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Help Refugees: Northern France Fund, May 2019

Current Situation in Northern France

At present Help Refugees work in partnership with, and support financially, seven organisations working from a warehouse in Northern France. From this warehouse we provide with our partners material aid (NFI), hot food, firewood, child protection services, legal information, wifi, phone charging, specialist provision for women and children and education projects to the 1000 displaced people living between Calais and Grande-Synthe today.

Help Refugees are committed to supporting displaced people in Northern France. Our work began here in Calais in 2015 and has evolved over the last four years to be adaptive to the ever-changing environment, supporting thousands of displaced people with essential humanitarian support. Given the changing needs of the communities we support and organisational changes within our operational partners, we are changing our model of work to adapt to the current context.

One of our main strengths is drawing in financial resource, supporting human resources and coordination of multiple partner groups. Elsewhere in Europe and the Middle East we work as a funder and facilitator of grassroots groups. We recognise the different context in Northern France and have been reflecting on the space we fill with our presence and how we can support and create space for others.

Following the end of the current lease of the shared warehouse in August 2019, Help Refugees will not be seeking out or establishing a new shared space. We will also be looking to pass on the capacity of some of our roles connected to that space (such as NFI and wood distribution).

We'd like to support these activities to take place through local organisations by resourcing them (funding) and providing them with support to grow. We hope this is also a really good opportunity for us all to think about the changing needs and circumstances here in Calais and the collective strategies we should be taking.

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The Grant Funding Process

Help Refugees is opening up a call for grant proposals for work in Northern France. We are accepting proposals from:

- Existing organisations that are operating from the Calais warehouse
- All other organisations delivering work in this sector, specifically to meet the needs of displaced communities in Northern France
- Groups of individuals wishing to form associations or groups to meet these needs. This is a change to put forward plans and activities for growth.
- Existing partner organisations of Help Refugees who are currently not working in Northern France who wish to set up operations to meet need in Calais or Grande-Synthe.

Our priorities for funding in Northern France are:

- The provision of material aid (essential and dignity centric clothing distribution, tents, sleeping bags, shoes etc)
- Firewood distribution
- Psychosocial support, legal advocacy, child protection and safeguarding support to unaccompanied minors
- Material aid and psychosocial support for women and families
- Monitoring, data collection and analysis of human rights violations

The focus of our funding for projects in Northern France will be to support homeless displaced people and applications supporting this vulnerable group will be our priority. Applications that are supporting people in full time accommodation may not be considered for this grant on that basis.

At present we will not accept funding applications for media and content creation projects, significant asset purchases (e.g. land), theatrical productions and film production. Funding is also not available for student expeditions, schools, councils, volunteer-tourism projects, academic studies, sponsored activities (e.g. walks, runs, challenges etc), fundraising initiatives, or event sponsorship. Similarly, events and parades will also not be considered.

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Finally, we cannot fund businesses or social enterprises.

We would like to take proposals supporting communities in both Calais AND Grande-Synthe, with the understanding that the needs of the people we support are different in each location.

Details of the Grant

- Our Northern France grants can be used to fund work across the humanitarian sector. We will not be able to fund any political activities (for clarification please contact us with the details below).
- We aim to support grassroots groups. Help Refugees does not, as a rule, fund large International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs). We exist to support and celebrate small teams of dedicated people.
- We will be available to provide support with the application process and have informal discussions with organisations prior to applying. We can support with strategy for building new projects, projected budgets and level of funding to apply for, as well as your suitability to apply. We cannot advise on whether you will be successful.
- We will be offering all organisations with independent support to think about how they adapt to these changes and the proposals they want to put forward to us – this can be through a specialist we recommend or by covering costs for you to work with someone you already know.
- We will be evaluating the applications based on our values of transparency, accountability, good practice (including safeguarding procedures), community-centred projects, proactive approach, and dignity, respect and humanity at the heart.

The current process for a grant is outlined below:

- Potential partner sends us a proposal and budget (by Friday 7th June 2019)
- HR review and have a discussion with potential partner with any questions we may have - HR approve (or don't approve)
- HR sends proposal to Prism for their approval - Prism approve - Prism write up a grant agreement form and HR write up an MOU
- HR email partner saying grant is approved with grant agreement form and MOU attached.

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- Partner reviews the MOU, and signs the MOU and grant agreement and sends back to HR
- HR sends first instalment of funds within 1 week
- Partner sends monthly reports, has regular check ins with HR as agreed in MOU

Timeline:

- Grant Proposals will open on 6th May and close on Friday 7th June (Midnight GMT).
- Applicants will be informed on the success of grants by Monday 1st July.
- We will respond to every applicant, but unfortunately are unable to provide detailed feedback on every proposal that is not accepted.
- If your application is shortlisted, we will 1) contact you to ask any immediate questions about the application and to let you know if we'll be contacting your referees; 2) arrange a meeting to discuss the project proposal in more detail. For operations not currently in Northern France we will arrange a visit to see work in person.

Completed grant proposals should be emailed to projects@helprefugees.org by Friday 7th June (Midnight BST).

If you require further information on the grant proposals please contact Josh Hallam and Maddy Allen, Field Managers for Northern France on calaismanagers@helprefugees.org.

Or alternatively contact Nico Stevens, Chief Operating Officer, Help Refugees on nico@helprefugees.org.

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