

# Safe Passage

Induction  
Presentation



The image consists of a 2x3 grid of colored rectangles. The top row contains three rectangles: a dark teal rectangle on the left, a light blue rectangle in the middle, and an orange rectangle on the right. The bottom row contains three rectangles: a dark purple rectangle on the left, a light gray rectangle in the middle, and a dark gray rectangle on the right. The word "Welcome" is centered in the light blue rectangle of the top row.

Welcome



# About us

## Our vision

Our vision is a world in which every person fleeing persecution can access publicly-supported safe and legal routes to a place where they can lead a full and dignified life.

## Our mission

Our mission is to open up safe and legal routes to protection for refugees through advocacy, fieldwork operations and legal work. We then support people's first steps to rebuilding their lives in the UK.

## Our values

We are ground breaking, determined, and compassionate.



# Why Safe Passage?

The need for safe routes for those fleeing persecution is greater than ever before. 65 million people are displaced worldwide and over 5,000 lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean in 2016. There are 21 million refugees worldwide, over half of whom are children, with no sign of the geopolitical conflict and economic insecurity driving mass migration likely to ease in coming years.

Closer to home, children who are legally eligible for family reunion in Britain continue to die on our doorstep. Masud, Mohammed, Raheemullah, Samir have each died trying to reach loved ones from Northern France.

So far, over 1,000 children have arrived in the UK through the routes Safe Passage has helped to open.



# Rising to the crisis

Safe Passage is the only organization working with children at risk on the ground in both sending and receiving countries to open safe and legal routes. Our mix of strategic litigation, community organising and high quality casework is unique and has proven particularly effective at cracking open legal routes while building public support for them.

We are fast moving, proactive and independently financed, giving us the flexibility to act where the need is greatest in a way that larger charities sometimes cannot, while our expertise, partnerships and professionalism mean we are more strategic than other grassroots actors.



# Our History

In October 2015, 3 volunteers, 2 solicitors and 1 barrister went to the Calais Jungle and in one day identified 50 Unaccompanied Minors (UAM's) rising to 350 by day 5.

In a series of reactions to non-actions Safe Passage was born and the fight for refugees to gain access to **LEGAL SAFE PASSAGES** to asylum was taken to the UK government.

# Our first success

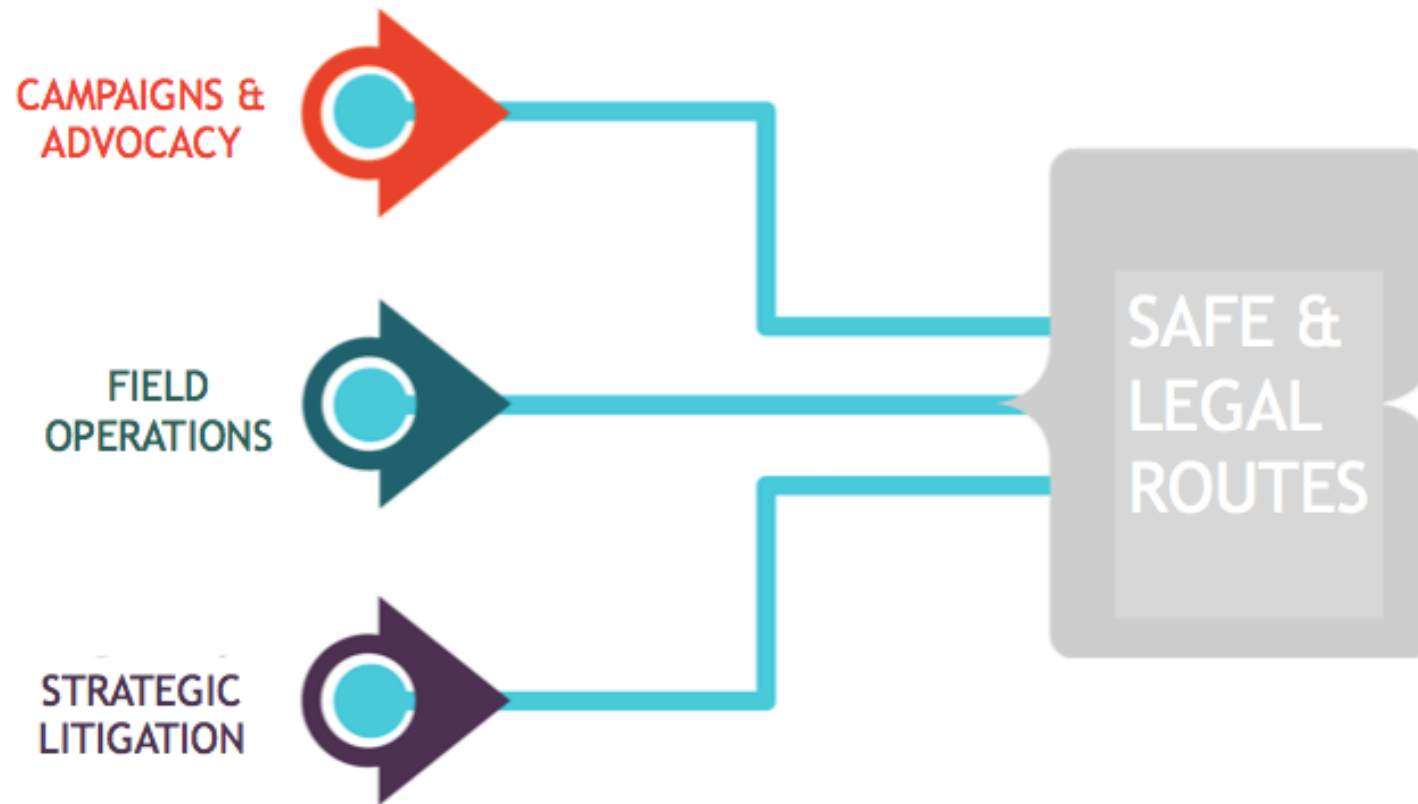
January 2016 after 1,400 pro bono legal hours the first three boys and one dependent older brother from Syria, were successfully reunited with their families from Calais when the courts ordered the Dublin III\* processes set aside because of their rights under the ECHR 8\*.  
(known as the ZAT case)

