

# AID BOX COMMUNITY

Hope & Help to Refugees in Bristol



# What does it mean to be a refugee?

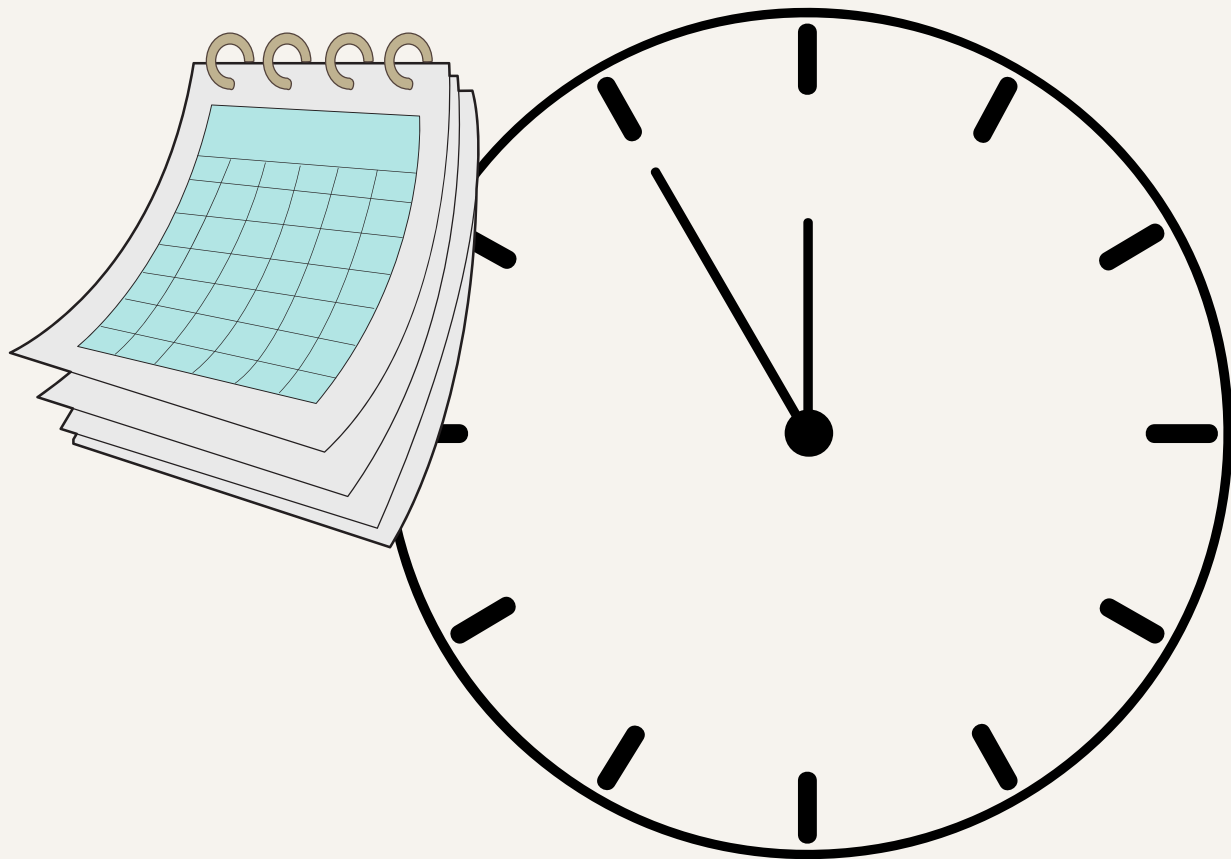
A refugee is someone who is forced to leave their home country because they are afraid for their lives.





When they arrive in a new country, the government there must decide whether or not they can stay.

If they are allowed to stay then they become known as refugees. While they are waiting for a decision, they are known as people seeking asylum.





**89.3 million  
people around the  
world have been  
forced to flee their  
homes.**



**35.3 million of  
them are  
refugees**



**Only 0.5% of the  
UK's population  
are people who  
are seeking  
safety**

# OUR STORY



 AidBoxCommunity



In 2015 Imogen, a local Bristol mum, found a photo of young Alan Kurdi's body lying on a Mediterranean beach.

Alan was two years old, and had lost his life with his mother and brother when a crowded, small boat sank in the sea trying to run away from war and find safety.

Imogen thought; "What if this happened to me? What if I had to flee a war and lost my children because no one protected us?".



