

i-to-i collaborate with Refugee Council charity to train English teachers

Leeds-based i-to-i TEFL has, this month, donated 100 Online TEFL Courses to fellow Leeds-based charity, Refugee Council, to skill-up volunteers and help improve refugee integration. The TEFL Courses offer 120 hours of training to enable students to teach English to non-native speakers.

Refugee Council is one of the leading charities offering support and advice to people who are seeking asylum across the UK and has around 100 volunteers based in the North of England. The Refugee Council plays a leading role in providing everything from specialist support to resettled Syrians to counselling for women and children fleeing persecution. The organisation also runs language classes to help with the integration of asylum seekers – run by volunteers, who are benefitting from i-to-i TEFL's training.

Head of Resettlement at the Refugee Council, Duncan Wells, says: "We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to i-to-i for offering free places on their TEFL training courses to our staff and volunteers at Refugee Council. Assisting our clients to learn English is crucial if they are to successfully integrate and build a new life here in the UK. These courses will enhance our skills to assist our clients better when learning the language."

Rose McCarthy, a Volunteer Coordinator at the charity, explains: "Learning English is key to enabling refugees to integrate. It helps them find their way, to make friends and start contributing to society. Our volunteers support clients by speaking to them on a one to one basis and by leading groups such as women's groups or conversation groups. They are not trained English teachers and sometimes struggle to communicate. Doing a TEFL course will make a huge difference to the level of support they can give and we are really grateful to i-to-i for reaching out and offering us 100 free courses."

The courses are being taken up by both British born volunteers and volunteers who are also refugees. This is helping to skill up and inspire confidence in the volunteers, while helping improve other refugees' English.

A charity volunteer from York said: "I volunteer to help Syrian refugees integrate. An essential part of integrating is their ability to have a reasonable command of English. This enables them to communicate with neighbours and find work. My role is to add value to their formal English language lessons and help practice the language. I am not an English teacher and feel that my support is not as useful as I would wish due to the unstructured nature. I would welcome the opportunity of learning how to support my refugees with a more structured way of teaching English."

James Langton, Company Director at i-to-i TEFL explains: "We're proud to be working with such a fantastic local charity who are helping the most vulnerable members of society to integrate into our communities and lead more fulfilled lives. We look forward to seeing the positive effects of their training over the coming months."

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About i-to-i TEFL:

Founded in 1994, i-to-i TEFL are teaching English abroad experts with over 24 years' experience in TEFL training. Based in Leeds, UK, i-to-i run English Government-regulated TEFL training both online and through practical courses in 10 countries worldwide. Once teachers are trained, they offer a variety of teaching and travel internships across Asia and Europe.

About the Refugee Council:

The Refugee Council stands up for the rights of refugees and those who are seeking safety in Britain. For over 65 years, we have directly supported and empowered refugees in Britain to lead safe, dignified and fulfilling lives.