



1/2

of the world's refugees



are **children**

### OUR 2017 IN NUMBERS

**3**

New routes opened

**over 1000**

Children travelled through  
safe and legal routes

**47**

Ground breaking cases  
completed and families  
reunited.

**187**

Legal professionals trained

# ITALY

Given the ongoing rate of arrivals, despite reductions following EU Libyan accords, opening safe and legal routes from Italy is of critical importance. Without Safe Passage's intervention, almost no children are able to access family reunion and yet initial estimates from Italy suggest as many as 50% of the 17,000 minors in shelters in Italy have family links across Europe. Rapid expansion of the resources of the Italian Dublin (European family reunion) Unit and the provisions of Italy's new guardianship model make the moment even more opportune. In addition:

- We have completed six successful transfers of Dublin (family reunion) eligible minors, three to the UK, one to Germany, two from Italy to Greece and one is leaving to France ('take charge request' positive in December 2017) . As far as we understand, this is roughly a third of the total successful transfers under Dublin from Italy, and possibly all transfers of unaccompanied minors.
- We have 23 live cases including one child pending transfer to France, another to the UK and two more to Germany; five of the live cases are Switzerland bound.
- We are working on family reunion claims to Italy of minors in Greece, France, Bulgaria and Libya.
- We are exploring use of private international law to expedite transfers, specifically Hague Convention provisions.
- The first training for protection actors and legal providers on Dublin's provisions in Italy is confirmed for the 23rd of January.

## REFUGEE BOYS VISIT A MUSEUM IN ROME





# GREECE

The results of combining support, direct casework, and structural change around family reunion (Dublin) have been extremely impactful. The first nine months of 2017 saw a 68% increase in 'take charge requests' (TCRs) submitted from Greece to the rest of Europe against the 2016 total. By comparison UK-bound TCRs grew by 857% to 711. In February/March our report detailing the diverse evidential standards observed by different EU states will be complete and ready for publication. In addition:

- We successfully completed our first two transfers from Greece to Italy.
- Safe Passage has trained 187 legal practitioners in best practice in Dublin III family reunion provisions and particularly UK evidential standards.
- We have a 100% success rate in securing UK bound Dublin transfers, securing over 20 transfers and supporting and monitoring over 30 more UK-bound cases over the course of the year. We currently have 14 live cases and are monitoring 24 more.
- As a result of UK lobbying, the UK has now published its inbound Dublin policy complete with evidential standards and funds transfers from Greece.
- In one case we successfully persuaded UK courts to set aside an inadequate Greek age assessment of an unaccompanied minor and provide him access to family reunification under Dublin, ensuring his transfer to the UK and preventing his potential return to Turkey.
- The first two Dubs transfers from Greece finally arrived in the UK in December. Safe Passage worked with partners in Greece and the UK to secure their transfers. They will hopefully help open the door for the remaining 250 children to be transferred through the Dubs route.

## AN ARTS WORKSHOP IN ATHENS



IN 2017 SAFE PASSAGE HELPED CHILDREN ACCESS THESE

# ROUTES



Many of the children we worked with were the first to travel through these new routes.

# FRANCE

UK authorities continue to intercept hundreds of reported minors every week at the border. We believe establishing centres capable of accommodating and swiftly assisting Dublin eligible minors seeking family reunion to the UK well away from Calais and open to referral from across France to be critical. We will organise bilateral parliamentary work to promote this outcome. We have also achieved the following:

- Around 40 child protection actors have been trained in successfully completing Dublin transfers
- We have focussed our casework capacity on:
  - New government regions to open a wider range of entry points to the Dublin system in France
  - Democratising the family reunification process in the Calais region
  - Complex cases including rejections where the intervention of a UK solicitor is required
- We have 20 live cases and have completed over 20 transfers / around 30 throughout the year.
- Following the demolition of the Calais jungle and the ad hoc processing for legal transfers set up by the Home Office all around France, we successfully litigated for several minors who were initially refused by the UK authorities.
- Litigation in French was conducted successfully for our clients to get access to asylum and to the family reunification process.
- France has created a new shelter for minors whose Dublin cases are followed up by us and staff trained by us in order for them to take on cases by themselves. We are advocating to expand this centre, its remit, and make it permanent.
- We are working in partnership with MSF, who opened a day centre for unaccompanied minors in the Paris region in order to follow up the cases of children who have family in the UK.
- Through driving an inquest into the death of Mohammed Hassan, Home Office staff operating interception and detention in France have now been trained in safeguarding, required to help refugees and migrants understand what will happen when they are transferred to the French authorities, and accredited detainee custody officers have been assigned to the facility.

