

Refugees and Asylum

The Salvation Army has been a long-standing member of the [Lift the Ban](#) coalition which aims to secure the right to work in any job for people seeking asylum after six months of waiting for an initial decision on their claim - and aim supported by 81% of the public. The growing coalition has a wide-ranging and diverse membership of over 150 organisations including refugee support agencies, faith and community groups, think tanks, and businesses.

The [Commission on the Integration of Refugees](#), which The Salvation Army gave evidence to, produced a [report](#) this year giving 16 recommendations on how to make the UK asylum system fit for purpose and give the best outcomes for refugees in the UK. In the run up to the next election, these recommendations would be important for any policy makers in this area to consider.

As a lead sponsor under the Home Office [Community Sponsorship Scheme](#), The Salvation Army is also a member of the [Community Sponsorship Alliance](#) (CSA), an alliance of organisations which are directly involved in [grass roots, community-led resettlement](#) of people seeking sanctuary in the UK. As we work alongside colleagues in community groups, academia and government we will continue to call for steps and measures to ensure the UK not only stands by our international obligations but creates and nurtures a welcoming environment in our communities for those seeking sanctuary.

We would urge the next government to:

- Raise 'Lift The Ban' with local policy makers and call for their backing of this popular policy change.
- Consider the recommendations made by the report from the Commission on the Integration of Refugees.
- Support community-led refugee resettlement and integration work in our communities.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting modern slavery and human trafficking.

Modern slavery is an umbrella term including human trafficking for sex, labour or organs, exploitative labour practices, child labour and early and forced marriage. It involves not just individuals but also social and economic systems.

The Salvation Army UK and Ireland provides specialist support to protect and care for all adult survivors of modern slavery in England and Wales through a government contract which was first awarded in 2011. In that time, we have, alongside our partners, supported over 18,000 survivors in their journey to recovery.

In recent years there have been multiple legislative changes to the rights of survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking, and the support they are entitled to. The Salvation Army has played a leading role in campaigning to protect the rights of survivors, and we will continue to speak up for those in need.

We are calling on the next government to:

- Restore the rights of survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking so that they can get the protection and support they need
- Ensure the system in place to identify potential victims of modern slavery is appropriate and properly funded
- Improve access to specialist support for survivors with health bodies and access to housing once they have progressed through their journey of recovery.

The General Election provides all of us with an opportunity to use our voices and challenge those seeking elected office to address the issues in your community. To help you make the most of the coming weeks and stay compliant with electoral law, [the Public Affairs Unit has created a range of resources](#).