**REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT – Useful organisations**

**(See also**: <https://cityofsanctuary.org/resources/for-sanctuary-seekers/job-hunting/> )

**BRADFORD**

**Skills House**

[**https://skillshouse.co.uk/**](https://skillshouse.co.uk/)

SkillsHouse is the local powerhouse of education, training and skills development. Driven by the collective might of Bradford Council Employment and Skills department and its valued partners, it is the focus for careers and employability guidance in the Bradford District; giving people of all ages the capabilities and confidence to fulfil their potential and build a better life.

**STEP (Bradford) - employment support**

***NB****. See below\* for STEP in other areas*

STEP works with refugees to help them access training, volunteering and paid employment opportunities. Previously we have only worked with refugees who have come to the UK via the Government’s resettlement schemes. We can now however work with anyone who has refugee status and permission to work. STEP provides a dedicated Training & Employment Advisor, who will undertake an Education, Training and Employment (ETE) assessment and agree a personalised action plan. STEP also provides ESOL classes, with an employment focus, to those accessing STEP. In addition, accredited ESOL qualifications are available through Trinity College London.

I have attached our information and would appreciate if you could share.

Jayne Walker

Project Manager

Horton Housing Connecting Opportunities Bewick House, 16 Eldon Place, Bradford, BD1 3AZ

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**Refugee Employability Programme 10.23**

[**https://repyorkshireandhumbergc.co.uk/**](https://repyorkshireandhumbergc.co.uk/)

The Growth Company is delivering the Home Office Refugee Employability Programme across Yorkshire and the Humber, to support refugees into sustained employment by providing individually tailored employability support, including job applications and access to vocational training as well as English language / ESOL.

We also support refugees with community integration which may include accessing services such as GPs, job centres, transport, or signposting to community groups and mental health services, with the focus on providing support for refugees to settle and thrive.

Veronica McFarlane

Employment Advisor (Refugee Employability Programme)

Email: [veronica.mcfarlane@gcemployment.uk](mailto:veronica.mcfarlane@gcemployment.uk)

Mobile: 07789918985

**REGIONAL**

**Migration Yorkshire**

[Working in the UK Toolkit](https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/working-uk)

A very useful guide to all aspects of finding employment and working, for people new to the UK

[**RETAS**](https://retasleeds.org.uk/) **(Refugee Education Training Advice Service) LEEDS**

We deliver comprehensive services and education to assist refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants to feel welcomed and fully supported to integrate into society.

We provide a’ hub’ where individuals are welcomed and given appropriate support.

Our staff are trained and qualified to offer Independent Advice and Guidance.

**Smart Works (Leeds)**

[**https://leeds.smartworks.org.uk/**](https://leeds.smartworks.org.uk/)

We support women from a range of different backgrounds and age groups back into employment by providing coaching so they feel more confident and start believing in their own ability to succeed. We also provide high-quality interview-appropriate clothing, shoes and accessories (theirs to keep) to wear for their job interview, and high-quality work-appropriate clothing, shoes and accessories when they get the job.

<https://leeds.smartworks.org>

**\***[**STEP (S. Yorks, Leeds, York)**](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-support/services/specialised-training-and-employment-programme-step/)

The Specialised Training and Employment Programme (STEP) is an employment and training programme delivered by Refugee Council in South Yorkshire, Leeds and York, and supports resettled refugees as they progress towards employment. Part funded by World Jewish Relief through the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

[**Unleashing Refugee Potential CiC**](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/unleashing-refugee-potential-c-i-c-and-introduction/)

is a dynamic community interest company based in West Yorkshire, dedicated to empowering refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants within this region.

Specializing in providing localized support, the organisation offers targeted one-to-one employment assistance, encompassing language and digital skill enhancement, life skills coaching, CV development, job search strategies, and interview preparation. Additionally, it offers tailored career advice and effectively connects individuals to employment, volunteering, and apprenticeship opportunities within West Yorkshire.