## AN ARTS WORKSHOP IN FRANCE





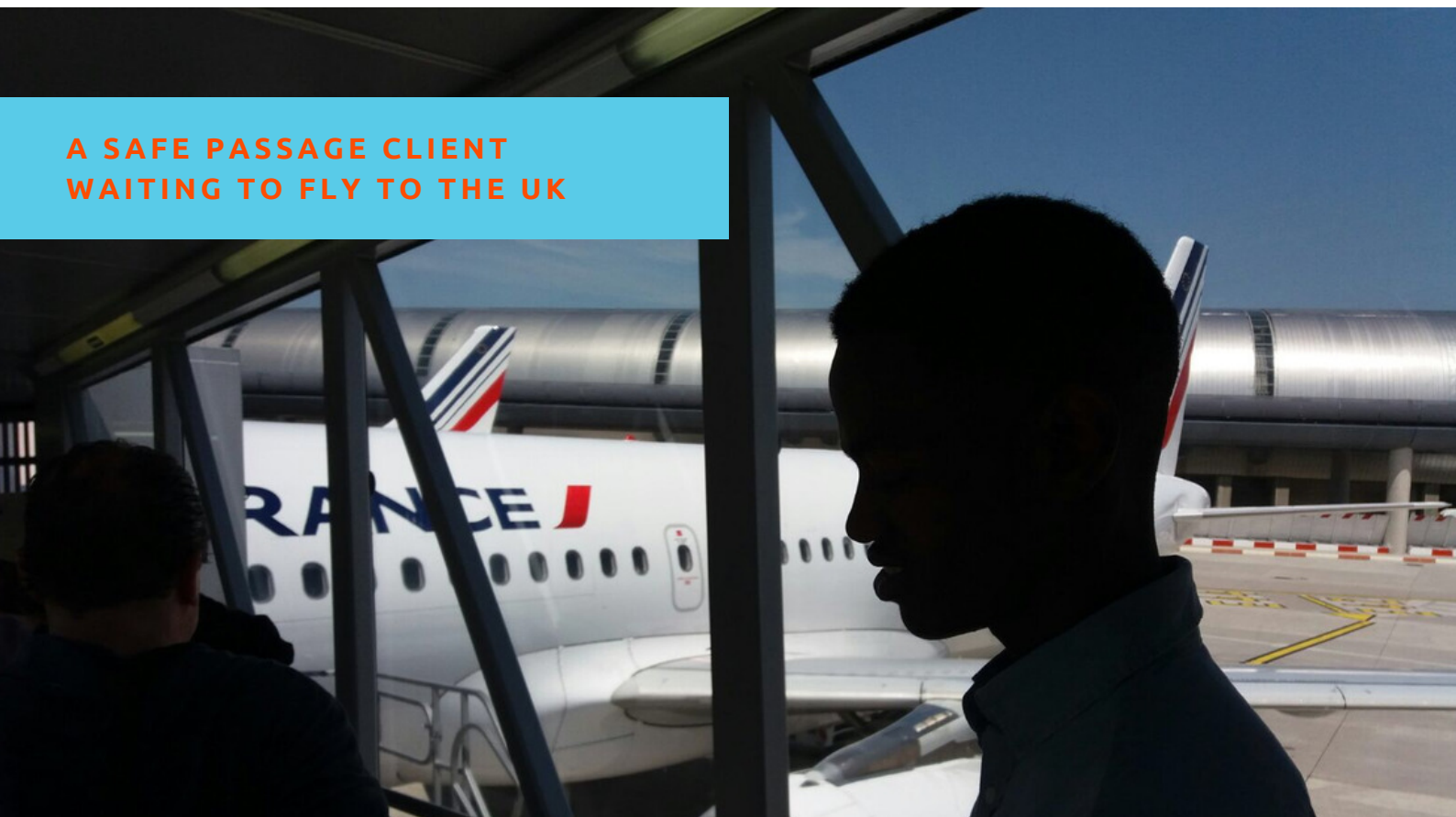
# EUROPEAN LEVEL

In Brussels we are building relationships, undertaking advocacy and influencing European policies on both asylum and migration as well as children on the move. Our work includes:

- Working with Members of the European Parliament to secure important amendments to the EU Parliament's Dublin IV negotiating position, such as treating unaccompanied and separated children's cases treated as urgent, appropriate notification to transfer, expanding the discretionary clause (lobbying Member States to accept responsibility on family, cultural, compassionate and humanitarian grounds) as well as expanding criteria on family definition (e.g. including cousins).
- Active advocacy towards European institutions on expanding safe and legal channels, including resettlement and other complimentary solutions – Dublin IV European Parliament's position includes an article allowing a degree of private sponsorship.
- Opposing the detention of children in any circumstances and participating in the European Forum on the Rights of the Child dedicated to deprivation of the liberty of migrating children.
- Advocacy towards the Council of Europe on child-friendly information for children in migration and contributing to writing a handbook giving child-friendly information
- Following-up on Dublin IV negotiations on the national levels.

