

Case Study Brief

Refugee Week 2017: *Our Shared Future*

Deadline: 24 April 2017. *Please try to submit all case studies by this date. Case studies submitted later than 24 April will not be admissible for monthly print publications.*

Theme Outline

Over many years, settled and newly-arrived communities have **lived** and **worked** together to make our **streets, businesses** and **culture** great. In honour of this, Refugee Week 2017 is dedicated to **the strength of the UK's communities**, as we build tomorrow together. Join us 19-25 June 2017 as we **imagine** and celebrate Our Shared Future.

Key Messages

- We have different pasts but a shared future
- Building strong communities to meet the challenges ahead
- Imagining a future without discrimination

Below is a brief outline of the case studies Refugee Week will be focus on gathering this year, to help guide the selection process. Our priority case studies have been designed to compliment news stories and policy developments that will be of interest to the media, as well as amplifying our key messages.

Priority Case Studies

- **Resettlement stories, especially families** - connecting the past & future theme, i.e. 'this was our past, this is what we can now hope for the future'
 - The Syrian resettlement scheme will be of interest to the press so we're hoping to build up a considerable stock of case studies from this programme
 - However, we are also keen to use Refugee Week as an opportunity to give voice to non-Syrian refugees, so we're looking for case studies from the broadest possible range of countries of origin
- **Refugee camp case studies** - of people who spent considerable time living in open camps in Italy, Greece or Calais
 - We want to highlight these 'on the journey' stories to counteract negative stereotypes about the camps which dominate in the media
 - We'd be particularly interested in any stories which emphasise the creation of community within the camps, both amongst refugees from different countries and also between refugees, migrants and European NGOs and volunteers

- **Love stories** - of separation and reunion
 - Focusing especially on relationships that have survived prolonged separation - either by borders (with one partner in the UK, for instance,) or by detention
 - These will be forward looking stories of people now re-building their families or lives
 - These stories need not necessarily be romantic, and could revolve around parents and children, siblings or friends
- **Volunteer case studies** - not of refugees themselves but British people volunteering both abroad (in refugee camps and support projects in Europe or Turkey) and here at home
 - While some media outlets have been 'fatigued' by refugee-journey stories, we feel the stories of volunteers who support them have been under-reported and will do well in the national press while being of particular interest to local media where either the volunteer project is situated, or where the volunteer called home before they went to work abroad
 - We are particularly interested in small, grassroots community projects in the UK and the stories of young people who've volunteered abroad and are either still there or, having returned home to the UK, now work within their local community and/or have maintained links with refugees they met during that time
 - Key questions these case studies might answer include: what motivates these volunteers? What do they learn 'on the job', particularly things that surprised them or challenged stereotypes?
- **Children's stories** - meaning both case studies looking at the experience of refugee children and also content produced by children from British and refugee backgrounds
 - Case studies that enable us to explore stories from the child's perspective, or in which a child's voice directly addresses the audience
 - The Mirror Exercise: we will be working with UK schools and the International Organisation for Migration to have British and refugee children complete 'mirror exercises' i.e. using the arts (creative writing, drawing, poetry, etc.) to put themselves in the other's shoes and answer questions such as: what is it like to arrive / have someone new arrive in our school? What would it be like to have to leave our homes / to be able to stay? What would be our greatest fears and hopes? If you are interested in finding out more or contributing to this project, please let us know.

Interest Publications

This year we're working to diversify our content beyond priority case studies, as we're hoping to engage a broader range of print media which often cater to single interests, such as women's, arts and health magazines. So if you have a case study that you think would work well on one of these platforms, please do submit them and let us know what audience you think they'd be of interest to and why.

Here are some ideas:

1. **Women's Magazines** i.e. stories of refugee women fleeing gendered violence and discrimination; mothers' journeys to reunite with their children; refugee women aspiring to a career in fashion.
2. **Sports magazines** i.e. stories of refugees whose love of a sport was brought with them from home and who are now pursuing it in the UK; refugees injured and unable to play professionally but now teaching.
3. **LGBTQ platforms** i.e. stories of refugees fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity
4. **Health magazines** i.e. stories of doctors, nurses or community carers from refugee backgrounds now working for the NHS
5. **Teen magazines** i.e. adolescent case studies about what it's like to arrive as a teenager to the UK
6. **Architecture magazines** i.e. chiming with the metaphor of 'building our shared future', refugees who work in architecture or construction
7. **Walking magazines** i.e. reflections on 'the great walk', practicalities and difficulties of a refugee's journey to the UK, for example via Greece or the Balkan route during winter
8. **History magazines** i.e. stories that connect the experiences of newly arrived refugees to more established refugee communities

Submission Guidelines

If you'd like to submit a case study, please email emily@counterpointsarts.org.uk with the following information:

- Your name and contact details
- Basic information about the subject(s) of the story, such as name, age, gender, country of origin, profession and current town of residence
- Which category of case study it belongs to if any i.e. 'love stories'
- A brief summary of the story
- Confirmation that you have permission to share the story (not necessarily in the national press but with the Refugee Week team - permissions for high-profile stories will be sought separately and all parties will be consulted in advance.)

We will not have the capacity to respond to every email, but we'd like to say thank you in advance for this invaluable material and if one of the Refugee Week team can match your story up with a journalist, we will be in touch!