

The Alf Dubs Children's Fund

Action to transform the
lives of refugee children





Dear Friend,

More children than at any point for generations are fleeing for their lives. Over half of the 21 million refugees worldwide are children. Millions of these children grow up facing a life of extreme poverty and isolation in region, while many more undertake ever more dangerous journeys as they seek a place of sanctuary. In Europe over 90,000 unaccompanied and separated children arrived in Europe in 2015. Many more continue to arrive with record numbers dying en route.

The Calais 'Jungle' has served as the most visible reminder of the urgent needs of refugee children for most British communities. With it now destroyed we must not forget that millions of children need help and tens of thousands remain on our doorstep across Europe unable to access safe and legal routes to protection, whilst those arriving in the UK need support to rebuild their lives. This is why I am launching the Alf Dubs Children's Fund.

The Alf Dubs Children's Fund stands in the tradition of the Kindertransport, seeking to carry forward the legacy of efforts by the British public in 1938/9 when close to 10,000 children were brought to safety from Europe. We believe every single child fleeing persecution should have access to a safe and legal route to a place where they can lead a full and dignified life, and that their best interests are paramount.

In 2016 we have seen an outpouring of support across political divides, civil society and throughout the country to ensure we live up to the best of our traditions as a nation.

This Fund aims to build on and deepen that community-led effort to advance the rights of refugee children seeking sanctuary.

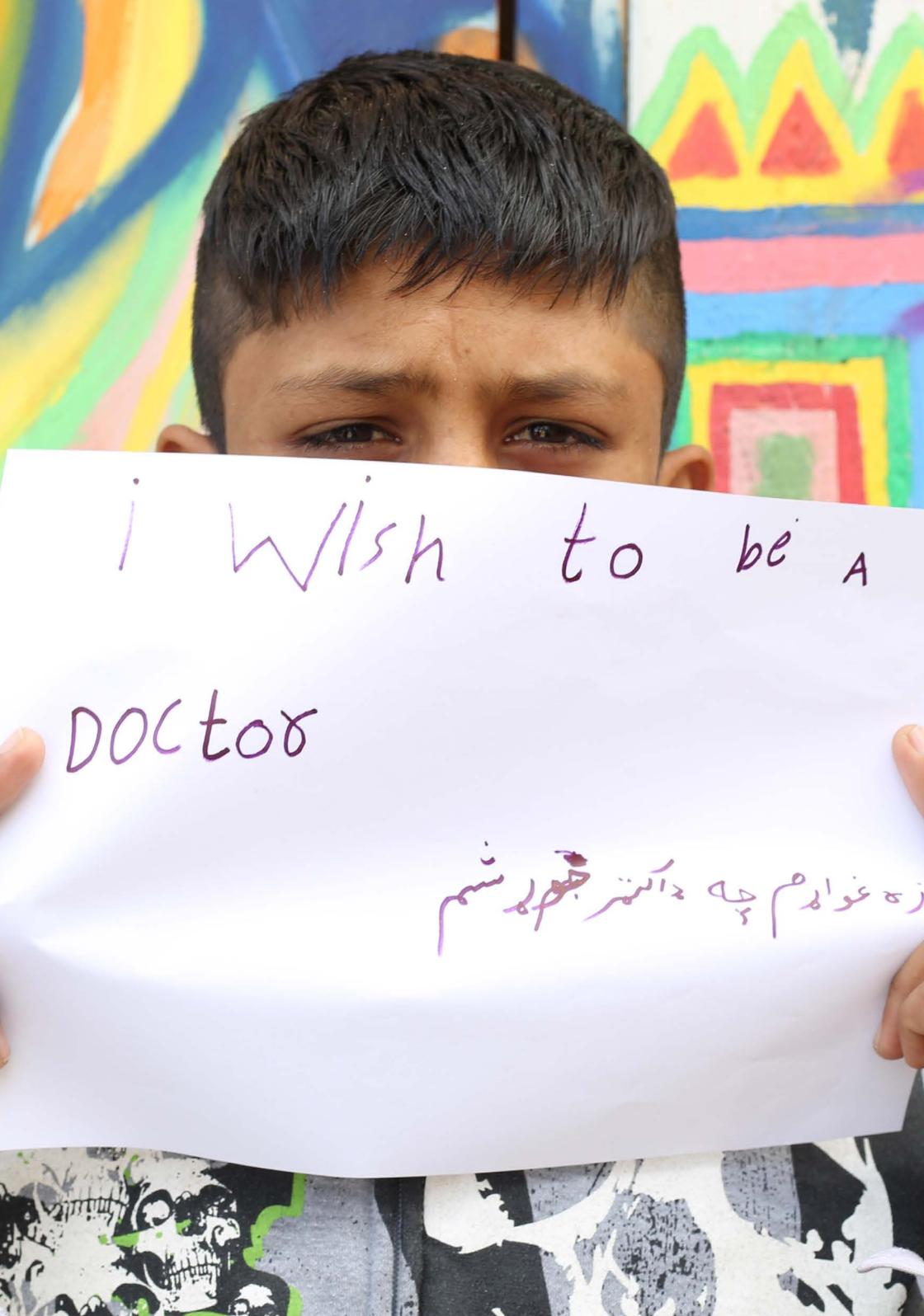
The support raised by this Fund will be used by Citizens UK, and where appropriate sub-granted to trusted partners, to open safe and legal routes to Britain and other destination countries. It will do this through the mix of community organising, strategic litigation, high level case work and parliamentary advocacy that has been the driver of so much of the change achieved this year. The Fund will also be used to ensure the basic needs of children are met both while their cases are progressed and during the first stages of their new lives here in Britain.

