can also be found on the Christian Aid website [here](#).

If you would like further information on Christian Aid's work in Syria see [here](#) and Iraq see [here](#)