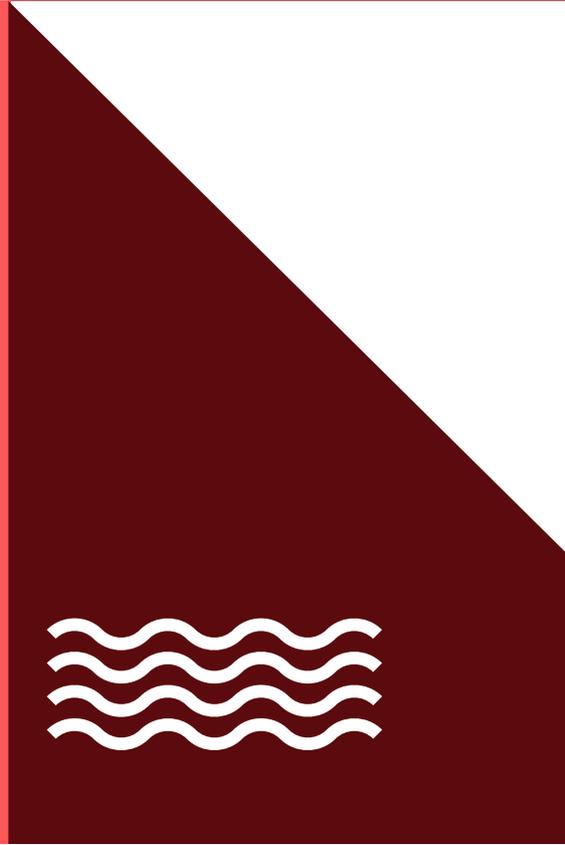
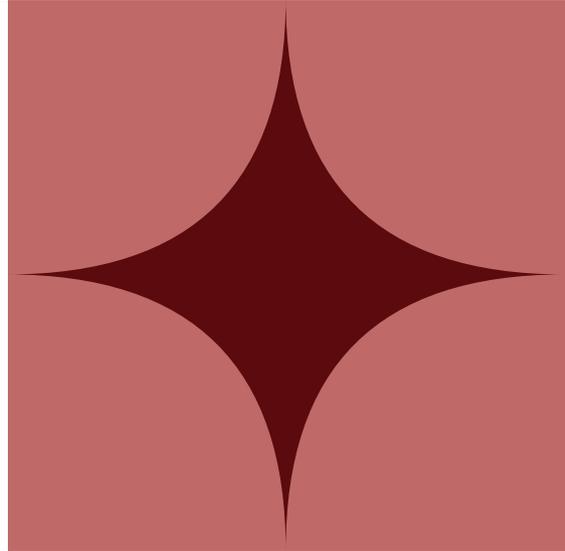


refugeeEd

Advocacy Pack



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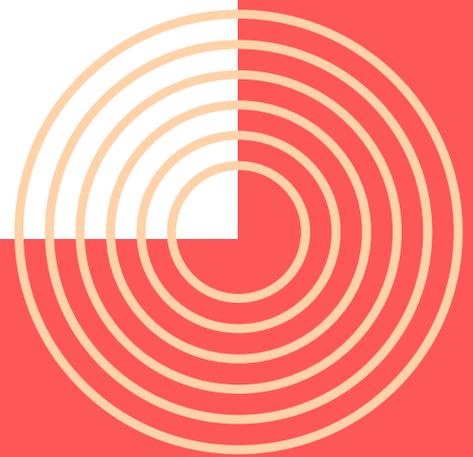


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Spread the word!

Thank you so much for choosing to advocate for the work of refugeeEd and educate those around you about the challenges in education that asylum seekers, refugees and people on the move face. People like you are vital to confronting the hostile environment in Europe and advocating for sustainable, empowering alternatives.

WHAT FIRST?

Advocacy is such a broad term, knowing where to begin can be a bit overwhelming! The word “advocacy” describes the process of supporting a cause or idea. Hence, an advocacy event, project or campaign is a set of activities designed to raise support for a cause or idea.

So, first to decide is:

1. What you'd like to say
2. What you'd like to achieve (how many people do you want to reach, do you want to fundraise as well, is there any action you want people to take?)
3. How you'd like to spread your message.