*The British government lodged an appeal on June 27 -28th, as an attempt to derail this ground breaking decision which could potentially pave the way for similar cases not just to be brought from within Europe, but worldwide because the ECHR places no geographic limits on the rights claims protected within it.*

*The appeal was upheld on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the ECHR8 provision was removed. However the judgment confirmed that children with compelling cases will be able to apply directly to the UK authorities without applying for entry clearance and without using Dublin should it fail once again.*



# Our Intervention





# Breaking open safe & legal routes

## CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

Our campaigns work dovetails our strategic litigation, developing public support, engaging MPs to pressure the government to open up these legal routes for all children to access

## FIELD OPERATIONS

Our UK and field teams have supported our legal partners to deliver 120 successful cases which have brought children and vulnerable adults safely to the UK from France, Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Germany and Syria.

## STRATEGIC LITIGATION

ZAT opened the Dublin route from Calais, since then we have been litigating across France to open routes from Lille and Paris, as well as in the UK to hold the Home Office accountable for their family reunion responsibilities.

# Our Intervention

## Stage 1: TEST CASES & LITIGATE (Est 2 - 4 months)

### GOALS:

Measure of Success  
3-5 successful reunion cases  
(likely via JR with precedents  
set for  
phase 2  
SPUK Outputs:  
Identifications of  
5-10 x Group 1 cases

## Stage 2: TEST NEW PASSAGE (Est 3 - 6 months)

### GOALS:

**Measure of Success**  
25 -35 cases successfully  
reunited with family in UK.  
Reunion process navigable by  
other actors  
SPUK Outputs  
30 x Group 1  
10 x Group 2  
1-3 test case Group 3 -6

## Stage 3: EMBED NEW PASSAGE (Est 6 -9 months)

### GOALS: Measure of Success:

Other actors (govt and non govt) engaged and  
delivering successful casework

### SPUK Outputs:

Ongoing casework facilitation on the ground  
Forging governmental and non governmental  
partnerships, further litigation if required

### Core Legal Team Outputs:

Legal counsel strategic advice & action where JR  
becomes necessary

# CASEWORK SNAPSHOT

Correct up to 05.06.2017



## NATIONALITY: LIVE CASES



- 47% Afghan
- 13% Eritrean
- 13% Iraqi
- 8.5% Sudanese
- 8.5% Iranian
- 6% Syrian
- 2% Somali
- 2% Pakistani

