**Information on the arrival of Syrian refugees in Edinburgh**

This is the information we have from Andrew Burns, the Leader of the Council. http://andrewburns.blogspot.co.uk/2015/11/refugees-welcome-here.html

Edinburgh:

* has agreed to welcome around 100 Syrian refugees over the next 12 months
* is expecting around half to arrive before Christmas - with a further 50 to follow over the course of New Year. They will start arriving in the next few days
* has been involved with the UK Government’s Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme since May. The scheme allows us to welcome a number of families from Syria, all of whom will have been identified as being in particular need by the United Nations
* is keen to provide support and assistance to those in need. The scheme prioritises help for survivors of torture and violence, women and children at risk, and those in need of medical care.

**Arrangements in place**

We are expecting the first refugees to arrive this week and next. This will be around half of the total the Council committed to for this year.

**The Council will be using its Private Sector Leasing scheme - coordinated by Link Housing - to accommodate refugees.** *(i.e. the refugees will not be taking council or housing association housing- HK)*

Appropriate school and GP placements have been identified for the families arriving.

All costs of participating in the scheme will be met by the Home Office for the first year.



Here are some definitions of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from the refugee council website: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy_research/the_truth_about_asylum/the_facts_about_asylum>

**Refugee** “A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.” ***The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees***

In the UK, a person is officially a refugee when they have their claim for asylum accepted by the government.

**Asylum Seeker:** A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded.

**Refused asylum seeker:** A person whose asylum application has been unsuccessful and who has no other claim for protection awaiting a decision. Some refused asylum seekers voluntarily return home, others are forcibly returned and for some it is not safe or practical for them to return until conditions in their country change.

**Economic migrant:** Someone who has moved to another country to work. Refugees are not economic migrants.

**Paris**

We have heard that some people, due to media reports about Paris, are worried about the refugees arriving. It is important to emphasise that those arriving are also fleeing terrorism and are some of the most vulnerable refugees. If people need reassuring, you could refer them to the article below: Theresa May told BBC1's Andrew Marr Show: "We have processes in place. There are two levels of screening that take place. "First of all, we are taking people directly from the camps. We are working with UNHCR - UNHCR take biometrics, they look at documents, they interview people, they do their own process of screening against issues like war crimes and serious criminality. "Then there is a further check that is done once people are referred to the UK. The Home Office then undertakes further checks, further biometrics are taken." She added: "We are ensuring that we are checking people who are coming in to the UK. Of course we are taking people direct from camps and that means we are taking some of the most vulnerable people."

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032789.Theresa\_May\_\_Refugees\_will\_be\_screened\_to\_check\_they\_are\_not\_terrorist\_threat/