



## Helping Unaccompanied Refugee Youth

### How can our church help unaccompanied refugee children and youth?

Observe and Engage: Look around your neighborhood to see who the refugees are. In your community, connect with others who are serving refugees and learn about the situation for unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth. Ask God to reveal what needs your church can assist with. Consider addressing needs in ways that build relationship. For example, rather than handing out food, invite refugee youth to join a weekly meal with your church members.

#### Collaborate:

- Connect with organizations in your community that are helping refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth and ask how your church can help them.
- Partner with other churches in your community to see how together you can meet larger needs, i.e. shelter, education, language, etc.
- Build relationships with government shelters where refugee children are housed to build relationships of trust that will enable you to visit with/run programs for the youth there.
- Connect with foster care organizations or child protective services/immigration authorities to see what opportunities exist for church members to foster unaccompanied children and youth.

Join the Mobilised for Unaccompanied Minors (MUM) Network: This network connects Christian organizations, individuals and churches across Europe to share learnings, develop resources, raise awareness, and pray for one another as we build friendships with and care for unaccompanied children and youth in our communities. You can join monthly calls, receive updates via email and participate in the Facebook group. Complete the [Contact form](#) for more information.

Become Advocates: Independently or through an existing campaign, e.g. The Refugee Campaign [www.eearefugees.org](http://www.eearefugees.org), raise awareness and motivate engagement with unaccompanied refugee children by sharing information and stories of hope with Christians throughout Europe. Leverage your social media community and ask your church members to leverage theirs. The goal is to provide ways to advocate for these youth within each country and connect with ways to give and serve.

Pray: Include prayer for unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth as part of your church's prayer activities or allot a day/time each week to specifically pray for refugee children and youth. Join others in the [9:36 Prayer Initiative](#).

Participate Yearly in World Refugee Sunday: Each June, your church can leverage the materials created through the Refugee Highway Partnership, World Evangelical Alliance and European Evangelical Alliance to raise awareness of the needs of refugees around the globe and to bring special attention to the plight of refugee children and youth: <http://www.refugeehighway.net/world-refugee-sunday.html>.

Participate in Orphan Sunday: Each November your church can join others in learning about and raising awareness for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and youth in Europe. This special focus for European churches as part of the Christian Alliance for Orphan's Orphan Sunday initiative began in 2017 and continues in 2018. Access materials here: <https://cafo.org/orphansunday/resources/refugee/>.