

CODE Forum 2026

Introduction to the Papers and Workshops

Andrew Orton and Team

‘Developing reflective learning on diaconal identities in work with refugees and asylum seekers’

The workshop will explore different ways that Christian activists engage with aspects of their own and others’ identities (particularly those relating to religion) when supporting the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in local communities. It will do this through:

- an interactive activity to explore issues of identity with workshop participants,
- sharing findings from research conducted through a reflective learning programme with 17 Christian activists working with refugees and asylum seekers from diverse contexts across Europe. This research was co-ordinated by an international team and funded by the Susanna Wesley Foundation. The findings show the importance of reflective ‘identity work’ as practitioners interact with diverse others in their work. They engage with different life stories, provide support, deal with ethical challenges and respond to prejudice and conflict. The programme included reflection on connections between activists’ biographical narratives, contextual relationships, and wider organisational, political, social and theological debates,
- introducing a new resource produced through the project. It provides ‘A Guide to Developing a Reflective Learning Programme for Christians Working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers’ that may be adapted for use in peoples’ own contexts,
- inviting participants to reflect together on the wider implications of this work and potential ways forward for further development.