



 **SAFE**  **IMPACT**
PASSAGE **REPORT**
2018

OUR 2018 IN NUMBERS

7

New routes opened

314

Refugees supported

50

Children brought to safety

169

Professionals trained



In November we delivered a petition to Theresa May, asking her to build a legacy for the Kindertransport

Arrivals

- We brought 44 children and 3 vulnerable adults to safety in the UK in 2018, including 13 from France, 8 from Italy, and 20 from Greece and Cyprus, as well as assisting on 'outside the rules' cases from Sudan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, including successfully reuniting recently orphaned sisters - a newborn baby and a girl aged two - with their maternal aunt.
- Since 2015 Safe Passage has directly brought over 200 children and vulnerable adults to safety in the UK, and helped open routes through which over 1,700 children have travelled (this number is likely to be considerably higher as it does not include all Dublin III arrivals for 2018, for which Home Office figures have not yet been published). Thousands more should be able to reach safety through routes we have opened through our advocacy work.

Alex & Daniel's Story

After fleeing Eritrea in 2015, Daniel boarded an overcrowded boat from Libya in the hope of reaching Italy. The boat sank in the Mediterranean with 1,500 people on board and Daniel was one of just 27 survivors. He eventually made it on to France, and then the UK. Shortly after Daniel left Eritrea, his 15-year-old brother Alex attempted the same treacherous journey but could get no further than France. He wanted to be reunited with his brother but the Home Office refused. Alex ended up on the streets of Calais and was a victim of repeated police abuse. When Safe Passage first met Alex in 2017, he was homeless, vulnerable and without hope. We organised a space in a shelter and appealed the Home Office refusal with our partner lawyers Bhatt Murphy. We won the appeal and Alex was reunited with Daniel in the summer of 2018. The brothers now live in Leeds, where we continue to support them as they claim asylum for Alex and settle into their new lives together. Finally safe with his brother, Alex is learning English and hopes to continue his studies at university.



Advocacy & Campaigns

- Working in partnership with Lord Dubs and a cross-Party group of MPs, Safe Passage secured an amendment to the EU Withdrawal Bill to ensure that the Family Reunion route for child refugees from Europe to the UK remains open after Brexit. This will guarantee the right to family reunion for potentially thousands of unaccompanied children in Europe in future.
- After 2 years of campaigning by Safe Passage and partners, the UK and French governments committed to reducing the waiting time for family reunion to 25 days for children, and 30 days for adults. The UK also pledged £3.6m to improve the process. We are now working to hold both governments to account on this.
- We published groundbreaking research on the support received by Dublin III arrivals in the UK, showing that children arriving through this family reunion route often do not have access to the support they need to settle and establish full lives. In 2019 we will be using the findings to advocate for improved support for these children in partnership with other organisations.

Supporters attending the anti-Trump demonstration in July



- The Court of Appeal upheld our challenge against the Government's treatment of children after the demolition of the Calais camp, ruling that they had acted unlawfully when rejecting child refugees' family reunion cases. Safe Passage has used this ruling to successfully overturn a number of cases originally refused through the flawed process, however, tragically, the vast majority of the children this ruling applies have now gone missing. The ruling should hopefully improve the transparency of decision-making processes for children claiming asylum in future.
- Following pressure from our advocacy team, the government agreed to create a new status for children transferred under the Dubs scheme that guarantees them the right to residency and puts them on a pathway to indefinite leave to remain. Following evidence from our field teams and partners in country, the UK also agreed to drop the cut-off eligibility date for children hoping to come to the UK through the Dubs scheme, meaning many more children will now be eligible and the remaining 200+ places should soon be filled.



The Immigration Minister, Caroline Nokes MP, speaking at our Kindertransport Commemoration event

We launched the 'Our Turn' campaign, calling on Britain to mark the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport by helping a new generation of refugee children access safe and legal routes to protection today. As part of this:

