

Questions for Candidates

Refugees Welcome General Election 2017

Remember:

It's important to ask each candidate the same questions in the same way so you give them all

Questions to build a productive relationship:

These are the questions we recommend you ask of all candidates if given the opportunity. They are not polarising - the focus is on securing a relationship to build a productive relationship and get a seat at the table.

"We want to work with you to build a self-confident and welcoming community."

If elected will you:

1. Work with us to ensure [constituency] lives up to our proud tradition of welcoming strangers, and ensure all the members of [constituency] feel welcome and included?
2. Join us for a day to meet with refugees and asylum-seekers in [constituency] and learn about the welcome efforts of local residents?"

Questions on policy:

These additional asks are more specific about the candidate's policy position. Whilst it is crucial to understand each candidate's position, it is important to also recognise that few candidates will want to deviate from party policy on the spot. These questions therefore focus on the protection of existing commitments on achievable expansions, as well as broad principles of 'Welcome'.

"As a civic community, we have already helped the council to welcome [X refugee families] [insert additional info]. We stand ready to help more families receive a warm welcome and a fair hearing in [constituency] and live up to Britain's proud tradition of sanctuary."

If elected will you:

1. Ensure that the UK government's commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian families under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) by 2020 is delivered, and extended by at least the same rate (4,000 per year) to the end of the new Parliament in 2022?
2. Ensure that the UK government's commitment to resettle 3,000 vulnerable children and their families refugees from the Middle East and North Africa by 2020 is delivered, and extended by at least the same rate (750 per year) to the end of the new Parliament in 2022?
3. Help civic communities like ours play a leading role in welcoming those in need by developing the Community Sponsorship programme as an additional element of Britain's approach to resettling refugees?
4. Will you support the development of Community Sponsorship to become available to refugees from any nationality, and to enable specific refugees to be selected by sponsors, as is the case with the equivalent Canadian scheme?
5. Will you encourage the new government to work with us to review procedural delays, the impact of Universal Credit and other factors that unnecessarily increase the cost of Community Sponsorship to local communities?
6. Ensure Britain is doing all it can to support child refugees to access safe and legal routes to reunite with family members here in the UK?
7. Live up to Britain's proud history of protecting refugees by standing by the principle that every refugee, regardless of how they arrive, should be given a decent welcome and a fair hearing?