In this booklet you'll find some information and guidance on how to design and plan your advocacy project.



INFO: THE CONTEXT

You may want to touch on the situation for refugees and asylum seekers in Greece more broadly, or choose to focus specifically on the education challenges for adults and/or children. Perhaps you know a lot about this subject already, or it might be quite new to you. Feel free to use this booklet, our fundraising pack and our website as resources, or reach out to us directly.

Here are some facts and statistics that may help you build your story:

- There are around 166,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Greece
- Many people live in camps far away from towns or cities, with limited access to urban amenities and NGOs
- Others live in state provided apartments, or in unstable housing such as abandoned buildings
- Financial instability and deprivation is common due to a lack of provision by the state
- Access to the asylum system is nearly impossible, forcing many to live without papers
- Bureaucratic processes are complex and carried out in Greek, blocking individuals from essential systems
- Illegal pushbacks (forced expulsion across the border) are frequent and often violent, and are a well founded fear for all, even those with refugee status
- Many have experienced trauma in their home country, along their journey to Greece, or from their treatment in Greece
- 86% of children do not attend formal school
- Many adults cannot communicate in English or Greek, causing serious barriers to daily life and integration
- Most NGOs providing education are not allowed to operate inside camps, and are often targeted by the police and state authorities
- There is a lack of funding for many grassroots NGOs, causing them to be heavily reliant upon voluntary work
- There is a fast turnover of teachers due to the voluntary nature of the work, creating a lack of continuous and cumulative teaching expertise
- There is a large amount of diverse learning needs that require specialist knowledge to address appropriately
- The right to education is a human right and indispensable for the exercise of other human rights, this includes but is now limited to; Primary education that is free, compulsory and universal; Secondary education, including technical and vocational, that is generally available, accessible to all and progressively free; Fundamental education for individuals who have not completed education; Professional training opportunities; Equal quality of education through minimum standards; Quality teaching and supplies for teachers. UNESCO*

*<https://en.unesco.org/news/what-you-need-know-about-right-education>



INFO: THE CONTEXT



Here are a few resources for you to explore the context in Greece or across Europe a bit more:

Mobile Info Team

Providing legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, and producing regular reports on patterns that emerge across the country. See their reports here:

<https://www.mobileinfoteam.org/blockedfromthesystem>

Are You Syrious

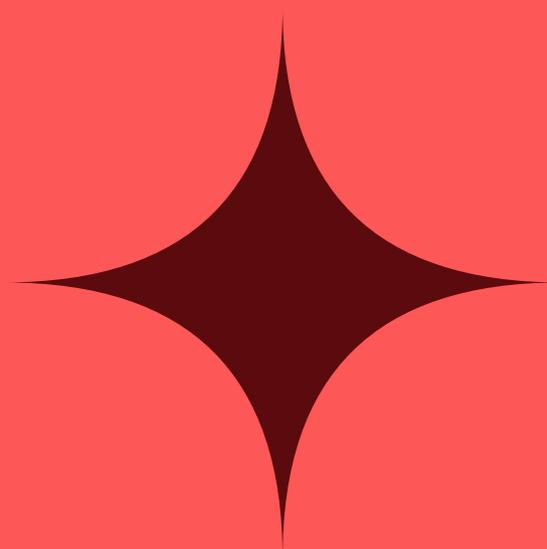
Daily news digests from across Europe, mainly for volunteers and refugees on the route, but also for journalists and other parties. Follow them on Facebook or Medium:

<https://areyousyrious.medium.com/>

Aegean Boat Report

Monitor and report on people-movement related activities on the Aegean Sea. Follow on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AegeanBoatReport>





INFO: OUR WORK

You might know a lot about our work already, however if you want to know more, here's a quick overview of our programmes and impact, and you can find lots of information on our website.

Our core mission is to ensure children and adults on the move have access to a good education, by supporting community teachers and local education organisations, and we currently run two programmes in Greece; the Organisation Capacity Building Programme, and the Community Teacher Training (CTT) Programme, to address the above mentioned educational challenges.

