

Statement by London Churches Refugee Fund on the  
Channel crossing tragedy.

Like all of you, we are devastated to hear the news of people dying crossing the Channel yesterday and our deepest sympathies and prayers are with their loved ones and all those directly affected by this tragic event. Last night's terrible tragedy is not the first time people have lost their lives on a harrowing journey to seek freedom from fear and persecution in the UK. This week's tragedy comes just one year after 32 people lost their lives in exactly the same desperate way. We consider the time for a more realistic, compassionate national conversation about these Channel crossings is long overdue. No one risks their own, or their family's life unless they are running from dangers more acute than those they face on these dangerous journeys. We urge the government to put in place compassionate and well-thought-through plans that will save lives and give protection to those who need it