## NATIONALITY: ARRIVALS



- 44% Syrian
- 21.6% Afghan
- 14% Eritrean
- 8% Iraqi
- 7.5% Sudanese
- 2.5% Kuwaiti
- 1.6% Somali

## LOCATIONS: LIVE CASES

- Greece: 8
- France: 42
- Italy: 6
- UK: 120




## CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 48 UAMs
- 4 females (2 UAMs)
- 2 adults



“The things we saw, we keep in our head. They won't go away... but we thank you for being a country where we can be welcome, where we aren't discriminated against for being Syrian, or Iraqi, or Afghan.”  
Majeed, 17





# Central Objectives for 2017

Our objectives for 2017 fit under two themes; outcomes and organisational development. This year we aim to:

## **Secure safe passage for 2,000 people**

We have set ourselves this ambitious target, which is almost double the number of children we opened routes for in 2016, as a reflection of the scale of the issue and our determination to find a solution.

## **Strengthen and grow Safe Passage**

Safe Passage grew rapidly out of an urgent need, and has been hugely effective in our work to open safe and legal routes to the UK. Now we must ensure that staffing, finances and procedures are strengthened in line with our rapid growth. In 2017 we will focus on developing robust structures to underpin our work and support its sustainability.

# Where we work

We work in the UK, France, Greece and Italy. We have also reunited families from Bulgaria and Syria. We are planning to expand into Turkey and Belgium in 2017.





We believe we have a duty of care to our clients and their families in their first crucial months following their arrival. Clients often build up significant levels of trust with Safe Passage's field teams and it is therefore natural for this relationship to be carried through to their initial integration in the UK, as we seek to ensure a warm welcome and a fair hearing for each child

- Safe Passage has supported **118** children and vulnerable adults arriving from Europe in the UK
- **56** have now been granted asylum
- **60** are in school
- **14** are being supported by Community Mentors.

# United Kingdom

## STAGE 1: LEGAL



2-3 weeks

- First step is their asylum claim and SP ensure clients have first class legal representation
- Ensure families understand the asylum process and its importance

## STAGE 2: COMMUNITY



1-3 months

- Signpost clients & family to local support for practical aspects of establishing day-to-day life.
- Community Mentor pilot implemented and 10 trained CMs deployed across Britain, Support from Refugee Welcome Groups with links in the community to support the family

## STAGE 3: LEGACY



3-6 months

- Once clients begin to settle into their new lives, Safe Passage then supports them to become active members of their communities.
- Clients speak out and campaign on issues they care about, whether it's friends still stuck in Europe or the quality of education they have received since being in the UK



# United Kingdom

STAGE 1:  
LEGAL



2-3 weeks

STAGE 2:  
COMMUNITY



1-3 months

STAGE 3:  
LEGACY



3-6 months

We are now in a position to develop and grow our work to ensure a warm welcome and a fair hearing for each Safe Passage client but to work so every child arriving in the UK under Dublin III. Therefore we are working:

- **Evidence Gathering:** Summarise the unmet needs of children reunited with family living in the UK focusing on the complex immigration, social support needs, and the future of families reunited in the UK.
- **Capacity Building:** Providing the platform for Community Care and Housing lawyers from across the UK to discuss what more can be done to support Dublin families and Dubs children, what good practice should look like, and how to recruit more lawyers to the cause, building a professional network better-able to support families and young people.



The vast majority of unaccompanied children who came to the UK in 2016 arrived from Calais, transferred through lawyers, working on a case-by-case basis, and the one-off transfer scheme opened by the Home Office when the camp was demolished. However, there are still thousands of unaccompanied children in France.

200+ children living on the streets in Calais in April.

- 37% of children have said they have family in the UK
- Calais Prefecture has closed its asylum and family reunification services therefore children are unable to access legal routes to the UK.



# France

## DUBLIN III

- We have brought litigation in Paris, Lille and Calais for 10 unaccompanied minors to ensure they are given access to asylum to register for Dublin III family reunification. This has opened routes for many more minors.
- Between March and 13 October 2016 Safe Passage directly supported 43 unaccompanied children, 8 accompanied children and 7 vulnerable adults to be reunited with their families in the UK from France.

