

# Know Your Rights

Justice Netherlands New Dutch Connections Courts Asylum Human Rights Company Employment Pro Bono Connect Leiden Law School Family Reunification Mentors Education Legal Empowerment Practical Navigate Housing Law Contracts COA DLA Piper IND DUO Buddies Work



The **Know Your Rights Project** is a first of its kind 12-week legal empowerment program for young asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands

The program engages **25 selected asylum seekers and refugees (the students)** in an educational course covering a variety of topics:

- **Immigration & asylum** (providing practical advice on how to navigate the appeals procedure and submit evidence)
- **Health** (exploring the rights to healthcare of individuals at various stages of the asylum procedure)
- **Education** (exploring the rights to education of individuals at various stages of the asylum procedure)
- **Housing** (providing practical advice and skills-training relevant to accommodation within reception centres and social and private housing)
- **Employment** (exploring the right to work, employee rights and how to solve common work-place problems)
- **Entrepreneurship** (providing practical advice on how to start a business and inspiration from those who have done it before)
- **Contract** (covering the basics of contract formation and how to negotiate and draft a contract)
- **Police** (exploring the police system in the Netherlands and the rights of individuals relative to the police)
- **Justice and the courts** (exploring the justice system in the Netherlands and Europe)
- **Sports** (an exploration of the sports landscape in the Netherlands and opportunities for asylum seeker and refugee participation)

Each session will seek to **empower the students** to navigate and make a success of their life in the Netherlands or their next destination.

The sessions will be taught by lawyers, academics and other legal professionals (**the teachers**) from a range of companies and institutions spanning Dutch legal professional life.

Each student will be allocated one **mentor** (a lawyer) and one **buddy** (a law student) who will support them throughout the program and help them to use the law and legal skills to achieve their personal goals over the 12-week program.

The **Know Your Rights Project** has been collectively designed and will be collectively implemented by four core project partners including New Dutch Connections, Leiden Law School, Pro Bono Connect (a project of het Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten ) and DLA Piper.



Universiteit Leiden



**DLA Piper** has hired **Ous Haidar** to project manage the 12-week programme. Ous is a Syrian lawyer specialized in International Investment and Tax Law. Since arriving in the Netherlands three years ago after traveling here from Syria via Turkey (following the outbreak of the war), he has received an LL.M from Erasmus University School of Law where he completed a thesis entitled: “International Investment Agreements Preclude Developing Host States from Addressing Transfer Pricing”. Since coming to the Netherlands Ous has also attended the Summer School at Leiden Law School on Advanced Issues in International Tax Law. He has also made excellent progress in learning Dutch.



In Syria he had received a Bachelor Degree (LL. B) from Damascus University Law School in 2008 where he worked on a master (LL.M) within the Public Administrative and Financial Sciences Master Program between 2009 and 2014. In his professional career as a lawyer in Syria he worked, amongst other places, at TNT Express Company as a Manager of the Legal Department.

Ous is interested in developing a career as an international tax lawyer in the Netherlands.

Also participating in the program (by supplying venues, mentors and teachers) are NautaDutilh, NIKE, Defence for Children, Baker & Mackenzie, Linklaters, Houthoff Buruma amongst others.

