

CRIBS – a charity to support.

Home and Overseas paper: July/August 2025

They leave worn-torn countries to seek a better life, they often experience gender-based violence and undergo a traumatic journey. Then they find themselves pregnant, sometimes as a result of rape. A British woman met women with newborn babies while working in a Greek refugee camp and so CRIBS was born.

CRIBS is a charity to which the MWA is giving an immediate donation; as always thanks to everyone for their generosity. CRIBS has the mission to house and support women who are heavily pregnant or have a new-born baby and have arrived in Greece, having fled conflict and exploitation. On their website it explains:

Why is our help needed? *Many women arrive in Athens, often alone, having fled violence and exploitation in their home country. They have endured a long and traumatic journey and now find themselves homeless. With no support from the Greek authorities, they are left in a desperate situation and at risk of further exploitation. Desperate realities.*

Even heavily pregnant women and those with new-borns are left to live on the streets, in parks or in precarious housing situations. We hear from women struggling to access food and shelter while heavily pregnant, whilst women who have given birth and have nowhere to go risk their baby being taken from them.

Housing. *We provide a home for 15 families in shared flats, enabling our mums to bring their babies into the world in a safe, clean space. Safe and secure, they have the chance to recover from childbirth and from the traumatic journey they have faced. Free Shop*

Our Free Shop serves refugee families from across Athens. Every month we provide over 250 families with hygiene and nappy packs, and around 100 families visit our free shop for an appointment for clothing and essentials, where they can choose with dignity.

I am sure we can all agree that CRIBS is a worthwhile charity. While thinking of these desperate mums and babies, we can also recall those around the world and here in the UK who suffer for many different reasons. A new life is a gift and one that we must each endeavour to support and cherish.

From the September paper onwards I will provide more information about other charities that we aim to support. Meanwhile, may I wish each of you, your families and friends a happy and enjoyable summer.

Sr Mary Holmes