

Call for Participants:

- **Are you a Christian working to support refugees and asylum seekers?**
- **Are you interested to join a free international learning programme?**

What does the programme offer?

This programme will provide a free opportunity to meet and learn together with other Christians who are directly involved in working to support refugees and asylum seekers. Those taking part will be involved in this work and based in different Northern, Central and Eastern European countries (whether within or outside the European Union).

As part of this programme, participants will learn from reflecting and engaging in dialogue with others who are doing similar work, as well as sharing ideas from practice in different contexts.

The learning will particularly focus on how we work with those whose identities and experiences differ in some ways from our own, and how our own identities and Christian faith affect and are affected by this work.

To do this, we will adapt an approach (known as the 'CABLE approach') that has already been successfully developed in other related contexts.

What will participation in the programme involve?

The programme will involve a series of around 4 facilitated online workshops over a period of 8 months, with dates shared well in advance. In addition, there will be an opportunity to meet other participants in person in the UK, for a workshop planned for 9th to 11th April 2024. This will create a space to share and reflect with others on your experiences, as well as engage together in learning activities within the North East of England. We would ask those who are offered a place to participate in the full programme of online and in person meetings, if at all possible.

How will the programme ensure it provides a safe and supportive place for learning?

Any discussions as part of the programme will be shared in a safe environment, respecting what participants wish to share and discuss with the group. The process will be led by experienced facilitators, with ethical approval under Durham University's research ethics procedures. As part of this process, the group of participants will agree their own rules for how they want to interact with each other.

What do we hope to learn from the programme?

We hope that participants will learn new ways to reflect on their own work and the impact that their own identity plays within this, as well as to gain new ideas from others involved in similar work in different contexts.

We hope this process will test out a new approach to learning about these topics, so we can share the approach as a resource for others. The programme is intended as a process of researching what we can learn from participants' collective experience together. Therefore, we aim to work with the group of participants to consider what wider learning from this process might be shared, and how to share this with others, with the permission of those who

participate. We can reassure you that participants will have control over how their own reflections are used, and no personally-identifiable information will be shared without your consent.

What will the programme cost?

Due to funding received from the Susanna Wesley Foundation, the programme can be offered for free to up to 15 successful applicants. This will include basic travel and accommodation expenses to support participation at the in-person workshop in the UK.

How can I apply?

Those wishing to apply for a funded place should complete the short form at <https://forms.office.com/e/NwSg1kmKk1> to express their interest. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a time to discuss this opportunity further before expressing an interest, please contact Oksana Prosvirina by email at: seniorlecturerop@interdiac.eu. If you wish to be considered for a place, please complete the form by 3pm UK time/4pm Central European Time on **Friday 19th January 2024**. We will then begin selecting participants from those who have expressed an interest. People who express an interest after this date will only be considered for a place if one remains available. We anticipate a high level of interest, so we strongly encourage anyone who is interested to apply by the 19th January deadline so that they receive timely consideration in the initial selection process.

If there are more applicants than available spaces on the programme, how will we decide who is offered a funded place to take part?

Due to the nature of the learning opportunities and funding, we will prioritise applicants who:

- Are actively involved in direct work with refugees and asylum seekers from a Christian perspective.
- Are willing to reflect on their own faith and identity within this work, including in their relationships with others. (This reflection can be carried out and written/recorded in their own language).
- Are able and willing to engage in dialogue with other participants in English, following the agreement that the group of participants will develop for themselves.
- Can confirm that they have the time and commitment to be actively involved in the process throughout, which will involve around 7-10 days commitment in total. This will include the necessity to be willing and able to:
 - travel to the UK for the face-to-face workshop (i.e. to travel to the UK on the 8th April to take part in the three day workshop on 9th to 11th April 2024, and then travel back on 12th or 13th April); *and*
 - to be involved in two follow-up online half-day workshops.
- Enable as diverse a range of people from different contexts and perspectives as possible to contribute to the group learning experience.

Who is the programme organised by?

The Programme is hosted and being run as a research project by Durham University, where the programme convenor is Associate Professor Andrew Orton. It has been jointly developed by a working group consisting of: Tony Addy (Austria), Petra Kjellen Brooke (Norway), Oksana Prosvirina (United Kingdom/Ukraine), Annamarika Väekäs (Finland), Heidi Zitting (Finland). If you have any queries about this learning programme or the application process, in the first instance please contact Oksana Prosvirina by email at: seniorlecturerop@interdiac.eu. If you wish to contact the Convenor, Andrew Orton, please email: a.j.orton@durham.ac.uk

The Programme Organisers originally came together and developed the idea for this project through the 'CODE Forum' which brings together researchers and practitioners involved in community development and church-related community work (diaconia) from many countries. Among the institutions involved in the Forum are VID Specialized University (Norway), Diak (Finland), the Protestant Theological University (Netherlands), and interdiac (central and eastern Europe). If you wish to know more about the CODE Forum in general, please contact Tony Addy, email: praxis@pro-vocation.org