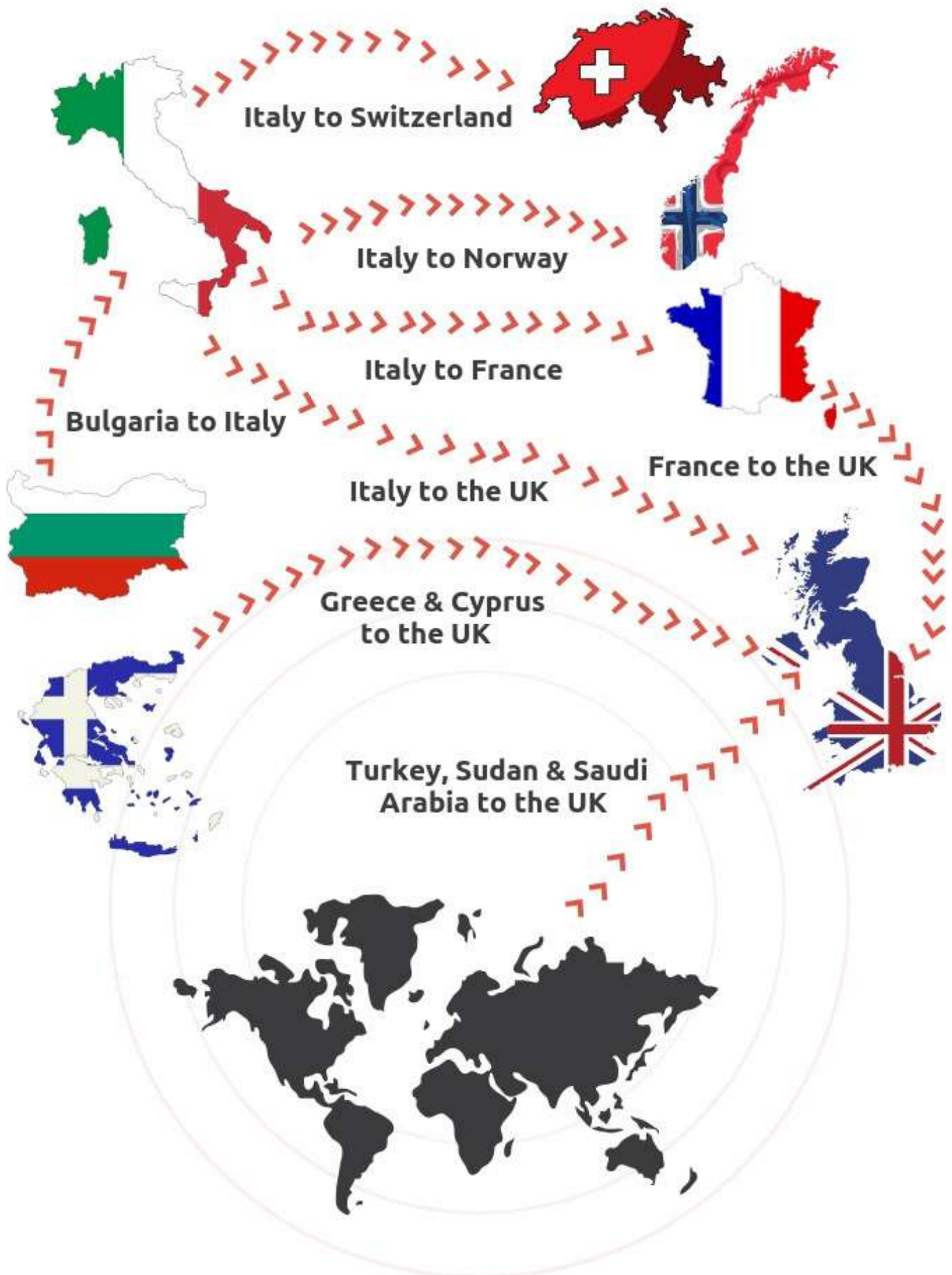
- We delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street calling for the Government to accept 10,000 child refugees over the next 10 years, signed by 43,000 people.
- The campaign mobilised thousands of people across the country to campaign for safe routes for child refugees leading to: 35 local campaigns, 16 cultural events, over 400 letters to MPs and over 850 new places for child refugees pledged by councils.
- We held a special Kindertransport commemoration event hosted by Lord Dubs and Barbara Winton, bringing together 1,000 people including Kindertransport survivors and their descendants, recently arrived refugees, faith leaders, politicians, major cultural figures and civil society organisations.



