

At Home Scheme Volunteer

JRS mission and work

JRS mission and work The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation, at work in 50 countries with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS in the UK has a special ministry to those who find themselves destitute as a consequence of government policies and those detained for the administration of immigration procedures. JRS UK runs a day centre, activities and hosting scheme (At Home) for destitute asylum seekers, detention outreach services to Heathrow IRC and has recently begun a legal advice service. We work to raise awareness of the situation facing refugees we accompany and serve by enabling their story to be heard.

Volunteer role: At Home Accompaniment Volunteer

One of the greatest challenges faced by the refugees attending the JRS weekly Day Centre is the lack of accommodation. Destitute refugees are often forced to seek respite on night buses, rely on friends who might host them for a night or two, or else find a nook where they can bed down for the night. In response, the JRS *At Home* scheme aims to match destitute refugees with individuals, parishes and religious communities who are able and willing to offer accommodation for a three-month period. The relationship between the host community and the refugee guest is at the heart of the hosting placement and we have seen the change that hosting makes to both the host and the refugee guest. For refugees who have spent nights nodding off on the bus, having a roof over their heads brings peace of mind and the opportunity to recuperate from the affronts to their dignity that they experience daily.

We are looking for a volunteer to support the *At Home* scheme - to accompany our refugee friends as they move between hosting placements and assist our At Home Coordinator. This will involve travelling to different areas of London, and accompanying the guest on their journeys to other hosting placements. The volunteer will need to be a good communicator, whom can be relied upon to liaise consistently with the *At Home* Coordinator during guest moves, and reliably report any issues or concerns. Moving between hosting placements can be a distressing time, and we are looking for a volunteer with a sympathetic disposition, who can be a reassuring presence for our refugee friends.

There is also potential for this volunteer role to include accompanying *At Home* guests to other appointments, and to offer some office support to the *At Home* scheme. This will be discussed with the potential volunteer.

Jesuit Refugee Service UK

Hurtado Jesuit Centre · 2 Chandler Street · London · E1W 2QT

T: 020 7488 7310 | F: 020 7488 7329 | E: uk@jrs.net

www.jrsuk.net | Twitter: [@JRSUK](https://twitter.com/@JRSUK) | Facebook: [/jesuitrefugeeserviceuk](https://www.facebook.com/jesuitrefugeeserviceuk)

Person specification

- Accompany refugees in their moves between *At Home* hosting placements – being comfortable with navigating London would be ideal
- Commitment to the values of JRS: dignity, justice, solidarity, compassion, hospitality, participation, and hope
- Ability to relate with sensitivity and empathy to refugees and persons experiencing anxiety or distress.
- Commitment to confidentiality
- Flexible disposition
- Reliability and personal resilience
- Commitment to support refugees and other forced migrants- knowledge of the issues destitute refugees face in the UK would be beneficial

It is likely that requests to accompany a refugee friend for *At Home* will be made on an ad hoc basis. JRS will provide induction and support for this volunteer role. There is also potential for attending meetings at JRS and attending internal and external trainings. This volunteer role reports to the *At Home* project coordinator. Travel and other expenses will be paid.

Where to find us:

Jesuit Refugee Service UK
Hurtado Jesuit Centre
2 Chandler Street
London
E1W 2QT

Contact us if you are interested in the role, apply online:

Email us: uk@jrs.net
Call us: 020 7488 7310
Volunteer Webpage: <https://www.jrsuk.net/volunteer/>

Find out more about JRS UK:

Website: www.jrsuk.net