



Raising money for The Alf Dubs Children's Fund

Alf Dubs arrived in Britain on a train from Prague in 1938 when he was just six years old. He was one of the 10,000 children rescued by the Kindertransport in the two years before the outbreak of World War II. Now a member of the House of Lords and life-long advocate for refugees, Lord Alf Dubs is leading efforts to help a new generation of unaccompanied child refugees in Europe to access safe and legal routes to protection and settle in the UK. The Alf Dubs Children's Fund is an appeal set up by Lord Dubs with the support of Safe Passage. The fund seeks to carry forward the legacy of the Kindertransport for a new generation of child refugees today.



What was the Kindertransport?

The Kindertransport was a mass rescue effort driven by local communities, families, faith institutions and individuals who worked together to identify children, secure transportation and bring children to safety. Between 1938 and 1939, 10,000 children, most of whom were Jewish, were successfully rescued and brought to Britain as a result.

What is its significance now?

2018 marks 80 years since British communities took in 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe. Never has this history felt more relevant: half of the 1.2 million people in need of urgent resettlement worldwide are children, yet only 10% of the places needed are pledged. Since 2015, refugee children have continued to arrive in Europe in large numbers only to become stuck in makeshift camps, their lives on hold, or risk dangerous journeys where they're subject to exploitation and abuse. 80 years on, refugee children still need safe passage.

Then and now: stories of child refugees

Ben Abeles, 92, was a teenager in Nazi-occupied Prague when he was sent by his parents on the Kindertransport in 1939. His parents and older sister were later killed in the Holocaust. Earlier this year, as part of the Kindertransport legacy campaign, Ben joined four other Kindertransport survivors to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister asking her to provide sanctuary for child refugees today.

I still remember my father walking me around the platform in Prague and lecturing me on how I should be honest and work hard and clean my teeth and all this kind of stuff. But my mind was already on the train. I remember my mother when the train was pulling out and she was biting her lip in order to suppress her tears. That has been haunting me. I felt this was similar to what I was doing now. I was going to Downing Street and pleading for a child. They are just children. They are not responsible for what country they come from. I want them to have this opportunity.

Ahmed* was one of the first children Safe Passage helped to transfer to the UK. Just 14 years old when he left Afghanistan, he was finally reunited with his sister and her husband in London in April 2016, two years after he first left. He is now studying and, with Safe Passage's help, is currently undertaking two days a week of work experience with a prominent MP and advocates for other child refugees like him.

I had to leave Afghanistan because the situation was dangerous mostly due to the Taliban. I travelled for 10 months, most of it with no close friends or family with me. From Afghanistan, I walked to Iran and then onto Turkey. The route through Turkey was very difficult. I remember vividly the moment when we arrived at the Turkish seafont and my group was handed over to the smugglers who would be taking us across to Greece. I remember spending time in a camp in Austria. After feeling very lonely and struggling to get by in Austria, I decided it was worth trying to get to my sister in the UK.

I got to Calais where my experience, especially with the police, became much more brutal. The tent I slept in was in very poor condition and would often collapse due to the wind. I remember the police throwing tear gas into the camp, as well as pepper spraying me in the face. After getting caught by the police once, they beat me so hard that I struggled to walk for a week afterwards.

After several months in the camp, I eventually met with a Safe Passage field staff member who told me I could be transferred legally to the UK. Safe Passage was the only organisation who told me of a legal route to the UK. I only first started to believe it was possible when I met with a UK lawyer. But even after my request to be transferred to the UK was secured, I still didn't trust it would happen. I even felt scared going through security at the train station and kept thinking someone would stop me.

*Ahmed's name has been changed to protect his identity

What can I do to help?

You can make a donation to the Alf Dubs Children's Fund to ensure today's refugee children can access safe and legal routes to protection. There are also plenty of ways you can raise money to support our work and continue the legacy of the Kindertransport. Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

Sponsored walk/cycle/run

In the spirit of the Kindertransport and in solidarity with the often long and dangerous journeys the children we support have to make to reach safety, why not make your own sponsored journey and raise money for refugee children in the process. You could follow part of one of the [Kindertransport routes](#), or the route of current refugees between Paris/Calais and London.

