

Where we work

Our Dignity Centres offer similar services and are located in city centres, but the people we support and how we work in each location can be quite different.

	Dignity Centre Nicosia, Cyprus	Dignity Centre Chisinau, Moldova	Dignity Centre Bournemouth, UK
History	Well-established and well-known having operated since June 2019.	Rapidly set up in response to an emergency in March 2022.	Setup in November 2023 to support those seeking asylum and recently granted refugee status.
About the Dignity Centre	Small and busy at times. Centred around the “Dignity market” and the Reception area.	A sometimes busy “market”. Difficult to anticipate when members will come meaning some days are quiet.	A space in Bournemouth’s high street, it includes a clothes shop and lounge area. The Dignity Centre is a member and volunteer led project, focusing on what is needed by those that access the space.
Journey stage	Members newly arrived in Cyprus and very unaware of support and processes.	Members arrived from Ukraine or local to Chisinau and often have awareness of support and processes.	The clothes shop is targeting people recently arrived in the UK but membership is open to all local asylum seekers and those with refugee status.
Asylum need	Seeking asylum.	Most are waiting to return or living locally (having been identified as particularly vulnerable), in the case of local Moldovan members. No asylum applications needed.	Seeking asylum.
Nationalities	Variable depending on migration trends. Currently: Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Nigerian, Somali, Congolese, Cameroonian, Kurdish.	Ukrainian (75%). Moldovan (25%).	Afghan, Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian, Yemeni, Somali, Sudanese, Congolese, Algerian, Colombian, Salvadorian, Turkish, Kurdish, Cameroonian, Nigerian.
Language spoken by members	English, French, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani, Persian/Dari, Somali.	Russian, Moldovan, Romanian, English	English, Spanish, Arabic.
Demographics	Mostly single, younger people. Some large families. More men than women. Pregnant women or women with newborns.	Mostly single women, children, and older people. Some men.	Mostly single, young men.
Services offered	Food and essentials plus support with photocopying documents, accommodation, help with bureaucracy, employment, general information.	Food and essential products.	Clothes and access to services. Other needs being assessed.
How members arrived	Many arrive in Turkey then walk across the border from the occupied North.	Some drove over, many got buses at very short notice.	Mostly via small boats on the English Channel. Some via air.

Usage of the Centre	Depending on nationality and where they live, members tend to spend some time in the Centre, whether to be seen or to relax and socialise.	Members tend to come to the Centre to shop and then leave. Children spend some time playing while parents are shopping.	Members tend to spend some time in the Centre, whether to be seen and receive help or advice. Also to relax and socialise.
Volunteering	Physical – lifting and carrying items for the market. Pressured all day with few breaks. On your feet a lot. Need to be assertive. Minimum age: 18.	Quite physical – lots of lifting and carrying up and down steps. Not for anyone with weak joints. On your feet a lot. Minimum age: 18.	Mildly physical – lots of stairs, some lifting and carrying, some sorting work. Minimum age: 18. Local to Bournemouth and available on a weekly basis.