

### INTRO

Many refugees exchange the certainty of trauma for a trauma of uncertainty.

There are several reasons for the increased numbers of people seeking refugee status. These include: (i) people trafficking networks have expanded their capacity and reduced some of their prices; (ii) more people are affected by conflict (e.g. Syrians) or oppressive governments (e.g. Eritrea) or climate change affecting rural agriculture, particularly in parts of Africa (e.g. Senegal); and (iii) some support for refugees in countries neighbouring crises has been reduced due to a shortage of international donors, which created more desperate people feeling that they had no choice other than to emigrate.



When getting involved with refugees and asylum seekers it is best to do so by working with those who are experts in these matters. There are all too many stories of well-meaning people who make matters worse because they are unaware of the numerous aspects of best practice in supporting such people. In contrast, the saying, "Nobody ever made a bigger mistake than he/she who did nothing because they thought that they could only do a little" is applicable.

## Praying//four | informing you to pray with insight

### PRAYER POINTS

- 1 **Peace** | Pray for God's inner peace to touch those living with high levels of uncertainty
- 2 **Openness** | Pray that refugees, asylum seekers & migrants will be able to worship and to hear the gospel
- 3 **Opportunity** | Pray that refugees & migrants will get the opportunity to flourish that they are seeking and that they will know when it is in their best interests to return
- 4 **Church** | Pray that the Church – local, national & global – will become the trendsetter in how to respond with wisdom, compassion and inclusive welcome

### IN THE WORD

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

(Matthew 25:35)

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt."

(Leviticus 19:33–34)