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WELCOME
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forumréfugiés

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Cosi
promouvoir et défendre les droits

ACTING HERE & THERE

Forum réfugiés-Cosi is an NGO resulting from the merger in 2012 of Forum réfugiés, created in 1982, and Cosi-*promote and defend the rights*, created in 1990. It takes action for the reception of refugees and defends the right to asylum in France. It also works in refugees' countries of origin to promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

RECEIVE AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE TO FLEE THEIR COUNTRY

Those hosted by the NGO fled their country because of war, persecution or the lack of rule of law. They seek protection of France under the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951. Many of them have suffered from violence during

their exile and arrive physically and psychologically broken. Forum réfugiés-Cosi offers them legal and administrative support. The organisation also fights discriminations against asylum seekers, refugees and other foreigners.



In France, the activities of Forum réfugiés-Cosi take place in the south east of the country.

RECEPTION AND ACCOMMODATION

Forum refugees COSI manages:

// **Six reception centres** in Clermont- Ferrand, Lyon, Marseille, Montauban, Nice and Toulouse. These centres provide assistance to asylum seekers in establishing their rights and with asylum procedures.

// **A transit centre in Lyon** which provides temporary accommodation for asylum seekers; helps them with administrative, legal and social questions; and works to find longer term accommodation.

// **Reception and evaluation centres (CAES)** in the Department of the Rhone, at Clermont-Ferrand and in Marseille that provide shelter for those identified as wishing to seek asylum.

// **Hostels for asylum seekers (CADA)** in the Department of the Rhone, in Clermont-Ferrand, and in Marseille. These hostels provide accommodation, social and medical assistance and administrative and legal support for those seeking asylum.

// **Urgent accommodation centres** in the Auvergne Rhone Alps Region and in Auvergne where asylum seekers receive support that is as similar as possible to that they receive in the CADAs.

// **Temporary accommodation centres (CPH)** hosting people with refugee status.

// **Centres for accommodation, assessing and following up minors who are on their own.**

HEALTH

Throughout the asylum procedure, the **health centre Essor** provides medical appointments, psychological therapies, physiotherapy sessions, art therapy workshops and organises preventive initiatives.

INTEGRATION

Since 2002 the **Accelair** programme situated in the Department of the Rhône takes overall care for the refugee who has acquired international protection status of their housing and training needs. This approach that has proved its worth has spread in 2017 in the Puy-de-Dôme, the Departments of the Ain and Allier through a regional programme for the integration of refugees (PRIR). In 2018 the scheme is being introduced in the five departments of the Occitanie Region.

At the same time Forum réfugiés-Cosi implements reinstallation programmes for those who have obtained refugee status in the first country they arrived in. This concerns in particular Syrian and people from sub Saharan Africa.

ACCOMPANY FOREIGNERS HELD IN RETENTION CENTRES

Forum réfugiés-Cosi provides legal expertise for the effective of rights to those who are being held in retention centres with a view to their return to their country of origin or to a third country. It has responsibility in six different administrative retention centres (Lyon, Marseille, Nice, Nîmes, Perpignan and Sète).

Forum réfugiés-Cosi also provides a legal helpline for foreigners held at the border.



DEFEND THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM

Forum réfugiés-Cosi helps to change public policies related to asylum procedures and their implementation thanks to:

- // Its **monitoring and advocacy** activities on the evolution of legislative, regulatory and jurisprudential frameworks in France and Europe.
- // Projects with a European dimension.

Forum réfugiés-Cosi offers stakeholders:

- // **Training** for professionals and volunteers working in the field of asylum and migration, as well as future professionals in social work.
- // Access to the **resource centre Floribert Chebeya**, with more than 2 800 references on geopolitics, international relations, migrations and human rights, with a specialisation on Central Africa.

PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

Forum réfugiés-Cosi carries out **exploratory missions** in the countries that asylum seekers come from and establishes links with civil society organisations in those countries. Partnership projects cover a number of areas, such as legal compensation for victims of sexual violence (DRC) and access to mental health care for refugees (Lebanon).

