

# WCWD x Choose Love clothes drive FAQs

## 1. What is a clothes drive and who is it for?

A clothes drive is a campaign to get people to donate clothes, shoes and other necessary items to be given to those who need them.

The WCWD x Choose Love clothes drive will run from mid October - mid November to collect items (such as tents, sleeping bags, clothes, shoes, warm items, personal hygiene items etc) that will then be delivered to Calais to be given to refugees currently living in very difficult conditions in two refugee camps.

You can find the full lists of items that are accepted by Choose Love's partners [here](#) and [here](#).

## 2. Why are you doing a clothes drive?

Winter is coming, and people living in the refugee camps in Calais often have very little, or nothing of their own, including warm clothes. Many of them have travelled a long way in search of safety and opportunity, so this clothes drive is to help support them with the very basics to keep them warm and dry during the winter months.

There are around 1500 - 2000 men, women and children living in two camps.

The current 'hostile environment policy' means the lifespan of a tent is only two days before they are removed by the authorities. This leaves many people, including children, sleeping rough and feeling dehumanised.

## 3. What items can we donate? Does it matter if the clothes are old?

Each camp needs different items, and women and children need different items to men. You can find the [full list of items here](#), and for [women and children here](#).

So long as the clothes are on the approved list of items, aren't broken/damaged or dirty, then they can be accepted.

## 4. Is there anything we can't donate or that can't be accepted?

There are certain items that cannot be accepted - notably anything that is dirty, damaged or inappropriate. Please refer to the [full list of items here](#), and for [women and children here](#).

## 5. Can I run my own clothes drive?

Of course! Check out [our activism info pack](#) for everything you need, including contact details, information, posters and social media templates, hints, tips and advice about running your own drive.

For any questions about getting involved with this campaign, [get in touch with us](#) and we'll be happy to help!

## **6. What if I can't donate items right now?**

If you're not able to donate items, you can donate money via [our JustGiving page](#), or you can directly purchase items refugees need from the [Choose Love store](#).

## **7. Who can donate items?**

Everybody! Those living in the refugee camps need different sizes and all different kinds of items.

You can contact your local Choose Love drop off point [here](#) if you would like to donate items directly.

Even if you're not able to donate items, you can donate money via [our JustGiving page](#), or you can directly purchase items refugees need from the [Choose Love store](#).

## **8. When and where can I donate?**

We have a number of WCWD volunteers running clothes drives in Warwick, Banbury, Devon, London and Brighton. [Contact us for more details about working with them or to run your own!](#)

Choose Love has donation drop off points all across the UK where you can drop items off directly, find out more information [here](#).

## **9. Do the clothes need to be washed, or repaired if they are damaged?**

Yes. Clothes cannot be accepted if they are damaged or dirty. Find more information on the Choose Love website [here](#).

## **10. How do the clothes get to the refugees in Calais?**

Choose Love has teams of volunteers across the country who drive items to Calais - but anybody can do this! If you have a car and want to support, just [contact us](#).

Necessary precautions are being put in place due to COVID-19, to ensure donations are delivered safely and volunteers are able to return back to the UK without needing to quarantine. Please make sure to [contact us](#) if you are interested in driving donations to Calais.

### **11. How long does it take the items to get to Calais?**

Depending on when volunteers are available to take the items and from where, the drive takes 90 minutes from Dover to Calais.

### **12. Who is *Choose Love*?**

Choose Love is the online store for the charity [Help Refugees](#), which is an organisation founded to support refugees as quickly and efficiently as possible, with minimal overheads and maximum impact.

We are pioneering a new movement in humanitarian aid: fast, flexible, and transparent. We get your funds to the people who need them most as quickly as possible.

- 89% of your donations go directly towards supporting refugees.
- We're among the most efficient refugee charities in Europe
- We've had thousands of volunteers
- We're funded by people like you
- We don't have any highly paid executives
- We provide vital aid to people fleeing war, persecution and climate change

### **13. Who is *WCWD* ?**

*What Can We Do?* is a community of activists, and the go-to place to find out how to get involved with social change and activism, no matter how much time or money you have.

Our website and social media bring together simple actions and easy-to-understand information about issues facing the UK, and all the different ways you can make a difference.

Whether it's petitions, donations, volunteering, campaigns or other actions, there's always something that we can all do **now**. On our website, You can even filter for the time you have available and the causes you care about, so you can be in charge of your own activism!

We're a registered community start-up (CIC) run by a remote team of volunteers passionate about empowering others to activate their inner activists.

You can find out more information on our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### **14. What if the items I donate are not used?**

Choose Love will only accept items based on the approved lists. Other clothes will not be able to be accepted - if you end up with inappropriate items you can recycle them or donate them to charity shops if they are suitable.

**15. What if I only have summer items?**

Unless the summer items are on the list of required items, unfortunately they will not be able to be accepted at this time.

**16. I live really remotely, how can I donate?**

[Contact us](#) to find your local donation point.