

REFUGEES

AT HOME

IMPACT REPORT

2022 - 2023



INTRODUCTION

Refugees at Home is the UK's largest independent hosting charity, connecting those with a spare room to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. We work with individuals and families across the UK who are willing to open their hearts and their homes to people in need.

We meet all our hosts, and we carefully assess each placement. We provide advice and guidance to anyone considering hosting, and we offer support along the way.

The refugees and asylum seekers we help come from over 70 different countries. Since we started over seven years ago we have placed more than 4,700 guests. This represents nearly 400,000 nights of accommodation – nights that might otherwise have been spent on the streets.

The invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 saw an unprecedented increase in the number of guests needing help, and hosts stepping forward. That work has continued in 2023 – our busiest year ever. - and we are proud to have made more placements than ever before.

The following report sets out who we have helped, how we have helped them and our impact in the last 12 months.



Catherine, with her guest, S



CONNECTING WITH SOMEONE IN THE WAY
THAT HOSTING ALLOWS YOU TO HAS BEEN
THE BEST THING'.

CATHERINE, R@H HOST, MANCHESTER

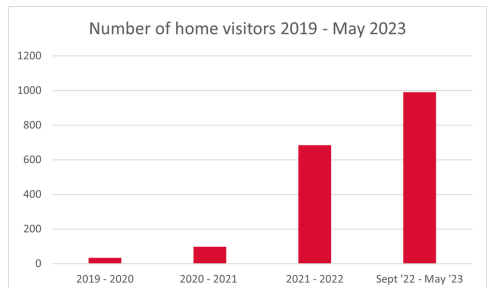
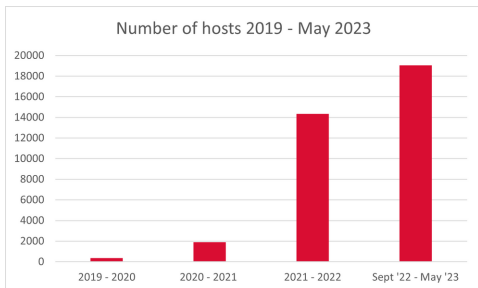
HOSTS

In early 2022, following the invasion of Ukraine, 12,000 people applied to host with us. The response was huge – and at times overwhelming. We spent much of the next six months processing as many potential hosts as possible. We prioritised hosts in areas that are always needed such as London, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Liverpool, alongside the many hosts from smaller and rural communities who stepped forward to help Ukrainians.

By the summer of 2023 about 100 people a week were applying to host; more, when hosting was in the news. We currently have almost 20,000 hosts registered with us - ten times more than in 2020-21.

HOME VISITORS

Our home visitors are social workers, GPs, district nurses or others with a safeguarding background. They are critical to ensuring hosts are both vetted and well-informed. In 2022, there was so much demand that for the first time we employed 25 paid home visitors from among our volunteer cohort. Currently, 15 are still active. We are working to provide more support and training to our home visitors, including a regular news bulletin and webinars. We have just under 1000 home visitors registered with us.



REFERRALS

All asylum seeking guests need to be referred by one of our referral partners who take responsibility for their immigration case.

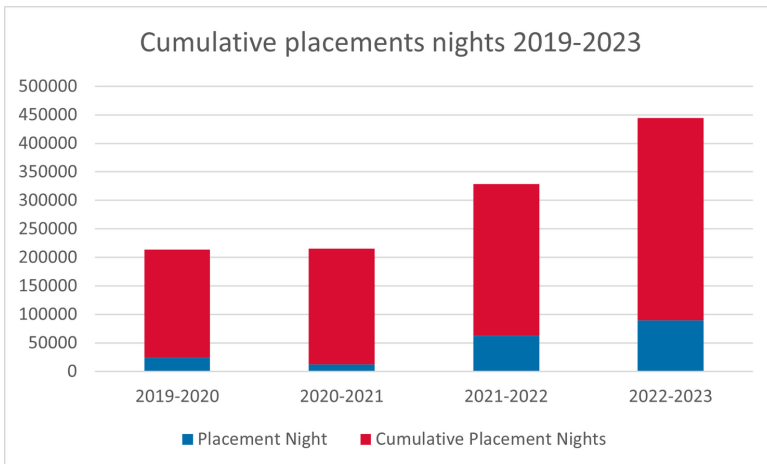
Among our biggest are the Refugee Council & British Red Cross, with over 60 others including LGBTQ+ charities, faith groups and immigration lawyers. We are pleased to have started working with a number of new partners recently, including SHARE Knowsley and Young Roots.

The special status of our Ukrainian guests means the number of self-referrals continues to grow. Of the 1,960 applications between September 2022 and May 2023, 66% were directly from guests.

PLACEMENTS

We have made 900 placements over the year – the highest number we have ever achieved. Over a quarter of these placements have included more than one guest.

