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ABOUT US:

Refugees Welcome Stockholm is an NGO founded in 2015. We are a politically and religiously independent body. Our purpose is for people on refuge who come to Stockholm to receive a dignified treatment.

Our work consists of:

- Advocacy work
- Activities for inclusion
- Emergency response work



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OUR HISTORY:

In 2015 when many refugees arrived to Stockholm a group of volunteers gathered to welcome them and assist with emergency necessities. At the Central station in Stockholm the volunteers met up with those who came. Transit housings opened up, transport and food was organized. Through that initiative Refugees Welcome Stockholm was founded. The pink vests bought in for the volunteers have been a signum for the organisation since.



INDEPENDENT BODY:

During 2015 and after on, many Refugees Welcome-initiatives were founded in Europe, around the world as well as in Sweden. As an organization we are an independant body, and do not belong to any form of central organisation. We operate in Stockholm but comment on national and international asylum law and practices.





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ADVOCACY WORK

ADVOCACY WORK

- Since 2015 we have seen a shift in the rhetorics of politicians, media and in the prolonging of many people in Sweden when talking about refugees.
- In 2015 our prime minister at that time held a famous speech stating "My Europe is not for building walls" - rather welcomes those fleeing war.
- Less than one year later we were faced with a new asylum law that further narrowed the possibility of receiving temporary protection or permanent citizenship in Sweden.
- The public opinion has shifted quite a bit during our time as an organisation as well. In 2020 59 percent stated that they did not want Sweden to take in as many refugees, which is quite a rise since 2015. However new studies indicate that 8 out of 10 advocate Sweden taking in people from Ukraine.



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ADVOCACY WORK

- In Refugees Welcome Stockholm we try to impact decision-makers when it comes to asylum law and practices. Our work is based on the human right to seek asylum and protection.
- As an organization we are therefore here for ALL refugees who arrive to Stockholm.
- In our advocacy work we try to focus on not only criticising but also being solution-oriented
- We've organized demonstrations such as week long sit down demonstrations for families being deported, we've sent in consultation responses on asylum laws in Sweden, we've commented on national migration politics in general and how it affects the people we meet in our activities as well as been a vocal voice for asylum rights.



HAYA

In my home country there was an active war but the daily life was okay. Here life is much more difficult. I have moved many times. When my latest asylum application was declined I had thoughts about suicide, but the people working at my housing forced their way in to my room and was able to stop me. Two of my friends have committed suicide. I thought I would get a better life here but that wasn't true.



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ACTIVITIES

LANGUAGE MEETING AND LEGAL ADVICE:

Regular activities every
Tuesday evening, 17:30–20:30

There people can go to:

Get legal advice in asylum cases

Receive help in contact with
governmental or municipal agencies

Attend Swedish lessons

Hang out in our language café

Have help with their resumés or homework

Let their kids have fun in the children's corner



CULTURAL SUNDAYS:

Every other Sunday from 13:00–16:00

There people can go to:

See dance/theatre/music performances

Dance

Partake in various workshops

Create in our creative language café

Just have fun



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PROGRAMMING COURSE:

Every Wednesday from 18:00–20:00.

We teach:

HTML, CSS and JavaScript to beginners

In Swedish and English

We hold a curriculum

Can hand out certificates

Working on internships



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NASIMA

I have gotten to know many people and received a lot of new friends. Everyone is so kind here. Now I've gotten to know people from Ukraine as well.



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SARA

I enjoy how Refugees Welcome Stockholm values people: everyone here holds equal value, it doesn't matter where you are from. Whenever I come here it's just like hanging out with my friends. I get so much energy from being here.



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EMERGENCY RESPONCE WORK



EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORK:

As an organization we were founded through our emergency response work in 2015. It has since been the core of the organization. We take pride in being a grass root organisation still, where our strength is in our amount of volunteers.

We've seen many people fleeing wars since 2015 when we started our work. In 2022 when our work once more has been to assist with emergency responses we've found other structures for organizing. We can see some advantages and some disadvantages now in comparison to 2015.



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORK

What we've done:

- Helped out with transportation
- Helped with temporary housing
- Help with clothes, kids toys and hygiene products
- Legal advice in asylum cases
- Provided therapy and the opportunity to talk to someone about what people are going through
- Were the first in place to meet up with people when they came by ferry boats
- Handed out information about about how to get in contact with authorities, information about healthcare and other organizations to turn to for various needs etcetera.



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COLLABORATIONS IN CIVIL SOCIETY

- We were lacking cooperation in-between organizations
 - Have seen a shift in regards to that
 - Collaboration with Nordic Ukrainian Forum for enterpreters
- We've had a great collaboration with a local initiative there as well as the border police
 - Collaboraty meetings with other organisations
 - The municipal agencies in Stockholm have been listening to us, as well as a few politicians
- Up until now haven't had a voice for quite some time

THANK YOU



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Social media-accounts

[@refugeeswelcomestockholm](https://www.instagram.com/refugeeswelcomestockholm)



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