



# Quaker Voluntary Action

## HELP REFUGEES WAREHOUSE, Calais, 15-19 July

**QVA provides practical opportunities to put faith into action. Join our first working retreat volunteering with Help Refugees, an NGO providing humanitarian aid.**

In Calais, around 500 people are sleeping in the forests, often with little more than a sleeping bag for protection. Help Refugees teams distribute thousands of items every week, from blankets and sleeping bags to hygiene kits, clothing and shoes. This QVA working retreat will gather a group of volunteers to work in the Help Refugees warehouse, where daily tasks might include sorting donations, preparation for distribution of supplies, preparing hot food, packing blankets or buying supplies.

As well as our work together, we'll share reflection sessions, meetings for worship, and epilogues to end the day. QVA's theme this year is 'God in the movement of peoples'. In our reflections together we will consider our own stories of migration, and consider themes of home, displacement and belonging.



Accommodation will be in twin rooms at the Calais Youth Hostel.

Our events are open to Quakers and all those who wish to learn more about the Quaker way.

### **Accessibility info**

Step-free accommodation is available. At the warehouse, there are various tasks and they can be chosen according to mobility. We will travel to the warehouse on public transport, which is not step-free, but there is the option to bring your own car.

**"You don't gain hope by sitting by yourself and wishing the world was more hopeful. You gain hope by trying and finding other people that are also trying!"**

**Quaker Renke Meuwese, long-term Help Refugees volunteer in Calais**

**Cost: £180**

(Bursaries are available - please ask. This doesn't include your travel to the project, which we can advise on.)

**To apply write to [hannah@qva.org.uk](mailto:hannah@qva.org.uk) or call 07530 844611,  
before 31st March**