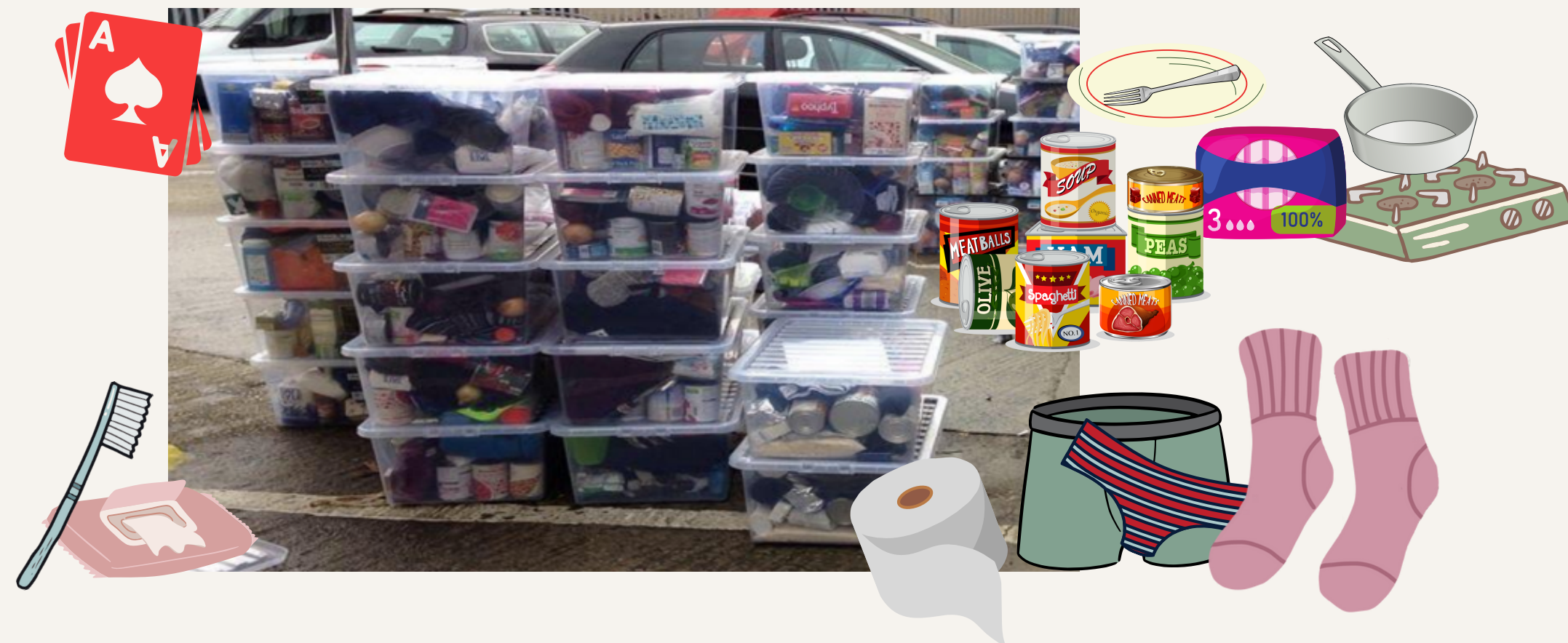
# OUR STORY



She wanted to help people in these situations.

That's when she asked her neighbours and friends to help her create Aid Boxes, like the ones in the picture below.

These boxes would be filled with essential living items, like food tins, underwear, socks, toilet paper, jumpers, toothbrushes, etc., and would be given to people who were fleeing war and violence.



# OUR STORY



When the boxes were ready, Imogen and her friends decided to bring them to a refugee camp in France. In this camp, people looking for a safe place to call home were waiting to continue their journey.

The people in the camp owned almost nothing, and lived in very bad conditions.

Imogen and her friends stayed in the camp for a year to make these living conditions better and teach people about what was happening there.





# OUR STORY



Once Imogen had returned to her life and family in Bristol, she learnt that there were people who needed her help here too.

That is when she founded the charity Aid Box Community, a Free Shop and Hub that would welcome people with open arms and support them feel settled in Bristol.



