

NOV 2021  
ISSUE NO. 1

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

HELLO NEIGHBOR  
NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

WE REFUGEES ARCHIVE

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

GET INVOLVED!



# REFUGEES IN TOWNS

NEWSLETTER | TUFTS UNIVERSITY



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SAVE THE DATE

## INTEGRATION CONFERENCE AND ARTS FESTIVAL

MARCH 4-5, 2022

This year, we'll explore the links between migrant and refugee integration and mental health, identifying the barriers to and opportunities for protection and improvement of mental health in different communities and cities. Drawing on nearly 50 case studies conducted by refugees across the globe, researchers and practitioners will showcase lessons and strategies that facilitate refugee integration and promote mental health. Interactive workshops led by local artists will allow attendees to understand how a variety of art forms help migrants and refugees and their hosts heal and protect and promote mental health in their communities. [Learn more!](#)

# HELLO NEIGHBOR NETWORK

## RACIAL EQUITY EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES IN THE US: NATIONAL STUDY

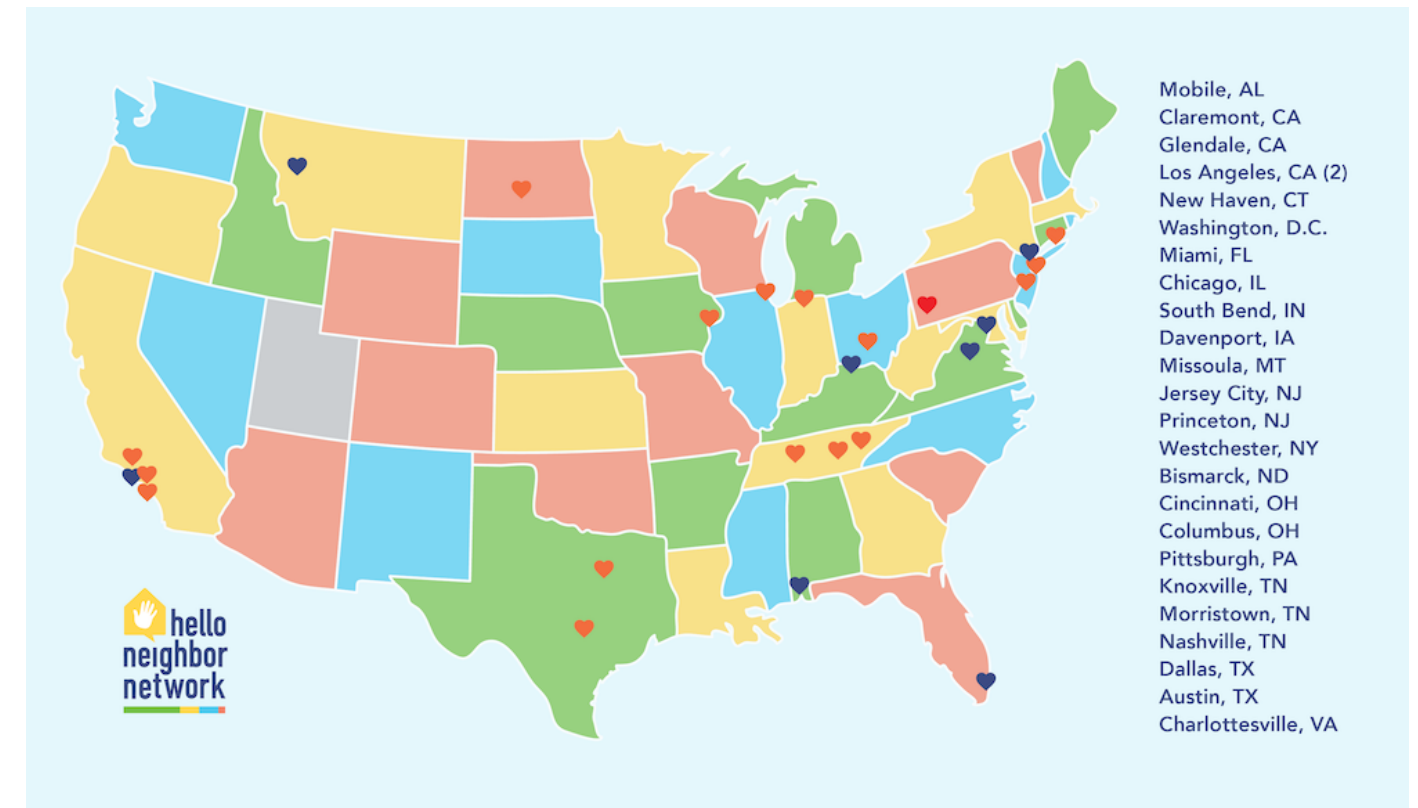
Refugees in Towns (RIT) is joining the Hello Neighbor Network—a coalition of grassroots organizations working in post-refugee and immigrant resettlement in the US—to undertake one of the first national research studies to understand the status of racial equity education among adult refugees. This groundwork will allow partnerships with universities and organizations leading social inclusion to develop modules that can be utilized among refugee and immigrant communities for racial equity.

### Why this research and program?

There is nothing of this kind specifically designed for refugees. Depending on their country of origin, refugees may face racial discrimination and violence and have their own histories of racism from their country of origin. Further, many do not have an understanding of racism and what it means to be anti-racist in the U.S. Meaningful inclusion is and has always been a part of being a good citizen and neighbor. Our refugee and immigrant neighbors must be included in the education, conversation, and positive change.

This research seeks to answer the central questions: (1) What is the current level of understanding of race and racism in the U.S. for newly resettled refugee and immigrant adults (over 18) in the Hello Neighbor Network? and (2) What topics and approaches would be most effective to build refugee and immigrant awareness of anti-racism and racial equity?

