

# Supporting Iraqi Christian refugees



*Iraqi Christian refugees supported in Amman, Jordan*

## The situation

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The Middle East is a rapidly changing and turbulent part of the world. Many Christian families have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict or religious persecution. Large numbers find themselves as refugees in Jordan, one of the few 'safe harbours' of the region. Refugees often leave their homeland convinced they will return. They use their life savings to make the journey but find themselves unable to return and no longer have the resources or credentials to build a secure future for their families.

## How does FHL help?

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In early 2016 FHL visited Jordan to identify what help could be given to Christian refugees forced to flee Iraq because of their faith. Since then FHL have provided funds to help these displaced Christians through a combination of immediate financial family support and assisting refugees to prepare for a new life. Working in Partnership with the Latin Patriarchate and the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem FHL supports more than 100 Iraqi Christian families settled in Jordan. All of them arrived in Amman with nothing other than what they could carry.

## What impact does FHL make?

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Needs vary from family to family; FHL support ensures families can survive in their new homes and funds medicines, food vouchers, furniture, blankets, heaters and clothes. FHL support also allows Fr. Mario to bring Christian refugees together as a community, starting them on a long road to overcoming their traumatic experiences.

## Could you support this project?

Work in Jordan largely focuses on Christian refugees who currently settled in Amman and who need greater and more consistent support. Many larger NGOs and charities working in this area cannot reach these needy Christians. FHL, through our locally based Christian network, is able to target support to areas of greatest need and works in partnership with the Latin Patriarchate and the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem.

**Looking for a UK diocesan partner:** FHL are urgently looking for a UK Diocese to partner us in this important area of work. We can provide regular updates on how support received makes a difference to these vulnerable Christians. If you think your Parish, Deanery or Diocese could help please contact the office.

**Financial donations** can be made online by visiting [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) and clicking the DONATE NOW button. Alternatively, a cheque made payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land', can be sent to the address shown below. Standing order forms are available on our website under 'GET INVOLVED' tab on the 'Donate Money' page, or by contacting the office.

**Volunteer with us:** Volunteers are needed to help in our Kenilworth office or to speak at events across the country, please let us know if you can help.

**Organising a pilgrimage?** Why not make time to meet with these displaced Christians who often feel forgotten by their wider Christian family? Please contact the office for more information.

### Contact details:

Address: Friends of the Holy Land, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2DH

Email: [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

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*"I would like to urge our sisters and brothers to help us in our ministry among these Iraqi Christian families who were ready to lose everything, but not their Christian faith, when ISIS invaded their villages and homes...we feel Christ calling us to serve our sisters and brothers from Iraq until God finds them another way for safe future."*

Revd. George Al-Kopti,  
St Paul's Church, Amman, Jordan