

Why Comics? Educational Charity brings contemporary humanitarian and social issues (such as racism, conflict, migration, trafficking and climate change) into the classroom through interactive literary comic books based on real-life testimony.

Our resources build empathy and enhance learning for 7-18-year-old students and teachers alike, alongside national-curriculum relevant lesson plans to support multiple subjects.

** Download our <u>Teaching Guidance Note</u> for a step-by-step guide to using our resources **









Meet Dana...

After Dana's husband was kidnapped, presumed killed, by ISIS she was forced to flee her home in Manbij, Syria with her two young children. This is her story.

Dana and her children began their jouney by making the long walk to Turkey. This was just the beginning. They paid thousands of dollars to smugglers to risk their lives to travel to Greece in a dingy. On arrival in Greece Dana and her children made a number of attempts to reach Vienna in Austria. They were arrested 7 times in Macedonia and each time they were sent straight back to Greece. They had faced abuse at the hands of both smugglers and police and had used almost all the money Dana had remaining.

Dana and her children eventually reached Serbia. We interviewed Dana in a refugee camp. They are waiting to be allowed through the border to Hungary, where they will continue their journey.

This story was commissioned by Care International UK





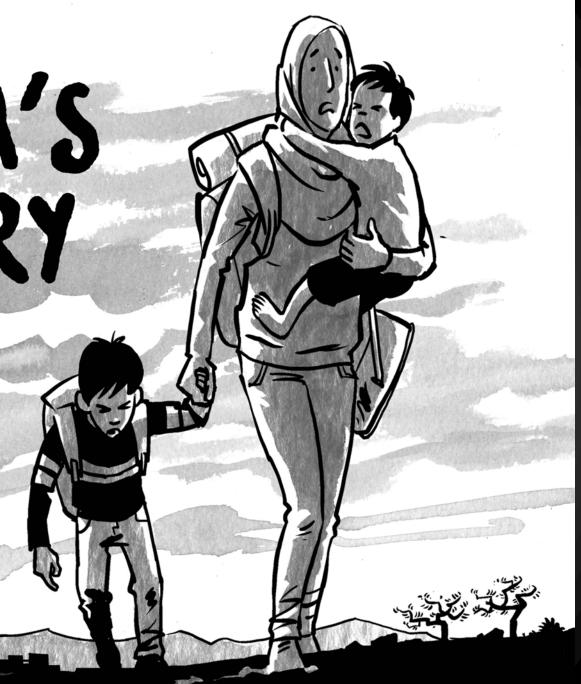
BRINGING CONTEMPORARY HUMANITARIAM AND SOCIAL ISSUE INTO THE CLASSROOM



Dana's Journey



DANA'S STORY



IN SYRIA YOU CAN DIE ANY DAY FROM A BOMB, BUT ON THIS JOURNEY YOU DIE EVERY DAY INSIDE. I WOULD TELL PEOPLE NOT TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE. I AM SO EXHAUSTED AND I AM AFRAID FOR MY CHILDREN'S FUTURE.



I'M DANA AND I'M FROM MANBIJ IN SYRIA. BEFORE THE WAR, WE WERE VERY COMFORTABLE AND HAPPY. I LIVED IN A BEAUTIFUL HOME WITH MY HUSBAND AND THRE CHILDREN. OUR HOME WAS LIKE HEAVEN.



WE HAD A GOOD LIFE - A
BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, MONEY,
GOOD JOBS AND SCHOOLING. I
WAS A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER
AND MY HUSBAND HAD WAS
SENIOR IN A GOOD COMPANY.



MUM CAN I DO SOME PAINTING AFTER SCHOOL? YES OF COURSE DARLING, AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK



WE WERE SO
OPTIMISTIC AFTER
THE REVOLUTION, WHEN OUR
YOUNGEST SON WAS BORN WE
NAMED HIM ABDULSALAM,
WHICH MEANS PEACE. IT FELT
LIKE A NEW START FOR SYRIA!

BUT THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE. EXTREMISTS CAME TO OUR AREA ABOUT ONE YEAR AFTER THE CONFLICT STARTED. THEY TOOK OVER EVERYTHING.



WOMEN WEREN'T ALLOWED TO WORK AND GIRLS WEREN'T ALLOWED TO GO TO SCHOOL. THE EXTREMISTS BANNED ALL LESSONS EXCEPT STUDY OF ISLAM.



ONCE I WAS BEATEN IN THE MARKET PLACE BECAUSE I LIFTED UP MY VEH FOR A SECOND



I WAS SO FRIGHTENED ...



THEN ONE DAY, MY HUSBAND WAS KIDNAPPED, PRESUMED MURDERED.



WE FOUND HIS ABANDONED CAR ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN AND HAD TO PRESUME THE WORST. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST. MY HUSBAND DIDN'T TAKE SIDES HE JUST TRIED TO KEEP US SAFE. IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE HE DISAPPEARED AND WE'VE HAD NO NEWS.



I BECAME VERY AFRAID FOR MY DAUGHTER BASMA'S SAFETY. SHE WAS ONLY 8 YEARS OLD AT THIS TIME AND UNDER CONSTANT HARASSMENT





PETRIFIED AND

HUDDLED TOGETHER.

TOWARDS WOMEN JUST KEPT INCREASING, I SENT BASMA TO

LIVE WITH MY SISTER IN VIENNA





I HAD HEARD THAT SMUGGLERS CHARGE A LOT.



EXTREMISTS CAUGHT US, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

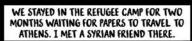
THERE ARE SO

WE WALKED 10 HOURS TO THE TURKISH BORDER. IT WAS A LONG, HARD, EXHAUSTING JOURNEY, BUT I KNEW THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.



