



Welcoming Refugees from Ukraine:

At least two Catholic families in the vicinity are preparing to welcome refugees from the Ukraine and we congratulate them for their generosity and kindness. I know that our parish will be ready to respond if additional support is needed, just as many have already given money and goods to help those who are struggling in that war-torn country. Caritas Plymouth stands ready to offer training and information (particularly safeguarding, but also other areas of good practice) to any parish group which wishes to support a family moving into the home of a parishioner. <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/ukraine-crisis/>

With the support and encouragement of our Bishops, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) has put together a lot of information and advice for those who are contemplating offering accommodation to Ukrainian refugees in their home or other property. It is available here: <https://www.csan.org.uk/ukraine/> They and Caritas Plymouth can help further with signposting to sources of additional support. However, they make the point that those who offer accommodation are taking on a serious personal responsibility and so must consider carefully whether they are able to do so for a lengthy period of time before making the offer.

CSAN advises: “Potential sponsors should be fully aware of what they are being asked to do, and whether this is something that they are able to commit to. You will need to consider the impact that offering a room in your home could have on your life and what it may take to support someone. We recommend that any potential host researches the support that people fleeing conflict may need and what is available in their area, or build connections locally to offer support prior to sponsoring, for example with a local refugee action group and/or a charity that works with refugees and asylum seekers.

People fleeing from Ukraine have very recently suffered intense trauma. They have fled their homes, livelihoods and likely left family members behind in a situation of extreme uncertainty and danger. You should be prepared for the possibility of the refugee(s) you are hosting experiencing psychological trauma which may require medical attention.”