# What is life like as someone who is seeking safety?

Here are a few ways that life can be difficult for a refugee in the UK:

- Having a small amount of money to live on
- Not having somewhere stable to live
- Not speaking the language
- Having no friends or family nearby
- Facing a complicated and long process
- Not being allowed to work
- Not knowing how things work in this new country and how to find help



# Who is Aid Box Community today?

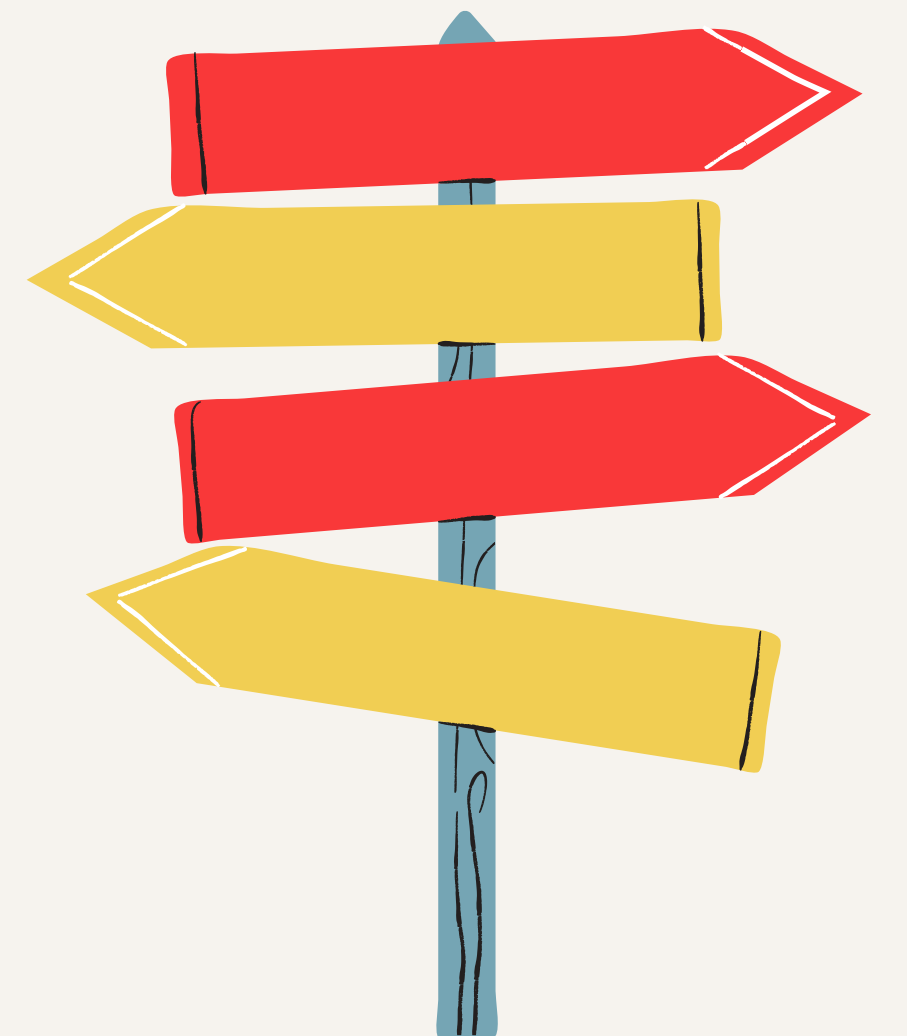
Aid Box Community is a Bristol-based charity that provides support, supplies, and sanctuary to people seeking safety here. We help people by giving them a choice of free, living items, and a community to welcome them into our city.



# Who is Aid Box Community today?



When they feel lost, or lonely, or don't know how to get help we guide them to the people and places that can help them.





## FREE SHOP & HUB

Where we provide a warm welcome and a choice of free, quality living essentials.

## CRISIS FUND

Emergency support for people who are in crisis



## ACTIVITY GROUPS

Women's, men's, & mixed social & activity groups such as yoga, football, swimming, & cookery. Trips & retreats.

## WELFARE & SIGNPOSTING

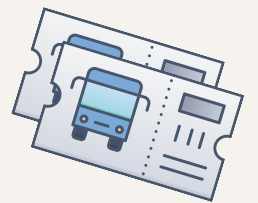
We guide people to other services they might need.



## CONNECTIONS

We connect local people with refugees & asylum seekers for 1-to-1 friendship.

