

## 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 Bournemouth, UK
History	Well-established and well-known having operated since June 2019.	Setup in November 2023 to support those seeking asylum and recently granted refugee status.
About the Dignity Centre	Small and busy at times. Centered around the “Dignity market” and the Reception area.	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.	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.	Seeking asylum and recently granted refugee status.
Nationalities	Variable depending on migration trends.  Currently: Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Nigerian, Somali, Congolese, Cameroonian, Kurdish.	Afghan, Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian, Yemeni, Somali, Sudanese, Congolese, Algerian, Colombian, Salvadorian, Turkish, Kurdish, Cameroonian, Nigerian, Palestinian, Ethiopian, Eritrean.
Language spoken by members	English, French, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani, Persian/Dari, Somali.	English, Farsi, French, Amharic, Spanish, Arabic.
Demographics	Mostly single, younger people. Some large families. More men than women. Pregnant women or women with newborns.	Mostly single, young men.
Services offered	Food and essentials plus support with general information and help with bureaucracy (labour market/employment/ bank account procedures, CV creation).	Clothes and hygiene items distribution, signposting, helpdesk/access to services, regular classes (e.g. English), ad hoc workshops (e.g. music).
How members arrived	Some arrive in Turkey then walk across the border from the occupied North. More recently, many arrive by boats (departing from Lebanon).	Mostly via small boats and lorries in the English Channel. Some via planes.
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 socialize.	Members tend to spend some time in the Centre, whether to be seen and receive help or advice. Also to relax and socialize.
Volunteering	Mildly physical – lifting and carrying items for the market. On your feet a lot. Pressured for some moments of the day. Need to be assertive. Team 3-4 volunteers. Minimum age: 21. Extreme temperatures in summer (>40°C)	Mildly physical – lots of stairs, some lifting and carrying, some sorting work. 18 years minimum. Local to Bournemouth and available on a weekly basis.