Programmes

Organisation Capacity Building Programme matches education organisations with experienced teachers who deliver training and mentoring. Each teacher works with their organisation to design a system of support tailored to that organisation's needs and goals. We also match volunteer teachers with organisations, design and offer context-specific guides to teaching, provide sample curriculums, facilitate knowledge sharing sessions and offer widely popular webinars, such as Trauma Informed Practice.

The Community Teacher Training Programme supports and improves the quality of teaching currently delivered by teachers from the refugee community. It consists of a structured programme of remote workshops led by experienced teacher trainers which cover topics such as core classroom competencies, structuring a lesson, and activities for the classroom. After 6 weeks, each trainee is offered a mentor to support their progress along the programme, teaching, and professional goals.

Impact

Since 2018, we have matched 54 education specialists to partner organisations, placed 29 volunteer teachers, and held 39 webinars. After attending a refugeeEd webinar, 86% of participants are confident in practising the new tools that they learnt during the training. We have completed 4 CTT programmes since the programme began in 2021, training a total of 32 teachers, improving the education delivered to over 200 students. Teachers report an overall increase in teaching confidence, with 75% of teachers reporting that they could help another teacher with their classes and 86% of teachers reporting they know how to better use questions and activities in their classes.

If you'd like more detailed information about our programmes, or you'd like an update on how our programmes are currently going, then don't hesitate to get in touch.

MAKING A PLAN

1

Goals

Would you like to run an advocacy event alongside your fundraising, or is your focus to spread awareness and change the narrative amongst your community, or perhaps you want to get the attention of local MPs. Once you've decided your goals, it will be easier to figure out which direction to take with your advocacy. Some example goals might be:

- Educate 100 people on the situation in Greece and about the work of refugees while raising £1,000.
- Encourage your local MP to consider the challenges for refugees and asylum seekers both abroad and in the UK/local area when making decisions, or to vote a certain way on a particular matter.
- Raise awareness of the realities and challenges for asylum seekers and refugees within your local area and work to dispel the myths some people might believe.
- Work with a school in order to educate children about the refugee context in Greece and across Europe and raise money through organising an event or non-uniform day in aid of refugeeEd.

2

Strategy

After setting your goals, your advocacy strategy should become more clear. For example, if you want to reach 100 people and raise £1,000, it might be best to host an event. A movie night or food event might work well alongside some advocacy presentations or debates.

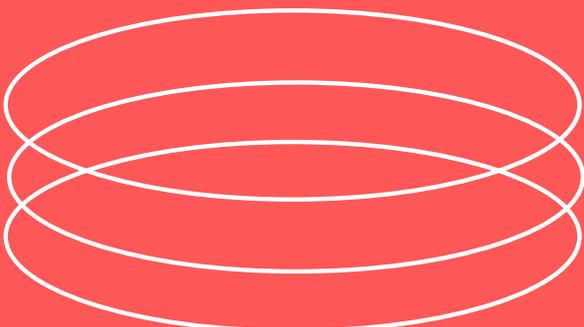
If you'd like to encourage your MP to consider the lives of asylum seekers and refugees you could write to them or begin a petition. If you'd like to raise awareness within your area perhaps you could write to your local newspaper and run an event.

If your goal is to work with schools, it's best to go through teachers or staff that you know or work with a school you have a connection with. We have prepared materials for teaching about refugeeEd in form time or PSHE so please reach out to us if you'd like to take this route!

3

Preparation

After setting your goals and choosing your strategy, you then need to make sure you have all the information you need in order to be clear and persuasive in your letter, article, or presentation. You should be able to find lots of information within our resources and on our website, and we are always happy to help you further if you get in touch. Make sure you've printed any materials needed such as flyers or posters and check out our Fundraising Pack if you want some tips for running an event. See if anyone else would like to help you, and then go for it!



Tips!



Know your audience: whether it's a public official, a school or a community, understand who your audience is and how to reach them most effectively.

Keep the message simple - don't overload yourself or others. Keep your message down to the most important facts and arguments.

Know your message well - use the information in this pack to build a strong idea in your mind of what you're trying to communicate.