In Niger in partnership with the High Commission for Refugees, Forum réfugiés-Cosi is accompanying refugees in their legally authorised transfer to a welcoming country which will provide long term residence.

KEY FIGURES

- // More than **30 000** people supported each year
- // More than **2 300** accommodation places
- // **350** employees
- // **450** volunteers

Funding chiefly comes from state authorities, European institutions, local authorities, UNHCR, United Nations and private foundations.

HOW TO SUPPORT FORUM RÉFUGIÉS-COSI

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Contact: benevolat@forumrefugies.org

GIVE

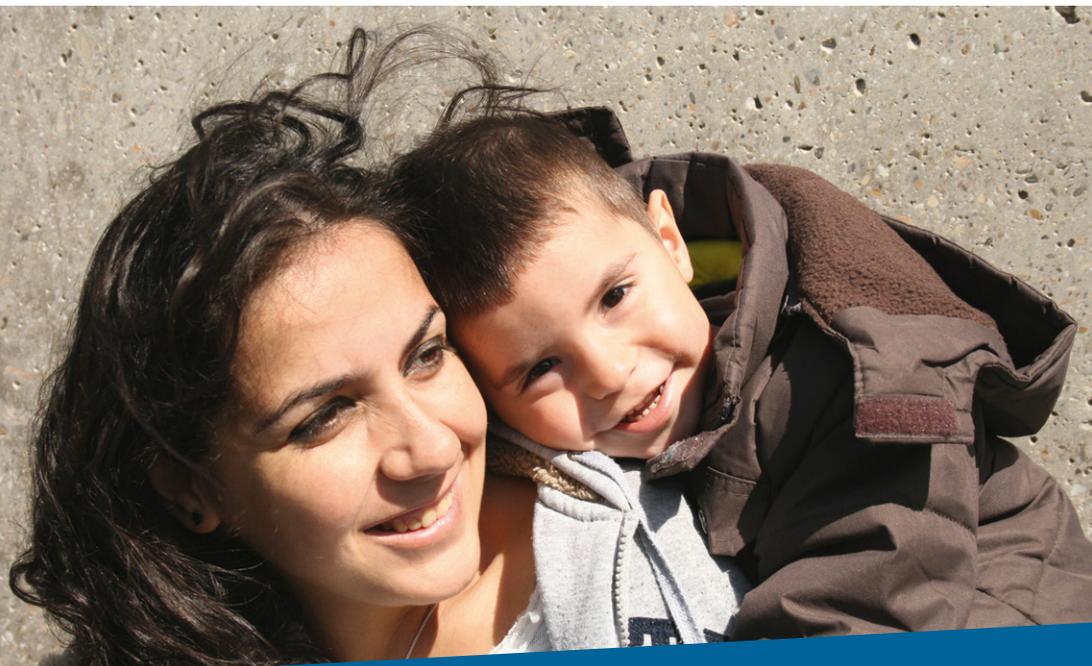
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Our accounts are certified by a statutory auditor and published on the French Official Journal.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
ESSENTIAL TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSIONS**



TESTIMONIES

"Towards Xanthe city, I was arrested by the Greek border police because I had no papers. I told them I came for asylum but they put me in prison for three months without trial."

Mr. L. (DRC)

"I loved my country. But I was forced to leave because there was war. I was attacked, badly treated, run after and wasn't protected by law."

Mrs. T. (Chechnya)

"With all these dead people around us, I told my self that my turn would come. After getting the visa at the French embassy in Lebanon, I had to go through many check points in Syria and lie about where I was going."

Mrs. R. (Syria)

*"We, asylum seekers, we have no choice because we are persecuted in our country.
Is there no escape?
Where can we go?
We have the right to a new beginning!
Protect us!
Give us hope!"*

Extract from:
Parcours de demandeurs d'asile.

Forum réfugiés-Cosi operates in France,
in Europe and internationally.

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