

Spotlight
on practice

Rights & Voice



South London Refugee Association

Amplifying the voices of young migrants

July 2023

South London Refugee Association is a space for care-experienced young people - refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants - to come together. It creates a sense of belonging as well as working to get young voices heard by national policy makers.

This is a practice example from A NATIONAL VOICE

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/for-professionals/co-production-and-participation-with-young-people/>

Why? The ANV AMPLIFY awards aim to champion and recognise the work of children in care councils and care leaver forums. They were held in October 2022 ([Amplify - Coram Voice](#)) – South London Refugee Association were nominated for the ‘Community award’.

What did they do?

The South London Refugee Association (<https://www.slr-a.org.uk/>) run a group for care experienced young people.

The work was one of the winners at the ANV awards with young people judges saying: *“It’s really nice to hear there is a dedicated group for care experienced migrants. It’s important they have good representation...”*

The young people clearly advocate for themselves really well, we really love this group, their set-up and the work that they are doing. Particularly because language barriers can be quite difficult so to see the amazing outcomes proves this can be overcome. Really good job”.

What difference is it making?

To help them meet their aim – to get young migrant voices heard and to advocate for change - the group have attended leadership training. Recent success has included: meeting with government care review team and attending the Houses of Parliament for the ‘It’s Our Care’ day: *“I felt very good and powerful because I was representing myself and many other young people that didn’t have the opportunity to be there”* (<https://www.slr-a.org.uk/stories/itsourcare-day-of-action/>)

The group makes a big difference to the lives of those who take part – as this young person said:

“In this group we feel we belong, we feel safe and we feel proud”.

#ItsOurCare Day of Action

Posted on 30th June, 2022 by Lisa Merker



Here is the South London Refugee association entry to the ANV awards

The infographic is set against a yellow background. At the top center is the SLRA logo, which features a house icon with three stylized figures (two adults and one child) inside, followed by the text 'SLRA' in large blue letters and 'South London Refugee Association' in smaller black text below it. The main title 'CARE FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS' is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the top. The infographic is divided into several colored sections: a dark blue banner at the top, a red rounded rectangle in the middle, and a light blue rounded rectangle at the bottom. There are also several white starburst shapes containing text and small icons of stylized human figures with their arms raised. A speech bubble with the word 'WHY?' is positioned near the top right, and another with 'WHAT?' is near the bottom right. The word 'MIGRANTS' is written in a white starburst at the bottom right.

SLRA
South London Refugee Association

CARE FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS

WE ARE A GROUP OF CARE-EXPERIENCED YOUNG MIGRANTS BEING NOMINATED FOR A NATIONAL VOICE COMMUNITY AWARD

IMPROVING

CARE

WHY?

FOR

YOUNG

WHAT?

MIGRANTS

WE BUILD POWER IN NUMBERS TO MAKE SURE THE VOICES OF YOUNG MIGRANTS IN CARE ARE HEARD AND RESPECTED

WE REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF YOUNG MIGRANTS IN CARE.

WE SPEAK UP BECAUSE EVERY YOUNG MIGRANT IN CARE DESERVES:

- EQUAL TREATMENT
- ACCESS TO LEGAL SUPPORT
- SOCIAL WORKERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM
- MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND
- THEIR CULTURE TO BE UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED

• WE ATTENDED COMMUNITY ORGANISING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO BECOME LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

• WE HAVE BEEN TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FOR 'IT'S OUR CARE DAY' AND REPRESENTED ALL MIGRANTS IN CARE

• WE MET WITH THE CARE REVIEW TEAM TO FEED INTO THE REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

• WE ARE PART OF A PASSIONATE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO MAKE CHANGE

• IN THIS GROUP WE FEEL WE BELONG, WE FEEL SAFE AND WE FEEL PROUD

• WE ARE INSPIRING A NEW GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONTINUE ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE, BECAUSE WE KNOW OUR WORK IS NOT OVER!