Kindertransport survivors delivered a letter to 10 Downing Street calling on the Government to accept more child refugees today

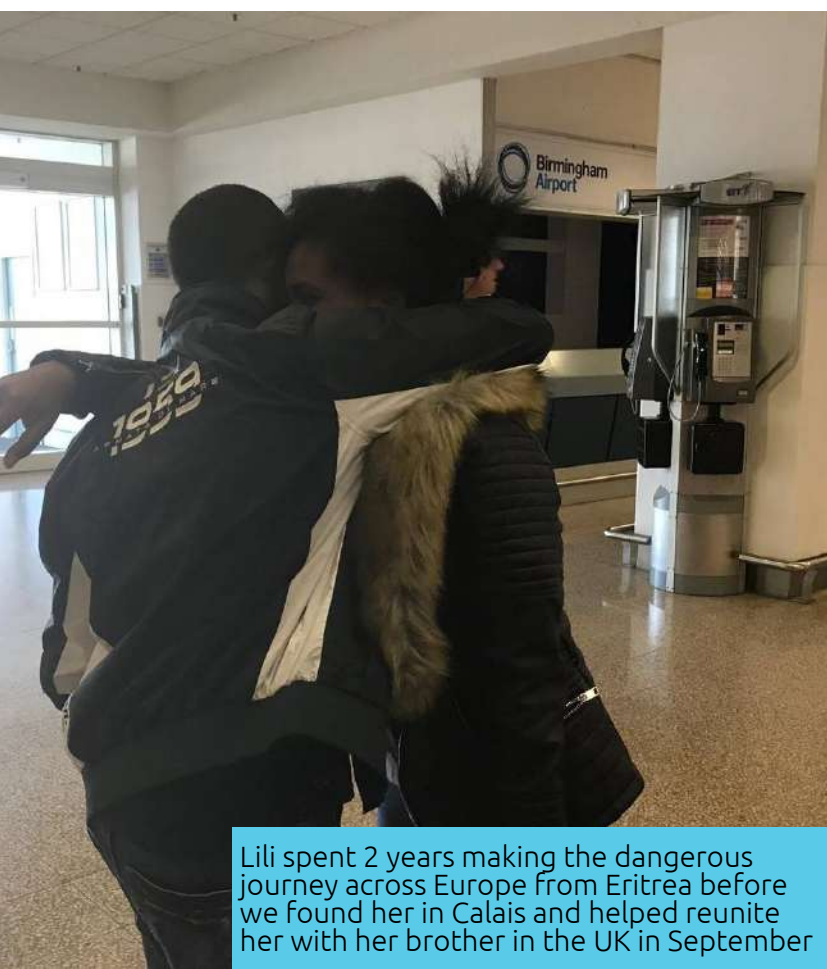
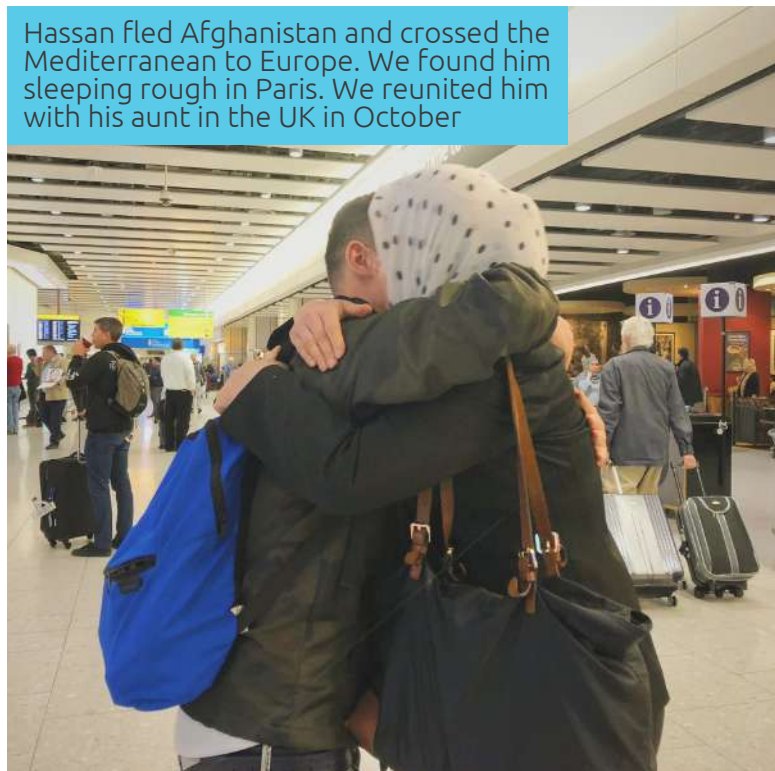
IN 2018 SAFE PASSAGE HELPED CHILD REFUGEES ACCESS THESE

ROUTES



- We supported 90 refugees and successfully brought 13 children to safety in the UK. We also worked with the Italy team to reunite an Eritrean boy in Italy with his sister in France, as well as supporting two unaccompanied minors' claims for asylum in France.
- We worked in partnership with Auberge Des Migrants to organise a petition ahead of the meeting between President Macron and Prime Minister Theresa May in January. It drew 15,000 signatures, successfully putting pressure on both governments to take action to end the deaths of children in Calais seeking to reach family members in the UK.

