

JRAN FORUM FINDINGS – UKRAINE REFUGEE UK SUMMIT



On April 5th JRAN (<https://www.jran.uk>) coordinated an emergency forum with aim of bringing together key voices from the sector to help coordinate the response to the Ukraine crisis. The primary focus during the Forum was to identify key challenges affecting organisations seeking to offer support during this crisis and to look at potential solutions and recommendations. The Forum was hosted by David Altschuler of One to One Children’s Fund and Anna Jones from RefuAid (<https://refuaid.org>) and brought together key organisations within the sector including RefuAid, The Refugee Council, Citizens UK, Reset, City of Sanctuary, World Jewish Relief, Safe Passage, Refugee Action, Blue Thread, Refugee Trauma Initiative (RTI)/ Amna, The Society for Psychological Assistance, Refugees at Home and many others.

The event included 5 key roundtable workshops. The workshop topics can be seen below:

- **Matching, Safeguarding and Visa Applications**
- **Local Authorities, Community Support and Access to Services**
- **Psychological First Aid, Trauma and Receiving Refugees**
- **Welcome and Briefing of Hosts**
- **Language, Education and Employment**

The findings of the forum can be seen in the table breaking down each of the workshops that took place.

Outcomes and Next Steps

The key challenges, solutions and recommendations identified here are to be presented to both those in Government as well as to NGOs and organisations working to tackle the crisis. It is hoped that the recommendations can act as a helpful **resource in identifying key gaps** in support.

A number of **working groups** based on the Forum workshop topics are being developed to continue collaborative work between organisations and to encourage communication to avoid duplication of services and support. JRAN will continue to resource these organisations through Forums, and opportunities to bring the sector together.

The findings of this Forum help **guide the actions and conversations** of both JRAN and other organisations in the sector. A particular emphasis was placed on the lack of effective psychological and trauma informed support for both host families as well as Ukrainian new arrivals. As such, **JRAN will be hosting a further forum** bringing together experts in the field to discuss collaboration and solution focused projects on the topic of psychological first aid and trauma support.

A second clear concern that arose during the forum was the **lack of coordination** amongst the sector. Without **centralised coordination** of support and efforts there is an increased risk of duplication, inefficiency and slow response times. The working groups and connections that came out of the forum will go some way to tackling this issue however the need remains.

The third concern raised by many organisations was the need for a **centralised information database** both for new arrivals as well as for host families and community groups looking to support arrivals and aid integration. At present it can be difficult to access advice or resources as the information is difficult to find and fragmented. This leaves community groups unsure of how to help, where to go for advice and wasting time and effort or giving wrong advice as a result.

WORKSHOP 1

Matching/
safeguarding/
visa applications

WORKSHOP 2

Local authorities/
community support/
access to services

WORKSHOP 3

Psychological
First Aid/Trauma/
Receiving Refugees

WORKSHOP 4

Welcome/
Briefing of Hosts

WORKSHOP 5

Language/
Education/
Employment

KEY CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & COLLABORATION

Monika Kruesmann,
RESET

Refugee focus – lots of people offering support. Need to keep focus on refugees and their needs to ensure support is effective and relevant.

Visa process is complex and time consuming and travel can be difficult.

A lot of people not realising what they are signing up for. Not a **complaints system** or way of **managing breakdowns**. Legal responsibilities. What happens with re-matching?

Scale of the challenge – how to find the right people to help you scale. Only so much that technology can help you. Making sure it is a safe home.

Rachel Griffiths,
Citizens UK

Responsibilities of local authorities – **slow speed at which they are receiving information** and data. Government be pushed to process more quickly.

Funding that authorities will receive (£10.5k) and **how this will be spent**. Does this include school provision etc. Clarity needed.

Coordinating effectively. It is worth every grassroots organisation or faith group getting in touch with the local authorities so relationship can be built.

Need for a **centralised database** for support in local areas. For both hosts, local community support groups and Ukrainians arriving.

Dean Adjukovic,
Society for Psychological Assistance

Work with organisations to look at **identity issues** as barriers to integration.

Supporting **relationships between hosts and refugees arriving**.

Need for **Trauma informed care** both for organisations and individuals. Many will need more provision and support as well as effective referral to this support – **hosts should be aware** of this.

Coordination between organisations and hosts.

Limited **capacity** requires creative solutions.

Cultural differences in working with children. Possible increase in domestic violence.

Areej Osman,
Refugees at Home

Hosts must be vetted by professional home visitor. Home visitor is required to **support the host**.

Shared hosting – potentially moving families to hosts nearby. But issues surrounding stability specifically for children.

Hosts and refugee families to be matched before the **host completes the visa application**.

Compiling a **centralised database** of support.

Family therapy support. Looking at various **stages** of support and how this can be **mapped to local resources**.

Mapping of support. Some areas have a lot more than others. Isolated hosts will have a harder time.

Key role of **multi-faith forums** to identify resources and support that is available.

Importance of supporting those refugee communities from **other nationalities**.

Anna Jones,
RefuAid

Understanding of **ETE opportunities** available for people **prior to arriving** in the UK.

Cost of living in the UK is an issue.

Hard/Soft **skills expected by employers**. Skills surrounding interview processes, CVs and understanding of different sectors.

National ESOL coordination.

Challenges for those who fled **midway through a qualification** – how this can be continued.

Support for those who **won't be work-ready** within the next 6 months.

Digital inclusion and connecting organisations offering this support.

Coordination and **support for those employers** offering to work with refugees – recruitment, hiring, retention.

