

Unaccompanied Refugee Youth

Since 2015 more than 170,000 unaccompanied children have applied for asylum in Europe. Often they have faced treacherous journeys without the guidance and protection of a parent by their side. And now, many are homeless in Europe waiting for hope and a future.

Why are they alone?

Many of these youth have experienced traumatic situations including war, forced labor, exploitation and extreme poverty. For some, their family could only afford to send one child to seek a safe future elsewhere. Others became orphaned or separated from their family as they fled violence and persecution.

Where are they now?

There may be some of these children in your community. While the majority initially arrive in Italy and Greece, many travel on through Europe hoping to receive asylum or be reunited with family in the UK, Germany and Nordic countries. During their travels they pass through many countries or become stranded at closed borders.

Join Us to Pray and Act on Orphan Sunday

This Orphan Sunday we consider how the unaccompanied refugee child lives today as an orphan. From prayer to awareness to action, there are many opportunities to be beacons of hope.

- Connect with organisations in your community who are helping refugee children and ask how your church can help.
 - Partner with other churches in your community to meet larger needs, i.e. shelter, education, language, etc.
- Build relationships with government shelters where refugee children are housed with a goal of helping and running programs for the children.
- Connect with foster care organisations to learn about opportunities to open your home to an unaccompanied refugee child.

To connect with others, learn more and access resources, join the Mobilised for Unaccompanied Minors (MUM) Facebook Group

or visit www.refugeeconnect.com/Unaccompanied-Minors