Hassan fled Afghanistan and crossed the Mediterranean to Europe. We found him sleeping rough in Paris. We reunited him with his aunt in the UK in October



Lili spent 2 years making the dangerous journey across Europe from Eritrea before we found her in Calais and helped reunite her with her brother in the UK in September

- Following the implementation of the Sandhurst treaty in January 2018, we worked with the Migrants' Law Project to challenge Home Office delays in the processing of claims of unaccompanied minors. In three cases of children stranded in France, the Home Office issued acceptance letters following the intervention and the children have since been transferred to the UK.
- We conducted an important piece of advocacy in partnership with MSF to challenge the lack of access to asylum for unaccompanied minors in France, in particular the policy which excludes minors who do not have legal representation from registering as asylum seekers.

FRANCE

We delivered trainings to a total of 78 professionals on access to asylum for unaccompanied minors, with a particular focus on Dublin III including:

- A training for social workers from Lille Council, co-delivered with UNHCR, attended by 22 professionals.
- A training for lawyers in Paris, delivered in partnership with the Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights, attended by 56 legal professionals.
- We provided information on family reunification to over 60 young people in a makeshift accommodation centre in Northern France until its closure at the end of May.



Eden had a traumatic journey from Eritrea. We found her in Calais where she was trying to jump on lorries every day to reach the UK. We helped her access her legal right to come and after 10 years apart, she and her brother are now finally together



This 14-year old was finally reunited with his brother in May, after having waited more than a year in Calais

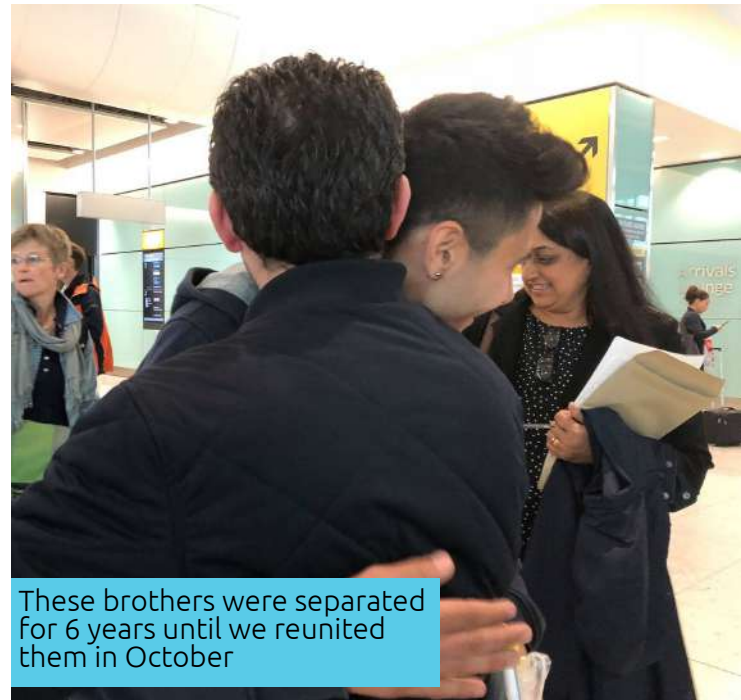
- We contributed to a report by Refugee Rights Europe documenting discrimination faced by refugees in France. The findings include nearly 45% of unaccompanied children reporting that they don't feel safe, as well as minors being refused appropriate and transparent age assessments, while many who had been deemed underage remain on the streets due to lack of accommodation.
- Our field teams conducted assessments in a region in France that we have not previously operated in – the port town of Caen and surrounding areas – and their findings in relation to the situation of unaccompanied minors will feed into our planning for 2019 and beyond.

GREECE

- We supported 128 refugees in Greece and Cyprus and successfully brought 17 children and 3 vulnerable adults to safety in the UK.