Make your request clear if you have one - e.g. supporting a certain petition, voting a certain way or donating to refugeeEd.

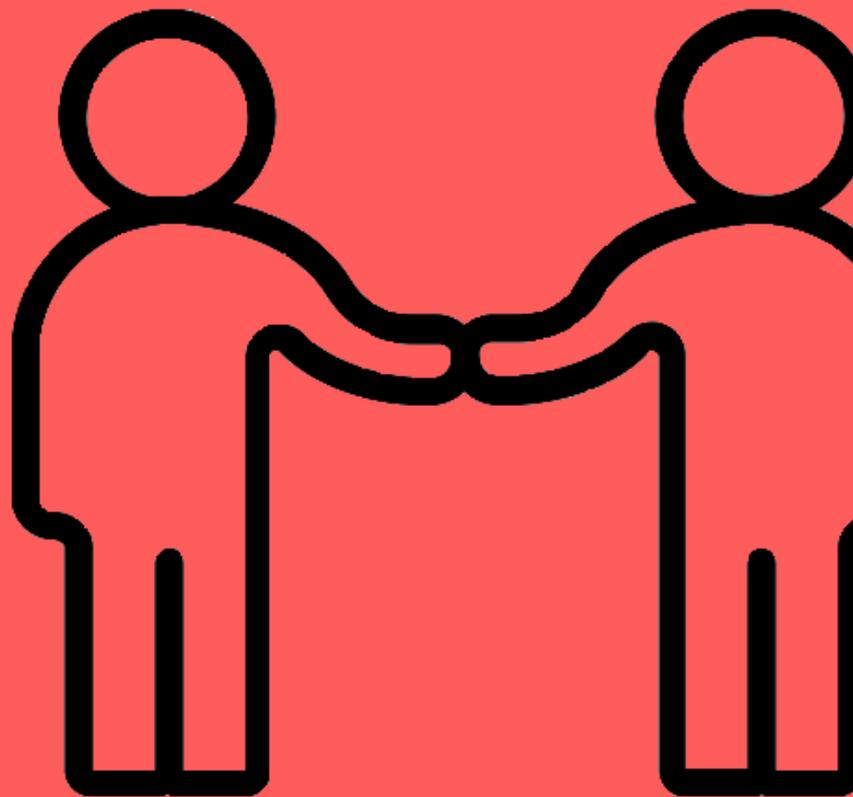
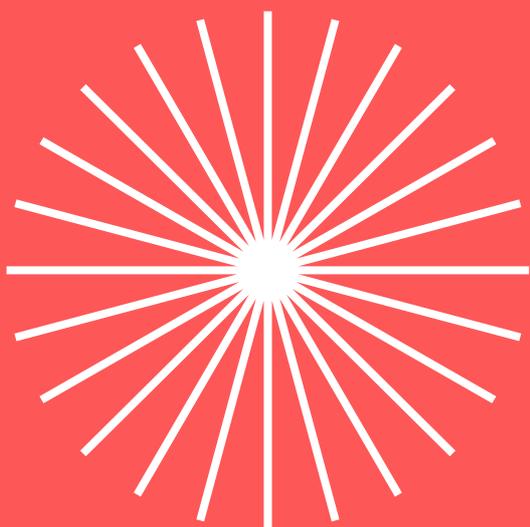
Mobilise! Ask your friends and colleagues to support your event, to send letters, to share articles, contact schools and spread the word with you.

Use the media: traditional newspapers and social media, blogs etc.

Don't forget to thank those who have listened and who have supported us. Celebrate your advocacy project and audience!

Feedback

We'd love to know what you're planning and help you in the process, and we also want to know how it goes! We'd love to share your story on our social media to celebrate you, and help you reach wider audiences. Speak to the people who you reach and try to discover their views, and how your advocacy work might have changed things. Report back to us! It's great to get an idea of people's opinions and what advocacy works.



THANK
YOU

Thank you for your commitment to spreading the word about the difficulties refugees and asylum seekers face in education and beyond, and for advocating for the work of refugeeEd. This is no easy job, but it is people like you who contribute to a changing narrative and a more welcoming Europe.