## DUBS PROGRAMME

- In October 2016 Safe Passage put together a Best Interest Assessment (BIA) Coalition Advisory group consisting of UNHCR France, British Red Cross, Save the Children, Tavistock and other local and independent actors.
- Safe Passage sourced social workers from the Red Cross and British local authorities who had pledged spaces for the children, and conducted 18 BIAs on eligible children.
- We took an additional 14 referrals from Duncan Lewis Solicitors and submitted all 32 children's cases, with complete BIAs and each with a UK lawyer assigned to the Home Office for admission.
  
- To date we have brought 103 children and vulnerable adults to the UK from France through both Dublin III and the Dubs Amendment.



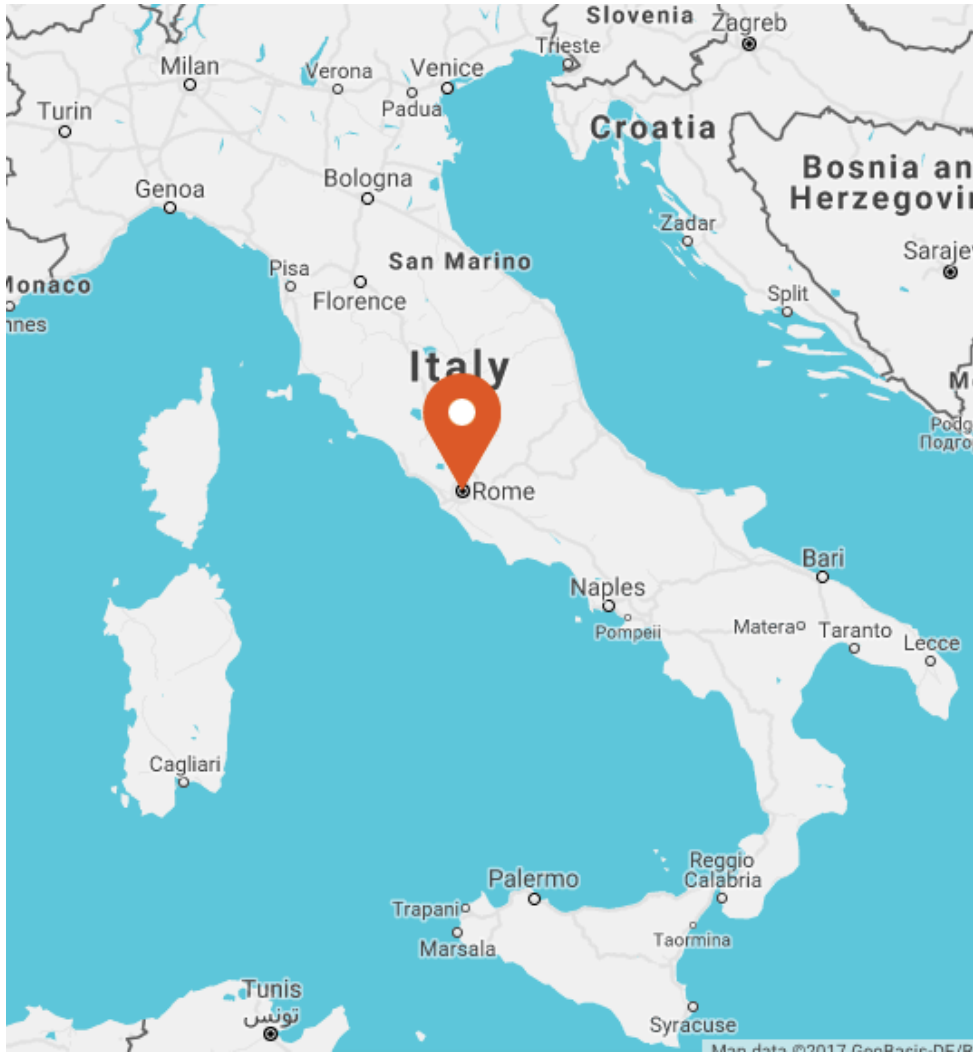
# France

We are working to:

- Assist over 70 children all across France to transfer safely to the UK through taking on their cases.
- Win a judicial review, advocate and capacity build so that children who have a legal right to come to the UK are transferred swiftly, that this system no longer depends on the intervention of private actors like Safe Passage, and that desperate children never again have to congregate in camps like Dunkirk and Calais.
- Ensure all children receive adequate care while in the care of the French authorities by exposing malpractice and forcing both governments to give the children access to information and independent legal advice.