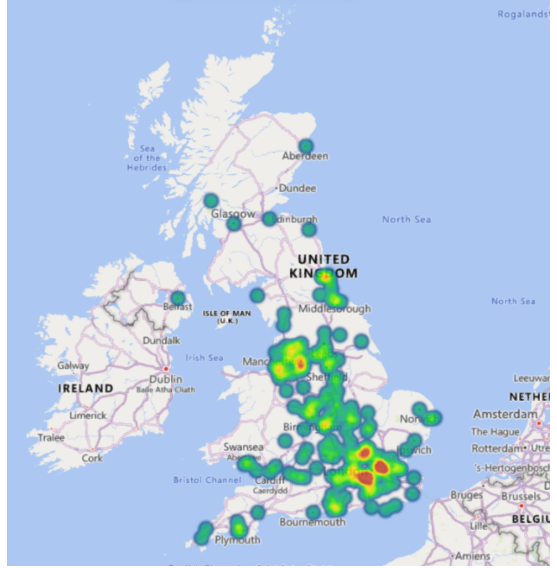
Many placements are now lasting longer than before, with the average length of stay in the period at 182 days. This is markedly affected by Ukraine and the requirement to host Homes for Ukraine visa-holders for at least six months.



PLACEMENT LOCATIONS

With placements increasing by more than 25% from last year, we are hosting right across the UK. Most of our placements are still in major cities, because generally that is where guests prefer to be, although the number of placements in London has been slightly down compared to previous years (40%).

Other popular locations are Manchester, Liverpool, Norwich, Berkshire and Glasgow



YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES. WE ARE IMMENSELY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND COMPASSION IN CONNECTING US WITH A WELCOMING HOST WHO HAS PROVIDED US WITH A SAFE AND NURTURING HOME.

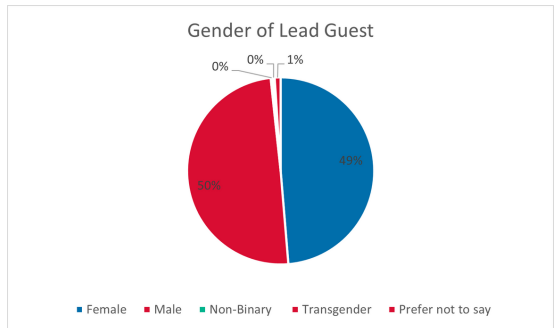
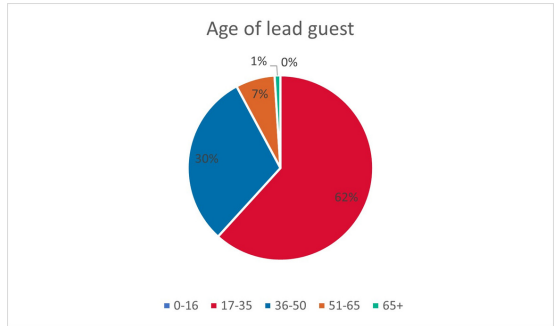
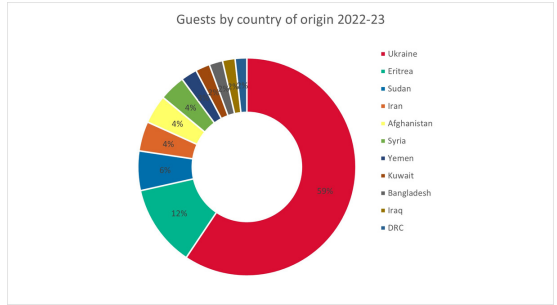
YOUR WORK AT REFUGEES AT HOME HAS GIVEN US HOPE AND A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THIS NEW COUNTRY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS IN HELPING REFUGEES LIKE US FIND A FRESH START. WE WILL FOREVER CHERISH THE MEMORIES OF YOUR KINDNESS AND SUPPORT.'

SAYED AND BAHARA, GUESTS ORIGINALLY FROM AFGHANISTAN, HOSTED IN LONDON

OUR GUESTS

Last year, for the first time ever, we had more female guests (60%) than male. Previously 70% of our guests had been male. That balance has tipped back, and this year we are hosting almost equal numbers of men and women (although please note, we only record the 'lead guest' by gender).

Our guests this year came from 48 countries. The vast majority were from Ukraine, but we have also helped a large number of people from Eritrea, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.



Maryna, Julia and their hosts Sarah and Paul



THERE ARE SO FEW TIMES YOU CAN DO SOMETHING PRACTICAL TO HELP. HOSTING REFUGEES FELT LIKE A PRACTICAL THING TO DO.' SARAH, R@H HOST, HERTFORDSHIRE

CONCLUSION

Refugees at Home has gone through the most astonishing changes in recent years. Referrals have increased ten-fold since 2021, and our team is four times what it was. Placements have risen by over 25% in the last nine months.

This rapid growth is set against a background of huge changes taking place in the refugee sector due to legislative proposals and the continuing impact of Ukraine. It's a challenging time to be helping and supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. We are proud to have been able to offer somewhere safe to stay to so many people – and we will press on, with gratitude to our hosts, home visitors, staff and volunteers.

We need your help more than ever before if we are to sustain this pace of work. If you are able to support us, please do visit the fundraising pages on our website, or email fundraising@refugeesathome.org



I CANNOT PRAISE REFUGEES AT HOME HIGHLY ENOUGH. THE HOME VISITOR WAS VERY THOROUGH AND HELPFUL AND THE PLACEMENT RECOMMENDATION WAS CLEARLY SPOT-ON BECAUSE THE FAMILY WE HOSTED WERE A VERY GOOD MATCH. WE AND OUR GUESTS ALL RECEIVED ATTENTIVE SUPPORT AND ADVICE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.'

R@H HOST



www.refugeesathome.org