Over the next year, RIT will support the Network with researching several case studies, laying the foundation for later module development. These will be piloted by the Network's 25+ partner institutions with potential to reach over 10,000 refugees across the country.



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“MY FAMILY AND I WERE FEELING DISCOURAGED  
 BECAUSE WE HAD NO ONE TO RELY ON OR BE FRIENDS  
 WITH. WITH HELLO NEIGHBOR WE FEEL WE HAVE FAMILY  
 IN THE UNITED STATES.”

— DELPHINE, HELLO NEIGHBOR MENTEE



# WE REFUGEES

## DIGITAL ARCHIVE ON REFUGEEEDOM, PAST AND PRESENT

We are excited to introduce our latest partner! We Refugees Archive highlights individual micro-histories and the city as a microcosm of refuge and new beginnings. The archive spans an arc from historical to current experiences of flight, which are brought into dialogue and thus provide new connecting lines and explanatory approaches from and with refugee voices for remembrance and education policy.

The heart of the archive are various self-testimonies of refugees. This archival core is enriched with filmic approaches to refugeedom and contextualized by scholarly discussions, interviews with experts and academic guest contributions on relevant questions in the field of flight migration and/or regarding the specific examples of cities of refuge.

## JOIN US

### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS AND RESEARCHERS

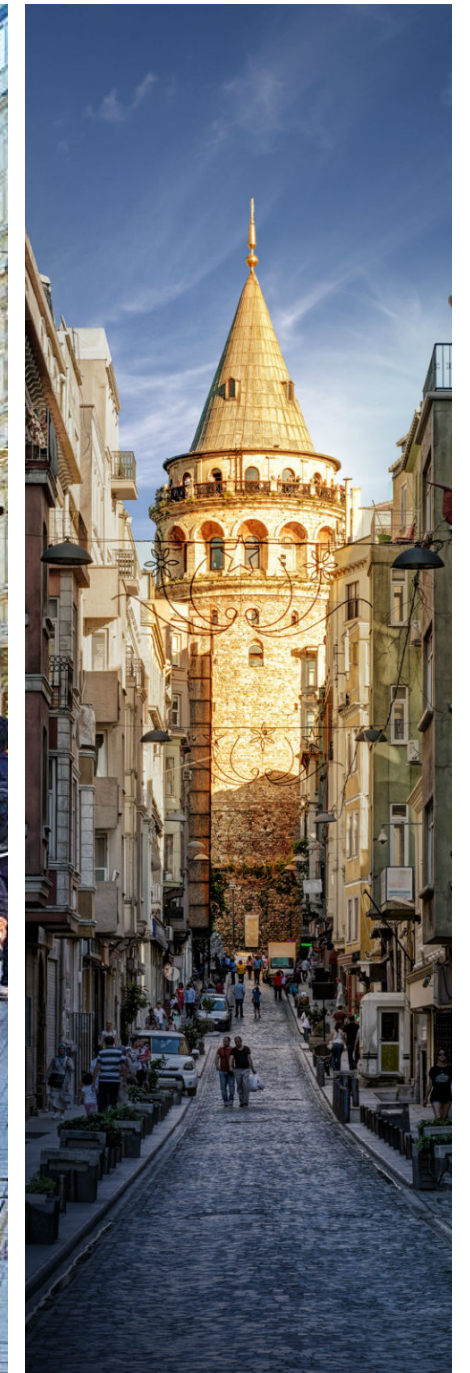
#### ISTANBUL AS A CITY OF REFUGE, PAST AND PRESENT

RIT will join We Refugees to share our findings on individual and urban stories of refuge in Istanbul alongside Relocating Modernism: Global Metropolises, Modern Art and Exile (METROMOD) and GAR—Association for Migration Research. This exciting event will cover the 1920s to present.



**NOV. 10, 2021**

**16:00 - 18:00  
EUROPEAN TIME**



[Register here](#)

## AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

YULIIA KABANETS

Yuliia authored the phenomenal RIT Reflection, "Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kyiv: Lost in the City or Agents of Change?"

She holds a bachelor's degree from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. She works at the International Organization for Migration (the UN migration agency). Yuliia is a member of youth NGO "Foundation of Regional Initiatives," has participated in many international projects, and has been a volunteer in Ukraine and abroad.

In 2014, she moved to Kyiv from Donetsk because of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Being an internally displaced person herself, Yuliia has a strong interest in this topic. The case for the RIT project focuses on the displacement of individuals to Kyiv and the problems they have, and their impact on the city.



A mixed use area with residential buildings near Kyiv Railway Station. Photo by Yuliia Kabanets.

[Read the Report](#)



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**“I AM CONNECTED TO A CAUSE THAT IS IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRY. IT HAS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND WHAT INTEGRATION MEANS AND WHAT BEING A CITIZEN MEANS. IT IS FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE AS AN IDP AND ACTIVIST THAT I UNDERTOOK THIS STUDY.”**





A local refugee aid center in Milan, Italy. Photo from our case researcher in Milan.

## WRITE A CASE REPORT

We want to explore refugee experiences in more cities and towns across the globe. And we'd love to hear your ideas for a case report. Fill out our [Study Interest Form](#) and we'll get back to you!

## SUPPORT RIT!

**Migration research projects** often rely on refugees who work as enumerators, translators, and fixers, with most of the research budget supporting expensive Western academics' salaries.

**RIT's localized approach** means that our commissioned research budget goes directly to forced migrants who are already living in the neighborhoods we are interested in learning from. We remotely manage and train these individuals, so our budget goes to those in need, not to pricey hotels or plane tickets for outsiders to visit "the field." While this is not a long-term career, it provides career-building experience and training and some financial support for those scraping by one dollar at a time.

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