

# SAFE HAVEN IRELAND

Building community through Sailing

International Sail Training and Tall Ships Conference 2017

# About Safe Haven Ireland

- ▶ Safe Haven Ireland is an Irish not-for-profit organisation which brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, including asylum seekers and refugees, on sail training voyages.
- ▶ Our aim is to promote integration between communities in Ireland, as well as empower young people at risk of exclusion.
- ▶ Our project provides opportunities for young people to take part in voyages along the Irish coastline. The trainees recruited by Safe Haven Ireland come together to undertake the experience of a lifetime: a week or more at sea as the crew of a sail training vessel

# 2015: Foundation of Safe Haven Ireland



- ▶ Founded in 2015
- ▶ Entering our fourth season in 2018
- ▶ Main aim is integration

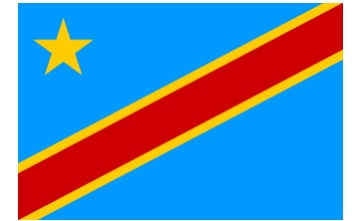
# Who participates in our voyages?



- ▶ Each of our voyages has a mixture of participants from different backgrounds.
- ▶ We prioritise young people from ethnic minority backgrounds, such as migrants and refugees. We offer places to Irish-national participants, often from inner city areas, who would not otherwise have this kind of opportunity.
- ▶ We work with Migrant and Youth organisations to recruit young people.



# A quick glance at our Trainees



# What happens during the week on board? What challenges are involved?



- ▶ During their time on board the participants learn how to sail a ship and how to navigate in challenging Irish coastal waters, making their own decisions about what course to plot over the week.
- ▶ In the process they learn the vital importance of working as a team 24-hours a day, as they take the helm, raise and lower sails, stand watches, cook for each other and keep the vessel ship-shape.
- ▶ Each group of young people step onto the boat as its passengers and disembark as its crew.

# What is the Impact of our Programme?



- ▶ To date, our project has developed positive intercultural relations in Ireland by impacting the lives of more than 80 young people.
- ▶ Our programme enables the participants to gain much more than sailing skills. They build strong bonds with each other by virtue of a shared experience, which in many cases will go on to have a profound influence in the rest of their lives.
- ▶ The young people educate each other about their backgrounds and different cultures and together forge a new vision for their shared futures on the island of Ireland.



# Our Crew at the International Sail Training Awards



- ▶ In 2017 we received the award for Best Small Sail Training Operator at the Sail Training Awards.
- ▶ We jointly shared the award with the primary vessel we use: the Spirit of Oysterhaven



# Our Partners and Supporters



- ▶ We rely on support from corporate organisations such as law firms as well as community grant funding.
- ▶ Our Project is run entirely on a voluntary basis by a committed team of volunteers.
- ▶ We work in cooperation with Migrant and Youth organisations as well as Vessel Operators.
- ▶ This dedicated support has allowed us to successfully charter 10 voyages since our foundation in 2015.

# Safe Haven Ireland in the Media



- ▶ The project has been covered by Irish and International Media (young Syrian refugee pictured)
- ▶ It highlights the role Sail Training can play in community integration
- ▶ There are now more people displaced from their homes by war, etc than ever on record (65.6 million)
- ▶ Of these, 22 million are seeking status as refugees; half are children
- ▶ Reaching out to refugee communities to include them in your projects is one way to assist with the current refugee crisis

# Safe Haven Ireland: Fostering bonds through Sail Training



- ▶ Video credit: UNHCR
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anPoc6OM2Xc>





TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US:  
[WWW.SAFEHAVENIRELAND.COM](http://WWW.SAFEHAVENIRELAND.COM)

[WWW.TWITTER.COM/SAFEHAVENIRL](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/SAFEHAVENIRL)

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