

SAFE PASSAGE TIMELINE

- **September 2015** – A small group of lawyers, community organisers and faith leaders travelled to Calais, one of many groups making the short journey trying to help.
- Unlike others who went carrying aid by the ton, they went with a simple question - why were thousands of refugees risking their lives trying to survive in the 'Jungle' and make the crossing to Britain?
- They did not expect that from hundreds of children they would hear such a simple and compelling reason – that they had family in the UK they were trying desperately to reach.
- On their return, the group sought top legal advice on the situation of those minors and learned that many of them had a legal right to family reunion under Dublin III.
- **October 2015** – Safe Passage was formed, a partnership between lawyers (Islington Law Centre, Bhatt Murphy solicitors and Doughty Street Chambers), community organisers and faith leaders, determined to find a legal and safe way to help children reunite with their families.
- **November 2015** – Trained volunteers travelled to the 'Calais Jungle' and screen over 250 cases of refugees with potential legal claims to asylum in the UK.
- **January 2016** – Safe Passage won a landmark legal ruling at the Royal Courts of Justice, opening up a legal route for family reunification for children in Calais. Three children and one vulnerable adult arrived safely in the UK days later.
- **February 2016** – The first Safe Passage clients from Greece arrived in the UK.
- **March 2016** – For the first time, thanks to Safe Passage, unaccompanied minors who had previously been stuck in the 'Calais Jungle' travelled safely and legally to the UK to be with their families through European laws on family reunification.
- **May 2016** – Safe Passage works with Lord Dubs and Parliamentarians in the UK to push through the 'Dubs' scheme for vulnerable unaccompanied child refugees without family elsewhere in Europe.
- **July 2016** – Despite Safe Passage's work in Calais, the legal process still takes months, meaning that by July only 40 children from Calais have been reunited with their families in the UK. Safe Passage appeals to the

government to speed up the process. Another child dies whilst trying to reach their family in Britain.

- Safe Passage wins the 2016 European Citizens' Prize.
- **September 2016** – Safe Passage presented the Home Office with the redacted details of 387 children in Calais who have a legal right to come to the UK to claim asylum under European laws on family reunification and under the terms of the Dubs amendment.
- Safe Passage celebrates the arrival of the 50th child brought over safely and legally from Calais.
- **October 2016** – The demolition of the Calais camp saw the UK transfer 900 unaccompanied children through an expedited process. Safe Passage were in Calais to oversee the process and safeguard the unaccompanied children.
- Safe Passage is awarded Liberty's 'More in Common' Award.
- **November 2016** – Safe Passage starts to work in Italy
- **December 2016** – Safe Passage is named The Guardian 'Charity of the Year'
- **January 2017** – The first Safe Passage client from Italy arrived in the UK to be reunited with his aunt – one of the first children ever to be transferred under Dublin III to the UK
- **February 2017** – The UK Government announces it will be capping and closing the Dubs scheme at just 480 places. Safe Passage organised a vote in Parliament but the Government narrowly wins.
- **March 2017** – Safe Passage is given the Social Justice Campaigner award at the [Sheila McKechnie Awards](#).
- **April 2017** – Hundreds of refugees left homeless when the Dunkirk camp in northern France is burnt to the ground. Safe Passage presents a list of 100 names of unaccompanied children present in the camp to the UK and French authorities.
- **June 2017** – Safe Passage launches a Judicial Review against the Home Office arguing the process used to assess children eligible for transfer to the UK after the Calais camp was demolished was unlawful.
- **October 2017** – After an independent process, the Trustees of Citizens UK agree that Safe Passage should separate from Citizens UK and become an independent charity.
- **December 2017** – After a long battle Safe Passage assists the first child to transfer under the Dubs scheme from Greece.
- **January 2018** – Founding members of the Safe Passage Shadow Board are appointed.
- **February 2018** – Safe Passage transfers first children from Italy to Switzerland.

- **March 2018** – Safe Passage wins the 2018 [Ockenden International Prize](#), which recognises innovative work in the field of refugees. The judges said: “It is an important initiative in a politically-resistant, post-Brexit referendum environment”. A ‘just do it’ attitude, using legal means, practical advocacy and mentorship to unite child refugees with their families in Europe and help with resettlement was also highlighted.
- **June 2018** – Safe Passage ensures a safe and legal route for unaccompanied children in Europe looking to reunite with family members in the UK will remain open after Brexit.
- **July 2018** – Safe Passage International is a company limited by guarantee, with teams located in five different European countries assisting children and adults to access safe and legal routes from the UK to Switzerland, Germany to Sweden.