I owe my own life to the individuals and communities who offered sanctuary to child refugees in 1938/9. It is a privilege to now work with so many individuals, charities and grassroots groups who are working to protect and support the rights of child refugees and were so instrumental to securing the new legal route to sanctuary for children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Citizens UK, and their Safe Passage project has been at the heart of this work over the last year, breaking new ground in protection and legal advocacy for children, and I am proud to be working in partnership with them to create this Fund. My hope is that the support it brings will build on the achievements of this last year and seed initiatives through which we will transform the lives of today's child refugees.

*Yours,
Alf Dubs*





What is the Alf Dubs Children's Fund?

The Fund will be used in a number of ways to benefit child refugees:

- To help Citizens UK's Safe Passage project to open safe and legal routes to Britain and other destination countries for children stuck in France, Greece, Italy and beyond. It will do this through the mix of community organising, strategic litigation, high level case work and parliamentary advocacy.
- To ensure the basic needs of refugee children are met while their cases are progressed.
- To support children during the first stages of their new lives here in Britain and build the capacity of communities to welcome and support their integration.

Why has Lord Dubs chosen Citizens UK to administer this Fund?

Citizens UK and its ground-breaking Safe Passage programme works to open up safe and legal routes to protection. Before the intervention of Safe Passage no children had been reunited legally with their families from Calais through the Dublin III route. That figure now stands at almost 400.

Citizens UK will act as the home to this new Fund, channelling money raised into work to open safe and legal routes to protection and help children access key services and support to integrate into communities, working with trusted partners where appropriate.

What have Citizens UK and the Safe Passage programme achieved so far?

- Because of our work the first children from the Calais jungle were successfully reunited with family in the UK in January 2016 - three children and one dependent older brother from Syria. This was followed by tens more and then hundreds more as we worked to encourage the Government to operationalise Dublin 3. The total number of children now with their families in the UK is over 400
- We lobbied for the Dubs Amendment to the Immigration Bill. Once the Bill was passed, we worked hard to ensure that the first children who were transferred were those stuck in Calais. We presented the government with a list of over 200 children in Calais who should qualify. Over 100 are now in the UK.

Our work has been recognised with the **'2016 European Citizens Prize'** from the European Parliament and the **Jo Cox "More in Common" award** at the Liberty Human Rights Awards.

How is the Fund linked to the Kindertransport survivors?

Lord Dubs is a child of the Kindertransport himself. Many Kindertransport survivors have been moved by the plight of children in Calais and have stepped forward to help build a welcoming and fair Britain, in the tradition of the Kindertransport.

To learn more about
the **Alf Dubs Children's Fund**,
contact: info@safepassage.org.uk



Safe Passage
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Safe Passage UK exists to help unaccompanied child refugees and vulnerable adults in Europe find safe, legal routes to the UK. Safe Passage is a project of Citizens UK.

Citizens UK
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Citizens UK organises communities to act together for power, social justice and the common good, winning victories that change lives and transform communities.

