

Solidarity with the refugees

Keep them warm and safe

This winter, hundreds of refugees remain trapped at the border in Calais, Dunkirk and Belgium. There have been police raids on their settlements all year, with harsh evictions taking place almost every day in the autumn. Their tents have been taken or destroyed and places where they slept have been fenced off. A cruel food ban also came into force in Calais which stopped volunteers from giving out meals in key streets.

Refugees have been forced to use dangerous routes at the hands of ruthless smugglers to get to the UK and make the asylum claims to which they are legally entitled. The death of a family (including two children) as they tried to cross the channel in October shows the consequences of our government brutal policies.

Those who arrive here are treated no better. At least 16 people seeking asylum in the UK died in the six months preceding lockdown. And the government has started using military barracks to house refugees, with reports describing the Napier Barracks in Kent as cramped and unsanitary.

The Home Office has tried deporting as many vulnerable refugees as it can in charter flights to other countries. There, many people are left homeless with no access to help. Lawyers have been doing good work to stop many of these deportations, but they face repeated public attacks from the government.

Winter has come and refugees once again face months in cold, rain and snow with no permanent shelter. This is the reality of the government's 'hostile environment'.

HOW TO DONATE

We work closely with Care4Calais. Your donations help them supply tents, tarpaulins, sleeping bags and blankets, as well as boots and warm clothing.

They also pay for hot drinks and the daily services refugees need to survive, as well as support once they get to the UK.

Financial donations are most useful. These mean that Care4Calais can buy the supplies they need, when they need them. They also keep the vehicles on the road for distributions and keep the warehouse running.

Use the collection sheet overleaf to do a collection at work or in your community or organisation.

Donations can be made through our Golden Giving page: tinyurl.com/SUTR20wa

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