



Dear friends,

I am writing to you on behalf of a new support group in East Sussex called ESCAFA (East Sussex Community and Faith Action for Vulnerable Syrian Families)

In September 2015 the UK pledged to welcome 20,000 refugees from Syrian camps over the next five years. East Sussex District and Boroughs have agreed to provide accommodation and support. Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes, Wealden and Rother initially agreed to resettle 40 people. Hastings Borough Council hope to offer homes to an additional 60 over the next five years.

These vulnerable Syrian families have fled war zones, many experiencing traumas such as torture, the loss of everything they own and the deaths of loved ones. They have fled in a desperate search for safety. The majority have young children. ESCAFA is the community and faith group working with the local council to help coordinate services for the arriving families also working with them in the community, helping them integrate.

A family has already arrived. There will be 4 more arriving to East Sussex in December.

This is where we hoped you would be able to help us by sharing the following information with your church groups.

You can help us in the following ways:

- Please forward the link to our online skills and resources form to anyone you think may be interested. This form collects information on the skill sets of those wishing to volunteer - <http://www.escafa.co.uk/>
- Please forward to us the contacts of any local private landlords in the area who may be able to provide accommodation for Syrian Vulnerable people.

With regards to the families arriving in the next month or so, if you can support us in the following:

- Providing a team of 3-4 people to 'help make a house a home' by placing the delivered furniture into the various rooms around the properties. (These team members will need a DBS check / reference please)
- Organising a meal that each family can enjoy on arrival – Halal preferably please.
- Donating a TV / Laptop (or both) to help the family 'stay connected' (A smart phone has already been donated for each family without one)

If appropriate for your group, please find prayer points below:

- An amazing welcome for the families as they arrive, for safe travels, peace and serenity.
- A smooth, speedy and healthy integration into the local community and that they are welcomed kindly and with compassion.
- For connections to be made quickly and easily
- For all their needs to be provided for and for people to rally around to meet any gaps.
- For volunteers to come forward to do the work that is needed to prepare for the families.

Please contact us if you would like more information.

Thank you for your support.

The **ESCAFA** Network Team