We will:

- Document the expedited processes used around Calais and the children in the reception centres to prove that governments are capable of making the system function, and support all outstanding cases for the near 2,000 children relocated from Calais.
- Deploy to Dunkirk, Paris and French border towns to find unaccompanied children eligible for family reunification in France excluded from the above expedited process and bring individual and systemic Judicial Reviews to force the authorities to create a system that will work country wide for the long term.



Italy is currently the largest single entry point for refugee children into Europe. 25,000 unaccompanied children who arrived in Italy last year only 2,350 entered the Italian social care system, meaning over 90% were headed elsewhere or are living in Italy outside the system.

# Italy

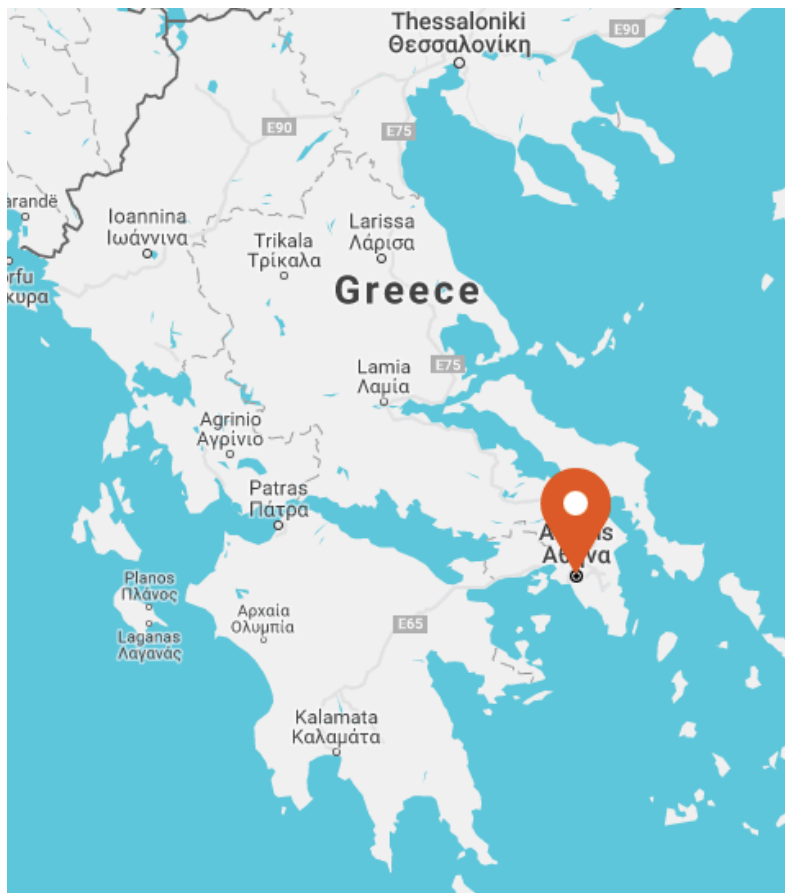
- Of all 25,000 who arrived in Italy last year only 4 minors have received safe passage to date, one through relocation and three through family reunion. Two of these three were Safe Passage clients
- The major barriers are minors not staying put because the system is inoperable, itself because of overlapping jurisdictions, problems in the intersection with child protection, and a lack of institutional knowledge
- We have 8 prospective cases currently which we will deliver in partnership - Rosie Pope and Ashurst solicitors working to support Bhatt Murphy to take all UK bound cases, Giulia Perin and ASGI doing the Italian side representation
- In Italy our field manager, Andrea Anzaldi, is about to be joined by a new field coordinator Claudia Pretto
- Andrea and Claudia are based in Rome but our cases are quite scattered, with large number of potentially eligible minors gathering at point of entry in Sicily if in the care system, or in Ventigmilia and Cuomo which are becoming increasingly inaccessible points of exit
- We now sit on a UAM working group with the Dublin Unit, municipality of Rome and others, set up in response to a meeting Vanessa Redgrave helped us get with the Mayor of Italy



# Italy

This year we aim to

- Build a pilot cohort of 20-50 minors and transfer them under Dublin's provisions
- Through doing so build capacity, map problems and engage stakeholders
- Build a technical group including the Dublin Unit, UNHCR, the EC, EASO etc to oversee this work



Arrivals in Greece have declined substantially from their peak of 900,000 in 2015 to 190,000 in 2016. Exit routes from Greece are now largely blocked, state provision is extremely weak, and unaccompanied minors are resorting to desperate measures to survive.

