

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



**CASE STUDY: 'Stories of Refuge, Stories of Welcome' in Santa Sabina Dominican College, Dublin**

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## **Project Summary**

The project, 'Stories of Refuge, Stories of Welcome' (SRSW), complements Amnesty International's 'I Welcome' campaign. I Welcome focuses on raising awareness of refugee rights and how to take action. SRSW has two main impacts:

1. Empowerment of students and teachers to take concrete actions regarding refugee and migrant rights in Ireland; and
2. Increasing the agency of people seeking asylum and/or refugees by training them to become effective facilitators and contributors to Global Citizenship/Human Rights Education and youth activism.

The above results are achieved through a series of three workshops in schools in Munster, Connaught and Leinster. All SRSW activities are facilitated by people engaging with the asylum process in Ireland or with refugee status. Facilitators are trained through a series of train-the-trainers workshops hosted by experienced Global Citizenship/Human Rights Education and Youth Activism trainers.

Schools are supported and encouraged to host a final 'Welcome' event in each of the 3 areas, bringing students, teachers, facilitators and refugees together.

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## **CASE STUDY**

Question:

**Tell me how you first became involved with this project and what your involvement in the project was?**

Sara Bradshaw, a teacher from Santa [Sabina Dominican College](#):

"We have a strong focus on global citizen education and are part of Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools programme. We also have an equality club in the school and encourage human rights awareness through various campaigns within the school community.

It sounded like a good opportunity for students to learn about Asylum Seekers in Ireland in an authentic and engaging way. Students were very keen to get involved when the opportunity was presented to them.”

Question:

**From your point of view, describe a story that best describes the most significant change that has resulted from your involvement in this project?**

Sara Bradshaw, a teacher from Santa Sabina Dominican College school in Dublin:

“Students definitely demonstrated individual and group learning in relation to the country of Eritrea presented by [the facilitator]. The project helped students develop skills of critical thinking and evaluation. It challenged their thinking and led to attitudinal changes especially in relation to how asylum seekers are viewed/reported on in mainstream media. The role play aspect and hands on activities helped them to develop empathy with refugees. They also developed awareness of the process of seeking asylum in Ireland and the challenges faced by refugees when they leave their own country and eventually arrive in Ireland.”

Question:

**Why was this experience significant for you?**

A student from Santa Sabina School in Dublin:

“I really enjoyed the workshops we did as it gave us a great insight into what asylum seekers in this country must go through. I really enjoyed the activities we did as they really put in perspective some of today’s prominent social and economical problems. I think it was a great idea to bring in the guest speakers and to get to hear about their stories, what they went through and where they came from.”

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