Recognizing the critical role of education, [Unleashing Refugee Potential C.I.C](https://urp.org.uk/) assists in navigating the higher education landscape, including guidance on joining local colleges or universities and translating overseas qualifications, and application support, particularly for UCAS. Furthermore, the organisation signposts to vocational and short-term training opportunities in key areas such as security, health and social care, customer service, and IT skills, ensuring access to essential skills development.

(A notable initiative, Thriving Families, launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on education, focuses on providing IT resources and online tutoring to Year 7-11 pupils in Leeds, aiming to bridge educational gaps for young refugees and asylum seekers)

[Unleashing Refugee Potential C.I.C](https://urp.org.uk/) stands as a pillar of support and advancement for those seeking to rebuild their lives in West Yorkshire, offering both a guiding hand and a pathway to opportunities.

**NATIONAL**

**Breaking Barriers**

<https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/refugee-support/>

We support refugees over the age of 18 years old to find meaningful employment in Birmingham, Glasgow, Greater Manchester, Liverpool and London. Our support includes tailored one-to-one employment advice and guidance, education and training.

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**EBE Employment Initiative**

<https://www.ebeemployment.org.uk/about>

An initiative to promote equitable recruitment of experts by experience. We believe that people with lived experience of the UK immigration and asylum system have the best insights to lead conversations, service design, campaigns, policy initiatives, and the charitable sector should work more ‘with’ people and less ‘for’ and ‘to’ people who are refugees and migrants. Providing practical employment support and involving people with lived experience in the workforce is an essential step to achieving this goal.

This initiative works to establish a movement of charitable organisations, salaried staff, volunteers and experts by experience in the UK migrant and refugee sector who together create pathways to lived experience leadership.

**Enable2**

<https://www.enable2.com/>

We make it easy for public, private and third sector organisations to help non-English-speaking people and communities via rapid online booking of interpreters. With over 140 languages and dialects, professionals can connect in seconds to a highly qualified linguist by remote telephone and video interpreting, or traditional face-to-face interpreting.

**Niya**

<https://www.niya.ai/>

“We provide a careers app to help charities / councils connect refugee and migrant communities to thousands of free networking / training / job opportunities.”

“We remove barriers to access, offering refugees, migrants and other unconnected people a simple and fair way to .... “(*website lists these*)

**QED Foundation**

[**www.qed-uk.org**](file:///C:\OneDrive\CofS%2020.3.24\Refugee%20Employ't%20&%20Training\www.qed-uk.org)

QED works to improve the income and employment levels of the most disadvantaged communities, with a focus on improving educational attainment and vocational skills. We also address health inequalities, promote health and wellbeing and reduce crime. QED’s Information Advice and Guidance service gives you free information about work, training, learning opportunities and wellbeing support so you can make choices that are right for you. QED delivers a number of courses and programmes with a variety of delivery partners.

**RefuAid**

[**https://refuaid.org/**](https://refuaid.org/)

We provide support in accessing employment in a number of ways.

1. Through designing a learning plan with you. We look at your goals and aspirations and put together a detailed plan of how you can achieve them.

2. Mentoring. We source a mentor within the industry you are looking to enter or re-enter. This mentor is able to help with providing bespoke and specific careers advice.

3. Working with employers to source paid positions and internships.

4. Access to [English language programmes](http://refuaid.org/language) to ensure you have the required level of English to accept a job offer.

5. Access to interest-free finance to cover the cost of requalification and support you in returning to the job you know and love.

6. Work placements with hiring partners in the sector you wish to enter or re-enter. These work placements run for 12 weeks and are in partnership with companies throughout the UK.