- There are currently 62,590 persons of concern in Greece
- There are an estimated 2,300 unaccompanied minors in Greece
- Over 1,400 are on a waiting list for children's shelters
- 0 children so far transferred via Dubs





# Greece

## TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- SPUK has held two training sessions in Greece, in Athens and Lesbos on Dublin III & Dubs with more than 80 attendees

## DUBS PROGRAMME

- Numbers: SP estimate that around 48% of UAMs do not have family in Europe, which is just over 1000 children.
- Activities: We are identifying children eligible for the Dubs program; lobbying for generous numbers and criteria; and monitoring eligibility.

## DUBLIN III

- In 2016, The National Dublin Unit sent 4,886 outgoing take-charge requests for family reunification. Of these, 2,462 have been accepted up to now while, conversely, 1,001 have been rejected.
- To date, Safe Passage clients in Greece have had 10 Take Charge Requests (TCRs) accepted (including 9 transfers to the UK) and one rejection - an 91% success rate.

# Greece

Safe Passage is working on:

- Completing the transfer of all the children in our first cohort of those with family links to the UK.
- Through doing so we have demonstrated the potential for a functioning family reunification system and now will organize, capacity build and potentially litigate to force governments to set it up.
- The creation and development of a practitioners' learning infrastructure with training, resources and more to enable other actors to progress family reunion claims from Greece and other European sending states.
- Building cohorts of children bound for other EU states and partnering with lawyers in those states to see them transferred, and then see the systemic change needed for family reunion to occur without intervention of private actors go ahead.
- Undertaking “ground work” on the streets and squats of central Athens to identify potential family reunion eligible cases and then litigating, campaigning and organising to challenge the limiting guidance placed on the ‘Dubs scheme’ and lack of action on family reunification.
- Analyzing case data on Dublin transfers to all other EU Destinations to create an advocacy resource, identify best practice, and map political and bureaucratic obstacles to safe passage



# Destination Countries

In both Italy and Greece very large proportions of the children arriving are eligible for family reunion to one European destination country or another. By improving legal provisions for family reunion in Greece and Italy, and developing a learning infrastructure for practitioners, we will create an environment where transfers to countries other than the UK also increase.

We will use the momentum around the UK in partnership with other European actors to replicate our work to other destinations - Sweden and Germany being the priorities - so that tens of thousands of children gain safe passage.

On the basis of this work, we want to begin engaging also in negotiations around new European legislation on family reunification and the UK's post Brexit positioning with regards to the EU common asylum framework.



# Our Team





# Core legal partners

## **Islington Law Centre's Migrant Law Project**

Led by the brilliant Sonal Ghelani, MLP make up the founding legal team of Safe Passage since their first visit to Calais in October 2016 where they took on two of the cases involved in the landmark ZAT case. Led our Judicial Review claim and lead work in Greece

## **Bhatt Murphy Solicitors**

Another founding member of Safe Passage legal work, law firm's partner Mark Scott has played a major role since October 2016 accompanying Sonal to Calais. Mark and his team have brought our first Italian cases and lead on our first cohort from the country.

## **Doughty Street Chambers,**

Also visiting Calais in October 2016, Charlotte Kilroy and her team at Doughty Street Chambers provide the majority of our counsel and have tirelessly committed themselves to this work.

## **Ashurst Law Firm**

Claire Fourel and her team at Ashurst have proven committed and creative in bringing all that a major international law firm can to contribute to our work.



# Our Advisory Council

- Fatima Al Ahmad - Volunteer Interpreter/Translator
- Meriel Barclay - Citizens UK Trustee
- Lily Caprani - Unicef UK
- Bishop Jonathan Clark - Bishop of Southwark, Citizens UK Trustee, Chair
- Claire Fourel - Ashurst
- Alex Fraser - Red Cross
- Neil Jameson - Executive Director, Citizens UK
- Martha Mackenzie - Save the Children
- Dr Steve Mowle - Citizens UK Trustee
- Oliver Pawle - private philanthropist
- Dr Kaneez Shaid - Citizens UK Trustee
- Juliet Stevenson - Campaigner and Actress
- Gonzalo Vargas Llosa - UNHCR



# Operational and advocacy partners

## **British Red Cross**

- Currently one case workers from British Red Cross are working with Safe Passage on our legal cases and to develop an enquiries management system.
- Work with the BRC's Family Reunification unit and Advocacy Team to research, report on, and secure change while BRC advise on the development of our operations.

## **UNICEF UK**

- We collaborate in our advocacy, engagement and research

## **UNHCR UK**

- Intervened in the first legal case, helping secure the precedent that began all this work over a year ago. We receive strategic guidance, operational assistance, and grant funding to deliver safe passage for the thousands who need it and are proud to work in association with UNHCR.

## **Help Refugees**

- have been firm friends, co-founded at the same time in Calais, they have granted funds to us and worked alongside us, making major contributions in both operations and advocacy.





# Funders

**We are deeply grateful to our funders who have supported the development of Safe Passage and backed this new and groundbreaking work, particularly the following organisations:**

- The Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- UNCHR UK
- The Sam and Bella Sebba Trust
- The Sigrid Rausing Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Avaaz
- Virgin Unite
- The Metropolitan Migration Foundation
- Help Refugees
- The AB Charitable Trust
- Women for Refugee Women
- Unbound Philanthropy



# Recognition for our work

- **Women on the Move Awards**

In March 2016, Citizens UK were named Champion of the Year at the Women on the Move Awards for their work with refugees.

- **2016 European Citizens' Prize**

In July 2016, we were honoured to win the 2016 European Citizens' Prize for our work in Calais.

- **The Liberty Human Rights Awards**

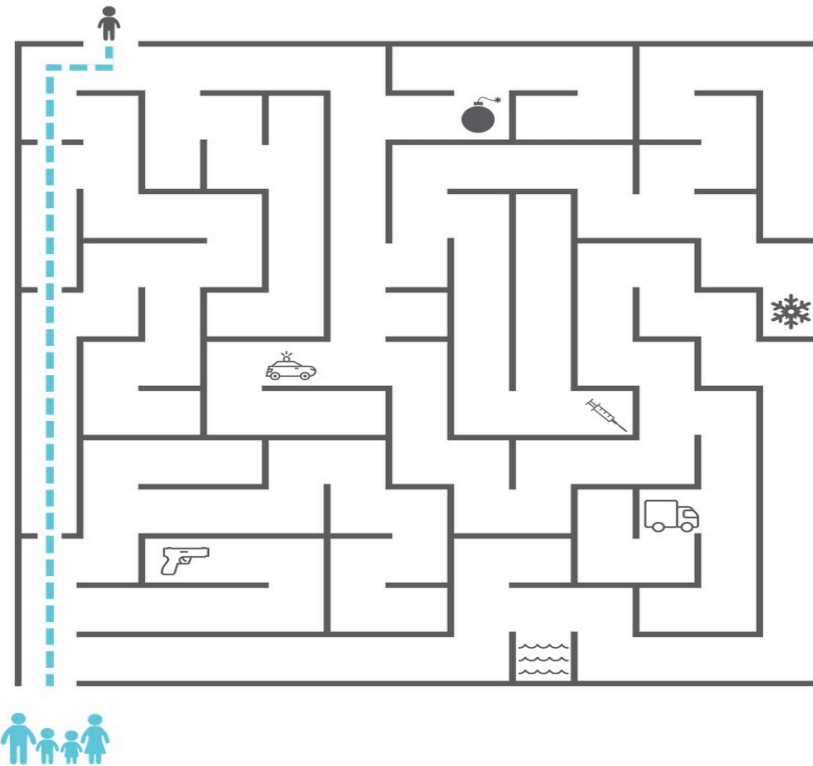
In October 2016, Safe Passage won the Jo Cox 'More in Common' Award at the Liberty Human Rights Awards.

- **PILnet Probono Awards 2016**

Safe Passage and a collective of legal organisations were shortlisted for PILnet's 2016 European Award for Exemplary Partnership in the Public Interest in November 2016.

- **Sheila McKechnie Awards 2017**

We were given the Social Justice Campaigner Award at the Sheila McKechnie Awards in 2017.



For a child refugee,  
this problem could take years to solve.

Help us continue to find safe and legal routes to reunite child refugees with their families.

