

Church and Society Consultant/World Church Consultant

To: All Church Secretaries

October 2009

Ministers' copies will be emailed where applicable otherwise posted by request

Dear Friends

London Churches Refugee Network

Thursday 29 October at Central Hall Westminster. Members of the Red Cross will be speaking about their work with Churches across London. – Flier attached

London Churches Refugee Hardship Fund for Destitute Asylum Seekers

A reminder that our Christmas Appeal is now open. Funds are needed desperately to feed families and children who are in need of toiletries. Flier to follow

Deportation Issues for the Local Church

Please see the attached flier and booking form for a consultation to be held on Thursday 21 January. This is joint initiative by Southwark Diocese and Thames North Synod. Please try to attend especially where you are working with people who are in need of help.

Many of us are grateful for the increasing concern and activity by some of our ministers and members. Thank you.

Children in Detention

The concern of Children in Detention is gaining impetus. This is an urgent situation especially as children are traumatised when kept in detention.

I am becoming involved in research, therefore, please would you send me any information that you may have about children in detention known to you, your church or your colleagues.

It is anticipated that a member of the House of Lords will be involved. Government needs to be challenged especially when the Children's Champion (so-called) would appear to be unaware of a particular case where children were allowed out of detention into an outside area for one hour a day. The parents were not allowed to be with them. Supervision was by detention centre staff (my interpretation is guards).

Please see the attachment for a report on the situation and comments from staff of The Children's Society and Bail for Immigration Detainees.

Peace

Geoff Duncan