



If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. (Phil. 2:1-4)

Reviving the Synod Refugee and People Seeking Asylum Network

The past election cycle has ended, and a new one has begun. Advocacy groups are implementing their response to this government's refugee and people seeking asylum policies. And, others will be faithfully continuing their work directly supporting families and individuals in need, as they would have done regardless of who is in power.

At this important time, the JIM Cluster is particularly interested to hear from you if you have experience working with refugees or people seeking asylum. This may be anything from running direct community support programs, to advocating for policy reform.

Congregations have an essential role to play in advocating for, and supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. We recognise and celebrate that there are many long standing arrangements across the whole of the Uniting Church. Some are carried out by individuals, or in partnership with bodies like Uniting and other community organisation.

In the past, the JIM cluster had some success in facilitating a Uniting Church response to improve the conditions of refugees and people seeking asylum. There was an active network of people and congregations we who supported one another. We would like to resume this work with you again. We are seeking to revive an interconnected Synod wide network of people serving, and interested in serving, refugees and people seeking asylum.

If you are interested in being part of this network, please contact Tim Molineux:

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You may be also interested in two initiatives endorsed by the UC Assembly Resourcing Unit:

Community Sponsorship Program - Community sponsorship of refugees offers a way to unlock the goodwill of ordinary Australians to help refugees successfully settle and integrate into their new local communities and supplement the government-led resettlement program.

<https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/>

Group Mentoring Program - Group Mentorship Program offers an opportunity for self-directed local community groups to provide practical support and friendship to newly-arrived refugee households in Australia, supplementing other support they may receive through professional settlement services. <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/what-we-do/group-mentorship-program/>