

## Welcoming Refugees & Asylum Seekers

### Ideas & Tips

**1. Plan a visit** – Arrange a time and place to meet. Show how and where to go and offer to help with transportation. Exchange phone numbers.

**2. Ideas** – Take a walk; share a meal; look at photos; help with language needs; invite to cook.

**3. Language barriers** – Invite another person along to help with the conversation; plan an activity; watch a film in their language. Speak in simple clear sentences. Avoid unusual jargon or clichés.

**4. Material help** – It is possible that someone might ask for help with finances, work or asylum. It is okay to say “No.” Try to understand what the need is. Offer to pray for the situation. Ask others on their behalf.

**5. Faith matters** – Be natural and genuine when you discuss faith issues. Invite, welcome and listen to their opinions. Avoid arguments.

**6. Give hope** – Asylum seekers face stress and uncertainty. When they share about their situations, invite them to speak freely. Your presence and listening ear has an important calming effect that can bring hope and encouragement. Offer to pray for the situation or to share a short scripture.

**7. Find purpose** – More than half of the asylum seekers in Europe will not receive asylum. They face rejection and the need to make new plans. Ask about their hopes and dreams and what the next steps are in their lives.

**8. Prayer** – Asylum seekers understand the need for prayer. It builds solidarity and shows our dependence on God. Share about your prayers for them, and when it is relevant and natural, offer to pray immediately. Give a short simple and genuine prayer.

**9. Rejection** – Asylum seekers experience rejection and isolation which makes them suspicious of others. It's important to build trust and show respect. Keep your word. Build relationship before you ask questions.

**10. Further Contact** – It is easy to lose contact with asylum seekers. Phone numbers will expire or they may suddenly relocate or leave the country. Don't be surprised by these changes. Stay in touch through facebook, skype and current phone numbers.