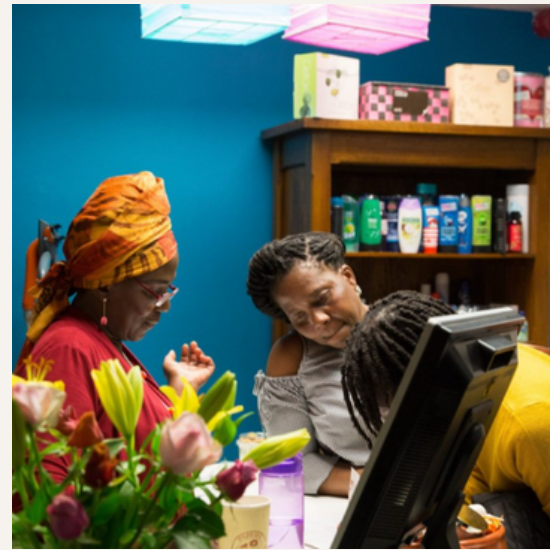
## BUS FARES



We provide bus fares for all service users to access our services if it is too far to walk.



"I love this group, it is my only time I do not think about the stress. I feel like I have family around me."



"You get the opportunity to choose. Choose the size, the colour, style of clothes. You can dress as you. I like ABC for the 'conviviality', the community."



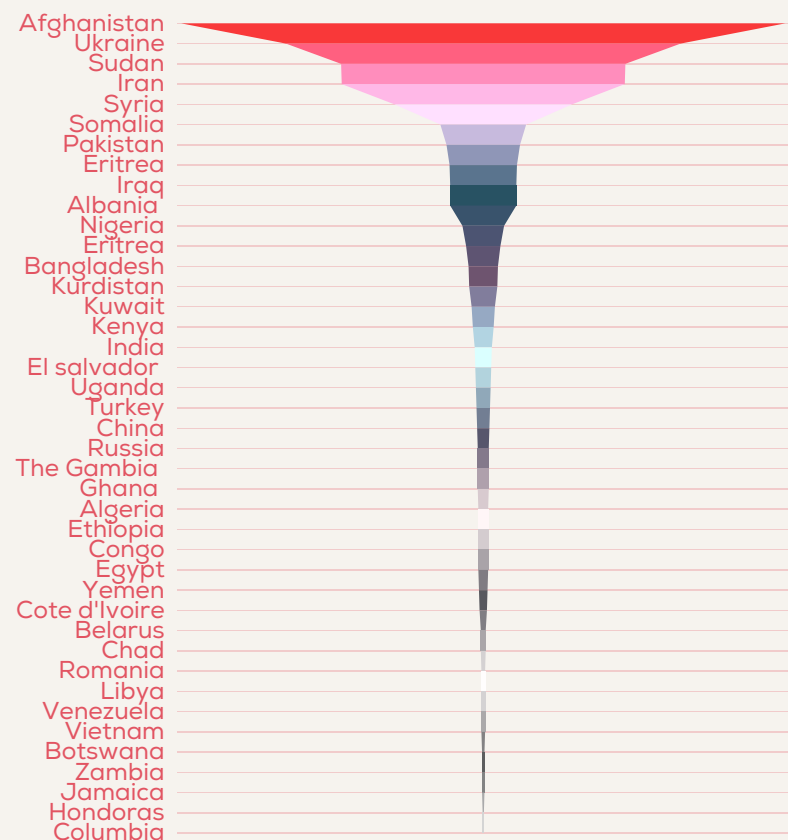
"It feels good to know that there is someone there for me"



# IMPACT

April 2022 - March 2023

...from **46** countries



We have **welcomed**

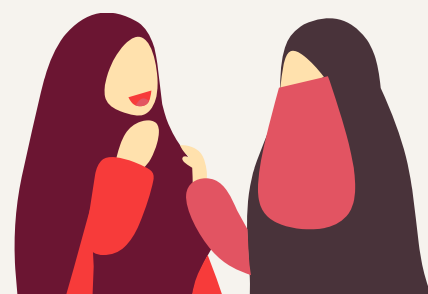
# 4730

people into our services



# 286

service users have enjoyed our year round **activities**, sports groups, trips & weekend retreats



