

# Protect Refugee Children: Write to your local newspaper

Writing to your local newspaper is a great way of bringing the desperate plight of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the attention of your community, council and local MP.

It could be instrumental in persuading local councillors to sign up to Liberty and Help Refugees' **Protect Refugee Children** campaign, showing their support for the resettlement of asylum-seeking children and putting pressure on the Government to provide the financial support and resources needed so they can be properly cared for.

**To help you get your message across, here are some tips for writing to your local paper:**

- 1. Keep your letter concise** – most local papers won't have huge amounts of space for letters, so keep yours short! Around three paragraphs is ideal.
- 2. You can send your letter however you want** – typed or handwritten, posted or emailed. Check your local paper's letter page or website for contact details.
- 3. Include your name and address** – most papers won't publish unless these are provided. Remember to mark them not for publication if you'd rather they weren't printed!
- 4. Get across the key facts and keep it simple** - don't assume your audience knows all about the issues – use Liberty's **Protect Refugee Children** web page as a guide.
- 5. Make your letter personal to you or your local area** - consider including personal experience if it's appropriate, or maybe emphasise why the issue is important for your particular area.
- 6. Make your ask really, really clear!** In this case, ask your local councillors to sign up to Liberty and Help Refugees' statement supporting the Dubs scheme and urging central Government to provide local authorities with the necessary finances and resources to help us build these children a brighter, safer future.
- 7. Don't forget to tell them how to add their support** – by emailing [RefugeePledge@liberty-human-rights.org.uk](mailto:RefugeePledge@liberty-human-rights.org.uk).

**Key points you might want to include are:**

- Separated from their families, child refugees seeking sanctuary across Europe are facing routine exploitation and abuse. It's estimated that 10,000 have disappeared since registering in Europe – many into the hands of traffickers.
- Britain can be proud of the role it played in securing safety for 10,000 children fleeing Nazi persecution. Now we must rise to that challenge again.
- Our Government has committed to create a scheme proposed by Lord Dubs to bring refugee children stranded in Europe to safety in the UK.
- Consultation between local authorities and central government is under way – and the battle is on to ensure the Dubs scheme hands some of Europe's most vulnerable refugee children the lifeline they so desperately need.
- But huge question marks remain around how the essential regional infrastructure needed to properly look after these children will be funded.

**If you would like to write to your local newspaper and require any assistance, get in touch at [RefugeePledge@liberty-human-rights.org.uk](mailto:RefugeePledge@liberty-human-rights.org.uk)**

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