

Churches Refugee Network – Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference (TOR) build on the strategy that was agreed at the Churches Refugee Network (CRN) meeting on 7 February 2019. They also include the recommendations and suggestions that emanated from that meeting.

(These TOR aim to ensure the CRN becomes a more dynamic entity that encourages the churches (in Britain and Ireland) to confidently engage with all issues linked to asylum, refugees and immigration. It will work from a Christian impulse which places sanctuary and hospitality at the core of its *modus operandi*, seeking to help all those who come to this country in need of assistance.

As such, the CRN will become more outward-facing, guaranteeing that all its communications target a cross-section of its key audience - the Church. In doing so, it will encourage and embolden the committed campaigner as well as inspire and equip the reluctant or wavering activist, using Information and Communications Technology as its primary means of engagement.

The Churches Refugee Network has the following terms of reference (April 2019)

1. Coordination
 - a. To provide a co-ordinated ecumenical response to:
 - i. Specific refugee issues as they arise and in collaboration with CCME.
 - ii. Asylum policy and practice in Britain and Ireland.
 - iii. The integration and resettlement of refugees in Britain and Ireland, irrespective of their religious faith.
 - iv. Connecting the global and local situations, and where possible, facilitate overseas visits (to Europe) to raise awareness of these issues among British and Irish churches.
 - b. This response will be motivated by theological considerations and will take into account international refugee law.
2. Its purpose is:
 - a. To facilitate ecumenical encounter and mutual support.
 - b. To provide a space in which CTBI member churches, Bodies in Association and other groups can form alliances that take forward campaigning, lobbying and advocacy activities which challenge policy makers.
 - c. To serve as advocates on refugee issues on behalf of CTBI member churches. This may involve public statements and briefings of Church leaders and politicians on key issues of policy as they affect refugees.
 - d. To support the sharing of resources for local churches who work with refugees.
- 2.1 In addition to the above, it will:
 - a. Use Information Communications Technology (ICT) to facilitate improved communications and conversations between CRN members and the wider (Church) constituency.
3. Its meetings are:
 - a. To be held three times per year. From 2020, this will be January, April and September. One of these meetings (the April meeting) is designated as the Annual Meeting at which these terms of reference shall be reviewed.
 - b. Subject to practical requirements, meetings are open to any who wish to attend, whether or not they are representing member organisations