

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

DLA Piper's lawyers train refugees

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█ The success of the training was such in 2018 that it will be renewed in September 2019. (Photo: DLA Piper)

The international law firm DLA Piper is mobilizing in Luxembourg in a training and integration campaign for refugees. All of it voluntarily. The initiative coordinated by a Somali refugee is called Know Your Rights.

"Our message is that learning your rights will enable you to make informed choices and discover the opportunities available to you," says Paperjam Margaux Bia,

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"For nine weeks, our lawyers volunteered in English and translated into French and Arabic, in different subjects: labor law, contract law, asylum and immigration law, housing and health rights, but also on the Luxembourg judicial system, the techniques of negotiation, entrepreneurship, oral and written presentations. "

 The sessions, organized on the premises of the cabinet in Luxembourg, gathered each time between 30 and 40 people. Photo: DLA Piper

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Behind each participant lies a story, a journey. They have also often risked their lives to get where they are today in Europe.

"Most of the participants had a good career in their country, a job, a business," adds Margaux Bia. Our goal here is to give them all the necessary information so that they can find housing, work, a school for their children, enroll in university or start their own business. "

Before the organization of the courses in Luxembourg, the Know Your Rights campaign was first launched in Amsterdam in 2017, then in Paris, Cologne, Milan and Vienna. It will also be soon in England and Thailand.

In our country, the initiative was set up by DLA Piper in collaboration with the non-profit organization Passerell, the University of Luxembourg, the non-profit organization Ryse, as well as a refugee from Somalia and law student at the University of Luxembourg, Emanuel Kamura, who coordinated the entire project for three months.

«I WELCOME THIS INITIATIVE WHICH ALLOWS REFUGEES TO KNOW THEIR RIGHTS.»

Emanuel Kamura, coordinator of the Know Your Rights campaign in Luxembourg

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Participants were able to ask all their questions to the lawyers. (Photo: DLA Piper)

"Imagine how people who come from another continent, with another culture, who do not know anyone, even the language of the country, can feel that way. That is why I welcome this initiative which allows refugees to know ba their rights and also direct them to existing and competent structures. "

New edition in 2019

And the success was such that the campaign will be renewed in September 2019, "in order to benefit the greatest number".

"It has been a rewarding experience for both refugees and our lawyers, sensitized by the social and humanistic approach to their profession," concludes Margaux Bia.

Know Your Rights

Margaux Bia

Emanuel Kamura

DLA Piper

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