We trained a total of 91 lawyers and social workers including:

- Two workshops on family reunification under Dublin III for asylum seekers with family members in Germany in collaboration with Refugee Law Clinics Abroad, attended by 72 lawyers and social workers from Greek NGOs.
- A training in collaboration with social workers from Hammersmith and Fulham Council on the Dubs assessment process, attended by 19 Greek social workers.



These brothers were separated for 6 years until we reunited them in October



Lord Dubs visited Greece in July where there are thousands of unaccompanied minors living on the streets or in squalid conditions in camps

- Our ground-breaking research conducted with Greek shelter provider Praksis has helped identify systemic, procedural and practical barriers to children accessing family reunion from Greece. In 2019 we will use this research to launch a major advocacy strategy to improve access to family reunion.
- In the summer, we hosted Lord Alf Dubs and other Kindertransport survivors on a visit of refugee camps and projects in Athens and Lesvos. Lord Dubs and Safe Passage also held meetings with high level officials to discuss the situation in Greece and push for more to be done to support unaccompanied child refugees. We were accompanied by Channel 4 News who featured Safe Passage in a special series of programmes about the refugee crisis in Greece.



After a two-year journey from Eritrea that included being kidnapped by traffickers, this boy was reunited with finally his father in July

- We supported 90 refugees and successfully transferred 14 children to multiple European countries.
- We opened new routes between Italy and France, Switzerland and Norway, supporting some of the first transfers of unaccompanied minors from Italy to these countries.
- We worked on our first cases to Italy, opening a new route from Bulgaria to Italy that enabled a 15-year-old Afghan boy to join his sister.
- We launched an advice service for professionals, including lawyers, other NGOs and social services, sharing our expertise by providing guidance on specific aspects of the transfer process, benefitting around six cases per month.

- We worked in partnership with UNHCR to create a child-friendly video explaining the Dublin III family reunification process to unaccompanied children, which we will be disseminating in 2019.
- We collaborated with other international organisations and NGOs in non-EU countries to support the assessment process around child protection, including the best interests of the child and right to family reunion.
- We strengthened our relationship with UNHCR and other key stakeholders, contributing to the creation of a stronger protection system for unaccompanied minors in Italy.
- 25 out of 50 Dubs scheme spaces for the most vulnerable unaccompanied child refugees without family in the UK coming from Italy have been filled and the removal of the cut-off date for the scheme (see UK advocacy section) will help fill the remaining places.



AWARDS

Safe Passage received the following prizes in 2018:

- The Ockenden International Prize, rewarding successful on-the-ground projects for refugees and displaced people around the world. The judges called Safe Passage:

'an important initiative in a politically-resistant, post-Brexit referendum environment'

- A European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) award for our Kindertransport Legacy Campaign, for its work exploring issues of European identity and values in the hope of making the case for accepting more refugee children in the present. The award celebrates European identities, values and cultural heritage against growing isolationist voices and recent fear-based narratives.



MANAGEMENT

Beth Gardiner Smith was appointed CEO of Safe Passage and has been overseeing its transition to an independent charity. This is testament to the success of its work to date, as a project of Citizens UK, from which it is formally separating.

Eight board members with a wide range of experience have been recruited to oversee the new organisation. The board members are:

- Bishop Jonathan Clark, Chair of Trustees
- Patti Whaley, Treasurer
- Jason Rabinowitz
- Andrew Purkis
- Tim Stevens
- Marie de Somer
- Marta Welander
- Ali Torabi

OUR PARTNERS



We are grateful to the following partners for their support in 2018:

38 Degrees
Aziz Foundation
Barrow Cadbury Trust
Blue Thread
Children in Need
Comic Relief
EPIM
Evan Cornish Foundation
Families Together Programme, British Red Cross
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Lapid Trust
Mercy Mission
Ockenden International
Old Possum's Practical Trust
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Parmigan Trust
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Strategic Legal Fund
The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
The Hon M L Astors 1969 Charity
Trust for London
UNHCR

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

With thanks to Citizens UK for their support for Safe Passage.

We are also grateful to our legal partners:

Arsis
Ashurst
Bhatt Murphy
Birnberg Peirce
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
Doughty Street Chambers
Ecumenical Refugee Programme
Elder Rahimi
GMIAU
Greek Council for Refugees (GRC)
Hackney Community Law Centre
Kingsley Napley
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Islington Law Centre
Liverpool University Law Clinic
Praksis
Refugee Action
Reed Smith
Southwark Law Centre
The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
Wesley Gryk Solicitors
Wilsons

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