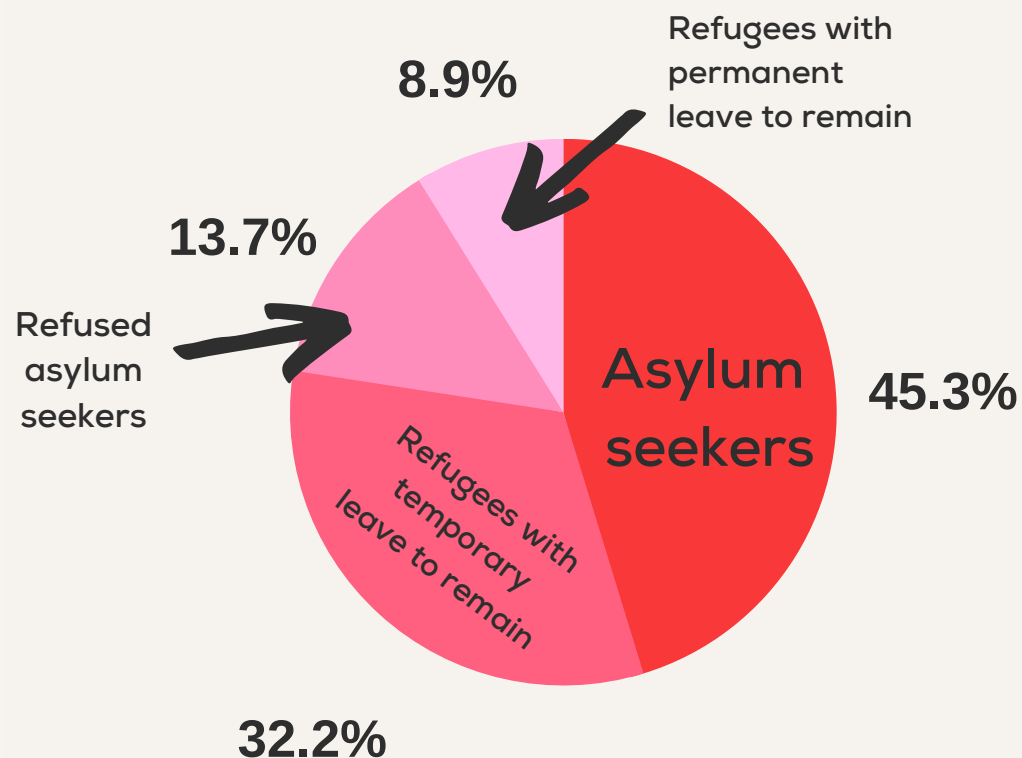
# 84

people have taken part in our **Connections** befriending program.

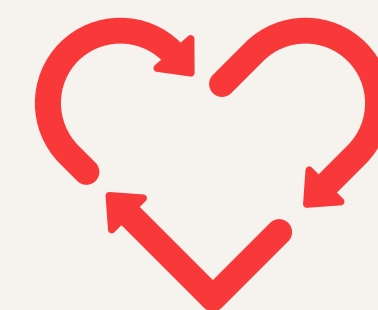


# 272

**volunteers have** helped ABC: that's **22,639** hours of volunteers' time

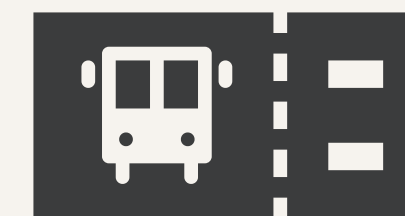


When asked if ABC had made a positive impact on their and their family's life...



# 135,440

**items** have been **recycled & re-homed** through our Free Shop



# 3045

**bus tickets** have been provided for people to access our services



# GET INVOLVED

Talk about us

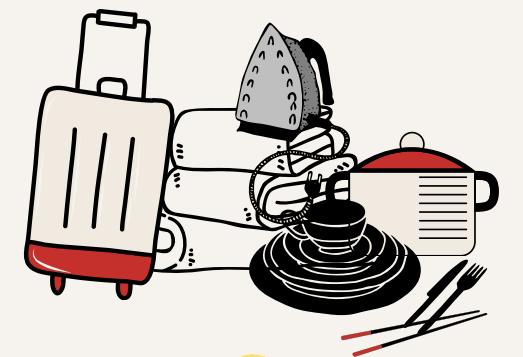


Organise a fundraiser



What would you like to receive?

Donate items





By supporting Aid Box Community your school is telling the world loud and clear that refugees are welcome here in Bristol.

Without schools like yours, we wouldn't be able to continue running our lifechanging projects and services.



*"So, this is really our place, it's our house, it's a way really, we feel that we are human."*



Aid Box Community -  
Hope & Help to Refugees



@aidboxcommunity



@AidBoxCommunity



**AidBoxCommunity**

[www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk](http://www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk)