

REFUGEE RIGHTS
DATA PROJECT

IMPACT REPORT

SPRING 2017



Dear friends,

Less than a year into our existence as a registered UK charity, we have made great strides, and you have been an invaluable part of this success.

We are infinitely grateful to all of our talented and committed volunteers, our individual supporters and our partner organisations who have made this work possible.

In face of the current climate marked by increasingly polarised attitudes towards refugees in Europe, and the rise of so-called 'alternative facts', we are determined to continue our work to encourage evidence-based and nuanced debates among the public and policy-makers, in order to safeguard the human rights of refugees seeking protection in Europe.

Our work has only just started, and with your continued support, we can do so much more.

Thank you for being part of our movement.

Warm wishes,

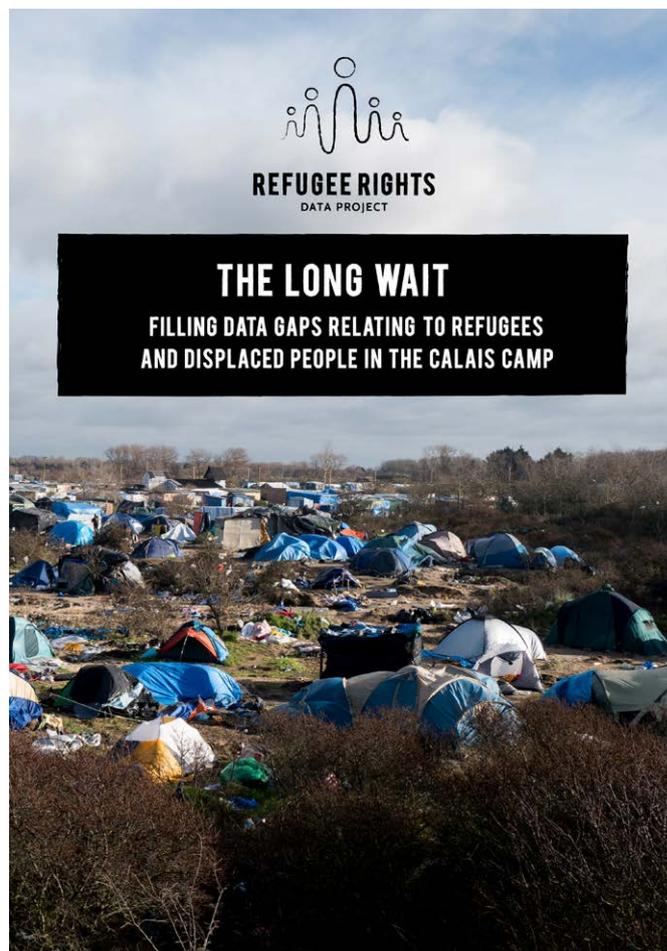
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marta Welander', written over a background of small, faint house icons.

Marta Welander
RRDP Director

1. DOCUMENTING THE LIVED REALITIES OF REFUGEES IN EUROPE

**3052 REFUGEE VOICES FROM
MORE THAN 20 COUNTRIES**

Within just one year, RRDP has emerged as a **leading civil society organisation** generating first-hand information from the frontline of Europe's refugee crisis. As of March 2017, we have published a total



of ten research reports, covering six locations across Europe.

Our research has taken us to Calais, Dunkirk, small camps in northern France, Paris, Berlin and mainland Greece.

TEN REPORTS

We have interviewed 3,052 refugees and displaced people coming from over 20 different countries.



BITE-SIZE, EASILY SHAREABLE INFORMATION

We have documented demographics, human rights infringements, and unmet humanitarian standards, but also positive aspects such as best practices for receiving refugees, and the aspirations of refugee communities.

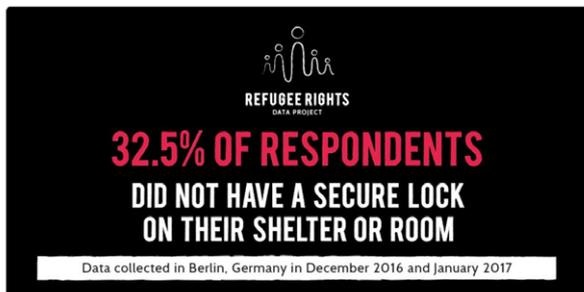
SIX LOCATIONS IN EUROPE

We have produced five infographics and countless social media images based on our data, to provide supporters and activists with bite-size, easily-shareable information.



Refugee Rights Data
@RefugeeData

A lack of privacy is an everyday problem for many #refugees - find out more in our new Germany report, out next Thurs #6days



RETWEETS
3

LIKES
3



10:20 pm - 10 Mar 2017



3



3

2. INFORMING PUBLIC OPINION

RRDP plays an important role in informing public opinion and generating a more nuanced image of refugees and displaced people seeking protection in Europe. Our first-hand information has the potential to encourage increased public solidarity towards refugees among groups that do not tend to engage on these matters.

The public campaigning and awareness aspect of our work aims to encourage positive change and takes a multitude of shapes and forms. To date, we have had a tangible impact on the following: Wide-ranging **media coverage** across major UK and international channels, including the

BBC, the Guardian, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Huffington Post, Reuters, BuzzFeed, EU Observer, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed TV, TIME, Vice News and Radio France Internationale. We have released a total of 12 press releases to 66 international media outlets.

Dissemination of research evidence via discussions at **prestigious academic institutions**, including the United Nations University in Barcelona, the European Inter-University Centre for

Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice, Warwick University in the UK, University College London (UCL), and University of Westminster and Queen Mary University in London.

VISIBILITY THROUGH PUBLIC CULTURAL EVENTS AND ART EXHIBITIONS

Reaching new audiences through large scale cultural events, such as exhibitions by The Migration Museum ('Call me by my name: Stories from the Calais Camp'), and the Barbican Centre ('Papers'). We produced a TEDx talk for University of the Arts London, spoke at WOW Women of the World festival 2017 at the Southbank Centre, participated in a takeover



of the Southbank Centre to mark the beginning of Refugee Week 2016, and saw several theatrical productions at London's VAULT Festival based on our data. We have also taken part in events organised by Counterpoints Arts, Stand-up Philosophy, and Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), to name but a few.

APPEARANCES AT RESPECTED ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

We have been bringing a level-headed voice to social media through proactive and far-reaching **online interactions**. In just over a year, we built a following of more than 2,600 followers on Facebook, and more than 1,600 on Twitter. In 2016 along we recorded:



FACEBOOK

- More than 613,000 impressions
- More than 8,600 forms of engagement (reactions, comments, shares)

TWITTER

- 683,623 impressions on Twitter
- 2,911 retweets
- 679 mentions by others
- 35,949 profile visits

We have also produced a number of BuzzFeed quizzes to engage new audiences in an informative and playful way.

3. CALLING FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY ACTION

Researching, documenting and measuring **human rights infringements** and **unmet humanitarian standards**, we aim to encourage firm and meaningful **policy action**.

Independent of any political ideology, religion or financial interest, we work to defend the rights and dignity of vulnerable groups of people in Europe. To this end, we assert pressure on those with the power to secure rights at the community,

PROVIDING PARTNERS WITH ADVOCACY TOOLS INCLUDING UNICEF, DOCTORS OF THE WORLD AND ASYLUM AID UK.

national and EU levels. Engaging with policy-makers is a core part of RRDP's strategy. We hope that our data will encourage these influencers to find a sustainable, humane solution to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Since inception, we have engaged cross-party politicians directly through face-to-face meetings and in writing in the UK parliament, the French senate and at EU level. Cross-party MPs in Britain, including the chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees,

have expressed their support for our work, and urged further engagement from their peers.

Our findings relating to children were published by the House of Lords EU Home Affairs Subcommittee as part of its inquiry into unaccompanied minors in Europe. Our research report relating to refugee women was endorsed by an Irish government minister, who called on representatives of all parties to take note of our recommendations.





assisted the Bar Human Rights Committee with its research by contributing our data, which they could use to **call for safeguarding of refugees' human rights**. Such reports from an objective, professional body can be incredibly powerful in helping to shape policy. Other organisations that have used our data in their work include UNICEF, Doctors of the World, and Asylum Aid UK.

We have **coordinated letter campaigns** around the so-called 'Dubs Amendment' to MPs and councillors, and encouraged supporters to send **postcards** to MPs regarding the situation of women in the Calais and

Dunkirk camps. We have also launched a number of **social media campaigns** highlighting the crucial need for policy action based on our data.

Another core aim of our work is to ensure our data is **used by partners in their advocacy** and campaigning work, as a sharp tool to strengthen their calls to action. To name a few examples, we

MASS LETTER WRITING AND POSTCARD CAMPAIGNS

We believe that our dual approach – advocating for high-level policy change while also acting as a catalyst for increased solidarity among the general public – has a strong potential to influence policy action that upholds the human rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe.

RESEARCH FINDINGS CITED IN AN INFLUENTIAL HOUSE OF LORDS INQUIRY

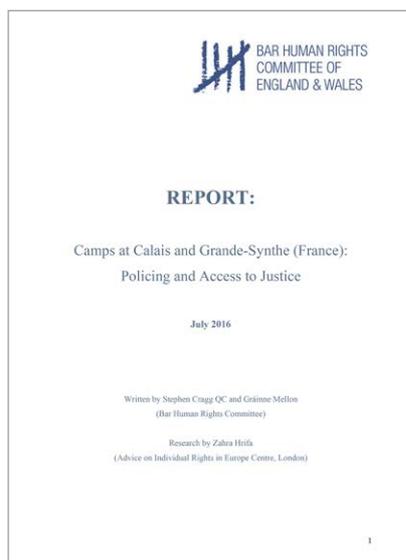
4. CONTRIBUTING TO STRENGTHENED CIVIL SOCIETY COLLABORATION

**DATA UTILISED BY ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING:
ASYLUM AID UK, UNICEF, MIGRANTS RIGHTS
NETWORK, BAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE,
DOCTORS OF THE WORLD AND LIBERTY**

RRDP was born out of a careful mapping exercise looking at the activities of existing civil society organisations and grassroots groups – we wanted to **make sure we were not reinventing the wheel** or duplicating efforts!

We continue to **work in conjunction with other organisations to ensure that we constantly add value**, both in the field and through our advocacy and campaigning efforts. We have **sought input from leading organisations** such as the Refugee Council and Women for Refugee Women when designing our research, and we **consistently share our data with partner organisations**, enabling other NGOs to strengthen their calls to action.

Thus far, the data we produced has been utilised by major organisations in the field, including Asylum Aid UK, UNICEF, Migrants Rights Network, Bar Human Rights Committee, Doctors of the World and Liberty. It has also been utilised by British grassroots groups in Calais for their programme design, and



**FILLING GAPS –
NOT REINVENTING THE WHEEL!**

PARTNERING WITH LEADING ORGANISATIONS IN THE FIELD

refugee community leaders in the camp to support their conversations with local authorities.

We consistently share our research among our vast networks, and have developed information sheets for partners to facilitate their work. We have participated in refugee response

coordination meetings hosted by Doctors without Borders UK, and have worked in partnership with a wide range of organisations such as Refugee Info Bus, Yarl's Wood Befrienders, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Women for Refugee Women, Help Refugees, and many more.



5. ENGAGING PEOPLE TO DEFEND REFUGEES' HUMAN RIGHTS

OVER 70 VOLUNTEERS
IN 19 COUNTRIES

To date, the Refugee Rights Data Project has welcomed **over 70 volunteers in 19 countries** to join our team, providing **opportunities to maximise their potential** in a friendly yet professional environment. We have included several **refugee peer researchers** as part of our team, creating opportunities for them to develop skills and build experiences. We provide **professional references** and encourage our volunteers to take **leadership roles** to make the most of their time with us.



We have brought **62 researchers** to the field, to experience first-hand the issues faced by refugees and displaced people in Europe, and to give an outlet for people's **passion to create change**.

ENGAGING PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS



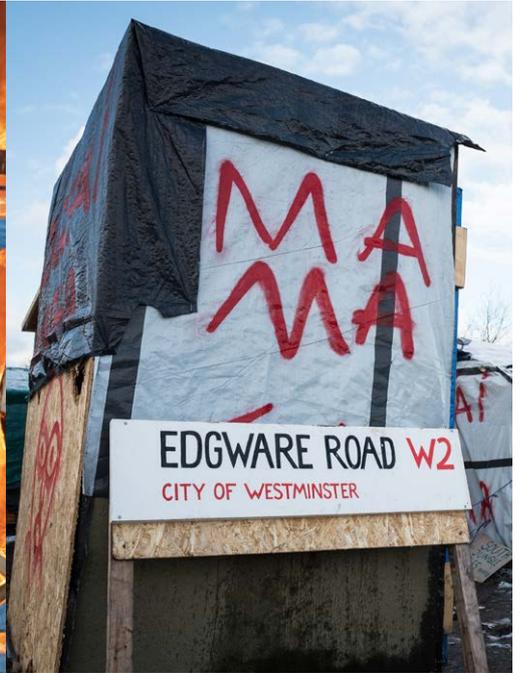
Through **cultural evenings** and musical performances, we have **engaged people**, fostered a friendly networking environment, and encouraged them to promote refugee rights

whilst simultaneously enjoying music, art, poetry and speeches by refugee representatives.

We operate with an **inclusive approach** that aims to **empower people** to take action for the human rights of refugees seeking protection in Europe.

INCLUSIVE APPROACH THAT ENCOURAGES LEADERSHIP





Photos: Rob Pinney & Claire Veale

BE PART OF OUR JOURNEY FOR CHANGE!

DONORS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

INTERESTED IN COLLABORATION, PLEASE CONTACT MARTA WELANDER:

Marta.Welander@RefugeeRights.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM, PLEASE CONTACT:

Info@RefugeeRights.org.uk

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

RELATED QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT NATALIE STANTON:

Media@RefugeeRights.org.uk

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- The RRDP team members without whom none of this would have been possible.
- Present and past volunteers, field researchers, desk researchers, interpreters, translators, photographers, and field coordinators.
- The RRDP board and advisory group.
- Individual donors and funders who have supported our work.
- Our many partners: Immigrant Council of Ireland, Denise Charlton & Associates, Help Refugees, Women for Refugee Women, Refugee Info Bus, Friedenskreis Syrien, Refugee Academy, Lighthouse Relief, University of Westminster, BTB Bildungszentrum GmbH, Goethe-Institut London, RefuComms, Drop in the Ocean.
- Professor Carole Rizkallah Alsharabati, and Jihad Nammour, St Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon
- Sponsors: Aldgate Press, Calverts, Stand Up Philosophy
- Me And You Create for graphic design:
www.meandyoucreate.com
hello@meandyoucreate.com
- And all the courageous women, children and men in displacement who took part in our studies.