The British Red Cross and Safe Passage Dublin enquiry line responded to over 250 enquiries from refugees all over Europe in 2017.

**A SAFE PASSAGE CLIENT  
WAITING TO FLY TO THE UK**



# UNITED KINGDOM

## ARRIVALS

We now have 156 people who have successfully transferred to the UK through our legal intervention

- Our arrivals programme is delivering outcomes for children through assigning asylum lawyers, community care lawyers, and community mentors. In our survey of minors arriving last autumn:
  - 90% had been assigned an immigration lawyer by Safe Passage
  - 90% had attended their Home Office screening interview, while none had attended their substantive asylum interview
  - 78% had been assigned a Community Mentor or Refugee Action caseworker
- We have recruited and trained 18 Community Mentors to support children when they arrive.
- We facilitated over 400 hours of volunteer interpretation and 200 hours of other volunteering to help children.

## ADVOCACY and LITIGATION

- Our legal partners have given over 800 hours of pro-bono legal support.
- Our legal team have litigated/represented in court on behalf of more than 20 children for them to access their right to join their family in the court
- Through an amendment to the Children and Social Work Bill we secured the publication of a new safeguarding strategy of unaccompanied minors including provision to train 1,000 foster carers in supporting unaccompanied minors.
- Our campaigning pressure led to the Government revising restrictive eligibility criteria so more vulnerable children can qualify for protection under the Dubs amendment
- Our sustained legal and political pressure led to the publication of the first Dublin policy by the Home Office.
- During the General Election our team in Maidenhead secured a personal commitment from the Prime Minister to continuing the established resettlement schemes.
- We organised 20 debates in Parliament on child refugees and MPs and Peers mentioned Safe Passage and Citizens UK 38 times when pressing Government Ministers to do more to help children access safe and legal routes.
- We secured over 180 episodes of media coverage in favour of safe and legal routes.
- Over 55,000 people signed our petitions calling on the government to make safe legal routes work.
- We were awarded the Social Justice Campaigner award at the Sheila McKechnie Awards.
- When the Government announced the capping of the Dubs scheme we organised an amendment to save the Dubs scheme in perpetuity and came within 12 votes of saving it.

# OUR PARTNERS

We are grateful to the following partners for their support in 2017:

Aziz Foundation  
Children in Need  
Comic Relief  
Evan Cornish Foundation  
Mercy Mission  
Oak Foundation  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Unbound Philanthropy  
UNHCR

We are also grateful to our legal partners at the following firms:

Ashurst  
Bhatt Murphy  
Doughty Street  
Elder rahimi  
GMIAU  
Islington Law  
Reed Smith  
Southwark Law Centre  
Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP  
Wilsons

We would also like to thank all of our donors and Friends of Safe Passage. Without them our work would not be possible.

MARKING ONE YEAR SINCE  
THE CALAIS DEMOLITION





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## SAFE PASSAGE FIRSTS IN 2017



### NEW ROUTE TO THE UK

Safe Passage reunited their first case of unaccompanied children in Syria with their uncle in the UK.



### TRANSFERS FROM GREECE

The first two Dubs transfers from Greece finally arrived in the UK in December.



### NEW ROUTE TO IRELAND

45 children have travelled through a new route to Ireland, inspired by the 'Dubs' route



### FIRST CHILD FROM ITALY

We reunited a 15 year old boy, who had become stuck in Italy, with his aunt in the UK.



### COMMITMENT FROM THE PM

During the General Election our team in Maidenhead secured the first public commitment from the Prime Minister to continuing the established refugee resettlement schemes.



### COMMUNITY MENTOR SCHEME LAUNCHED

Recognising the need to support our clients' first steps in the UK, we launched our Community Mentors scheme. We now have 18 Mentors across the UK.



### NEW ROUTE TO GERMANY

We reunited a boy stuck in Italy with his uncle in Germany using Dublin 3 regulations.