WE WAITED FOR DARKNESS BEFORE WE CROSSED THE BORDER, AND THEN WALKED ANOTHER 5 HOURS INSIDE TURKEY. WE PAID SMUGGLERS TO TAKE US TO VIENNA.





I'M MANAL, MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN KILLED AND I'M TRYING TO JOIN MY DAUGHTER IN GERMANY.



WE DECIDED TO TRAVEL TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION.



THE SMUGGLERS TOOK US OVER THE MOUNTAINS TO MACEDONIA WE WEREN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO STOP TO USE THE BATHROOM.



THE FOREST TO ESCAPE.

WE HID IN THE FOREST FOR 4 DAYS WITH NO FOOD OR WATER. MY BAG WITH OUR MONEY AND ALL OUR PAPERS WAS LOST.





WE WERE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE 7 TIMES IN MACEDONIA AND SENT BACK TO GREECE. THEY DIDN'T TREAT ME OR MY SONS TOO BADLY BUT THE MEN WEREN'T SO LUCKY.



THE FINAL TIME WE WERE SENT BACK TO GREECE WAS WHEN WE REACHED THE SERBIAN BORDER. WE WERE PUT IN PRISON FOR 3 DAYS. THIS ALMOST BROKE OUR SPIRITS.



WHEN WE GOT TO KOSOVO, THE ALGERIAN SMUGGLER DEMANDED MORE MONEY! HE LOCKED US IN A HOUSE FOR TWO DAYS WITH NO FOOD OR WATER.



A FELLOW MUSLIM IS
TREATING US LIKE
THIS!

HE FINALLY RELEASED US WHEN
I PAID AN EXTRA 300 EUROSALMOST ALL MY REMAINING
MONEY.

SHIPL NOT





THERE'S HARDLY ANY MONEY LEFT! WHERE ARE WE GOING TO SLEEP?

> WE COULD BE ATTACKED OR ROBBED, OR WORSE...



FINALLY WE ARRIVED IN SERBIA. WE'VE BEEN GOING TO CARE'S CENTRE TO GET HOT FOOD. WE CAN WASH IN SAFETY AND HAVE HOT SHOWERS. THERE ARE PLAY ROOMS WHERE MY SONS CAN PLAY WITH TOYS AND OTHER CHILDREN.



NOW WE'RE ON THE LIST WAITING TO GET THROUGH TO HUNGARY BUT THEY'VE CLOSED THE BORDERS.

THEY'RE ONLY
ALLOWING 15-30 REFUGEES
THROUGH A DAY.

IT'S JUST ONE

HURDLE AFTER

AND MORE PEOPLE ARE ARRIVING HERE EVERYDAY!



I THOUGHT THE WEST KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN SYRIA?

MUM I'M FRIGHTENED!

I WAS TERRIFIED THAT HE WOULD

SELL MY SONS FOR THEIR ORGANS.

WE'D HEARD OF SMUGGLERS TAKING CHILDREN IF YOU DIDN'T

HAVE ENOUGH MONEY!

THAT WE ARE BEING RAPED AND BOMBED AND MURDERED, OUR HOMES DESTROYED, WITH NO CHANCE TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN...



WHY DID I LEAVE MY COUNTRY? WE HAVE NO DIGNITY, WE'RE NOT TREATED LIKE HUMAN BEINGS. AT LEAST THE PEOPLE IN SERBIA HAVE BEEN GOOD TO US. I CAN'T WAIT TO BE REUNITED WITH MY DAUGHTER IN VIENNA SHE'S WHAT KEEPS ME GOING. BASMA AND MY SONS GIVE ME COURAGE AND ADDITIONAL STRENGTH.

WE ARE ALL THE SAME, WE ALL WANT THE BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN.







Discussion Points

- What are your initial thoughts and feelings after reading Dana's Story?
- Why did Dana have to leave Syria?
- 3. What would you do if you found yourself in Dana's position?
- 4. What does 'asylum seeker' mean? What does 'refugee' mean?
- 5. How do you think Dana feels now?
- 6. What do you think it is like to leave your country, family and friends?
- 7. What could governments do to prevent stories like Dana's?
- 8. Has Dana's story effected the way you think about refugees and asylum seekers?
- 9. How does Dana's story compare to stories you have read in the media?
- 10. How are you different, and similar to Dana?
- 11. How can we help to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into our communities?





If you want to talk to someone about the issues you've read about in the comic, please use the links below

- War/Conflict
 Child Helpline International
- Migration and refugee issues
 <u>Doctors Without Borders</u>

 <u>Red Cross</u>
 <u>International Rescue Committee</u>
 <u>CARE International</u>
- Migrant Help UK

 General mental/amational h
- General mental/emotional health support <u>Young Minds</u>
 <u>Mind</u>
- * Don't forget to read our page about Staying Safe Online *



BRINGING CONTEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL ISSUES INTO THE CLASSROOM



We Need Your Feedback!



To date, <u>over 600 schools in 27 countries</u> have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about our <u>free interactive educational KS2-5 resources</u> and <u>accompanying national-curriculum suggested lesson plans</u>, co-designed with 7-18-year-old students and teachers. From September 2017, our materials will be disseminated to <u>over 25,000 schools worldwide</u>.

Please help us by filling out a short anonymous SurveyMonkey questionnaire after you have used our materials for our funders.

This helps ensure that our great resources remain free.



SOAS University of London

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Get in touch! We'd love to hear from you