Don't have time to make your own journey? Why not donate the cost of your journey to work instead.

Sleep out

Organise a sponsored sleep out in solidarity with refugee children who have to sleep in makeshift tents or on the streets, often in freezing and unsafe conditions. You could use your school, community centre or place of worship to host the event.

Dinner Party

Host a dinner party, cooking recipes brought to the UK by migrants and refugees ([download this pack for inspiration and ideas](#)) and get people to donate what they would have paid for a lunch or dinner out.

Film night

Put on a film and popcorn night at the same time as learning about the Kindertransport by showing a film such as [Into the Arms of Strangers](#). Charge a small amount to attend and/or collect donations on the night.

Ruby is the granddaughter of a Kindertransport survivor and a student at Camden School for Girls, where she is involved in campaigning and fundraising for Safe Passage. She has organised a film night at the school to raise money for refugees.

My Grandpa came to England on the Kindertransport in the August of 1939 when he was 4 years old. He was taken in by a foster couple in Surrey and lived there until he was 13. He lived 11 years of his life before he knew he had brothers, before he knew he was a refugee, before seeing a picture of his biological parents. My grandpa had grown up not knowing anything about them after having been separated from them on the journey over to the UK, but he was lucky enough to have found a home with a couple that cared for him and looked after him as their own. He would have died if this country hadn't taken those children in. It seems incredible to me that 10,000 children were saved by the UK in a time when 25% of urban housing was destroyed by bombing, thousands were being killed every day and the whole country was rationing their food. It also seems incredible to me that after being the 5th richest country in the world, as of 2015, we have managed to bring less than one tenth of that figure to the UK.

So, what does the Kindertransport legacy mean to me? It means helping the people that are discriminated against when they haven't even had a chance to defend themselves, it means giving the opportunity of making our world a better place to anyone that thinks they can and it means simply doing what is right.



How will you use the funds raised?

- To help open safe and legal routes to sanctuary for unaccompanied children at risk in countries across Europe and beyond
- To ensure the basic needs of refugee children are met while their cases are progressed
- To support children who have arrived in Britain through their first steps to rebuilding their lives
- To build the capacity of communities to welcome and support their integration

The money you raise really will help us to make sure more unaccompanied child refugees can access safe and legal routes to sanctuary and settle in to their new lives.

How to donate

There are several ways to send the money you have raised, or to make your own donation:

Donate online

You can pay the money you have raised into a bank account then make a donation [online](#) via our website. If this is a personal donation the website will process your Gift Aid too.

Create a fundraising page

The easiest way to collect donations is by creating a [Just Giving](#) online account and setting up a fundraising page linked to the [Alf Dubs Children's Fund](#).

Donate by post

You can donate by sending a cheque made payable to Safe Passage to the address below. Please include your name, email and phone number so we can track the donation and write back to say thank you. Post to: Safe Passage, 136 Cavell Street, Whitechapel, London, E1 2JA

Donate by bank transfer

Bank: Barclays
Account Name: Safe Passage International
Sort code: 20-69-15
Account No: 70071722

International Payments:

SWIFTBIC Code: BARCGB22 or BUKBGB22
IBAN No: GB35BARC20691570071722 or GB44BUKB20691570071722

Please send us details of your donation and whether you would like an acknowledgement by emailing fundraising@safepassage.org.uk

Collecting donations

If you are collecting money at an event, we ask that you ensure collections are received through a sealed container. This helps to ensure fundraising best practice. We can send you a collection bucket for donations, please contact us at fundraising@safepassage.org.uk if you need one.



Remember - Gift Aid it!

Are you a UK Tax Payer?

If you are, your donation will make an even greater difference. It won't cost you anything, and means an extra 25% comes back to the charity. For example, a donation of £10 would turn into £12.50. If you are donating online, there is a tick box confirming you are a UK tax payer – it's that simple!

If you are donating by post, please include a covering letter with the following declaration:
"I confirm that I am a UK Tax Payer and I would like you to gift aid my donation."

If you have any questions or would like any further information about fundraising, please get in touch by e-mailing fundraising@safepassage.org.uk.