## To find out more about how we can support you return to work please contact [mohib@refuaid.org](mailto:mohib@refuaid.org)

**RENAISI – Transitions Project**

[**https://renaisi.com/transitions/**](https://renaisi.com/transitions/)

We help employers build inclusive workforces by restarting the careers of refugee professionals so everyone can thrive

**Return to Nursing.**

If you are a refugee nurse looking to return to practice in the UK, or if you know anyone who is, please share the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqN1INd5Whafmb2_QWi4DgEfknU7EKwiHtwFJjfzErLCxiQA/viewform>

**Nursing Registration grants**

The Ruth Hamilton trust provides grants (also for IELTS)  
https://www.ruthhaymantrust.org.uk/why-support-us

**Refugee Employment Network**

<https://refugeeemploymentnetwork.co.uk/>

The Refugee Employment Network (REN) is a charity that ensures that refugees in the UK can access appropriate, fulfilling, paid employment or self-employment. By doing so we unlock the added value to society we know they are capable of.

We are a strong and growing membership of 180+ people, representing 80+ refugee integration support organisations from across the UK. Working as a united force of NGOs, local authorities, private businesses. See [Current vacancies list.](https://jobs.refugeeemploymentnetwork.co.uk/)

**Sona Circle**

A non-profit social enterprise which connects refugees with local opportunities; enabling refugees and asylum seekers to develop their skills and gain employment to support their livelihoods.

<https://sonacircle.com/about-us/>

**Sophie Hayes Foundation**

[**https://www.sophiehayesfoundation.org/**](https://www.sophiehayesfoundation.org/)

Our unique programmes have been designed to support **female survivors of modern slavery** and human trafficking. Sharing essential life skills that will help with confidence building, followed by essential skills development for future employment and education. All of which are important for living independently, finding work and remaining free. Over a 12-month period, our programmes help survivors to develop various skills through in person and remote group workshops, one to one sessions, remote learning, group coaching, work placements, access to training, and formal education. Referral required, no self referral.

**TERN:** THE ENTREPRENEURIAL REFUGEE NETWORK

<http://www.wearetern.org/>

TERN supports refugees in realising their ambition of starting a business. Whether you have an idea, a plan or an existing business TERN will support you to build, grow and scale-up your business. We aim to help refugees help themselves by becoming self-sustainable.

TERN provides refugee entrepreneurs with:

* **Expert advice**
* To fill any specific knowledge gaps.
* **Mentorship**
* For general advice and contextual market knowledge.
* **Access to business networks**
* To meet and collaborate with business partners and engage with potential customers.
* **Access To Investment**

**Code Your Future (web development).**

<https://codeyourfuture.io/about>

We are a non-profit organisation supporting refugees with the dream of becoming developers.

In their journey of interrupted lives, unfinished studies and integration challenges, many asylum seekers and refugees yearn to update their tech skills, but lack learning opportunities. **We want to change this.**

Last year we launched the first cohort of our 6-month web development programme, coached by a group of professional developers. Today we are running new classes in London and Glasgow. This is **just the beginning**. With your help we will be expanding to other regions and cities.

If you are interested in participating as a [student](https://codeyourfuture.io/students), [coach or volunteer](https://codeyourfuture.io/volunteers), sign up!

For all other inquiries please contact us at [contact@codeyourfuture.io](mailto:contact@codeyourfuture.io)

**NEMI (London):**

<https://www.nemiteas.com/blog/helping-refugees-in-to-employment>

NEMI employ refugees at every point in their supply chain, helping people to get back on their feet after the arduous UK asylum process.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**TENT** [**https://www.tent.org/**](https://www.tent.org/)

We focus on mobilizing leading businesses to connect refugees to work through hiring, training, and mentorship – because we know that securing a job is a critical milestone for a refugee building a new life.

Our members are based all over the world, and span industries from consumer goods and technology, to financial and professional services.

**Talent Beyond Boundaries**

<https://www.talentbeyondboundaries.org/>

Unlocking skilled migration pathways for refugees.

We are the world’s #1 charity connecting refugees with jobs internationally.

We are building a world where refugees and other displaced people can move internationally for work, leveraging their own professional skills to secure their futures.

We match employers in the UK with refugees and displaced people **outside** of the UK. Employers sponsor our candidates to come to the UK on the Skilled Worker Visa, but they are not refugees already residing in the UK