

United Rescue Aid Biography

United Rescue Aid is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to assist those seeking refuge in Europe.

Their story started in 2015, when founding member Ella Carlquist found herself frustrated at watching the worst humanitarian crisis of our times unfold, unable to travel to Greece or donate money to help. Searching for a way to make a difference, she joined every group she could find. But when an emergency SOS appeared on Facebook from a boat that was sinking in the Mediterranean Sea, she realized that nobody knew how to help.

At the time, there were no systems in place to aid the increasing amount of refugees turning to social media for assistance in life or death situations. Finally, the group managed to reach the Greek coastguard and everyone on the boat was saved. It was after that first success story that United Rescue Aid was born.

As countless men, women and children attempt to flee war and persecution in their home countries, United Rescue Aid works to monitor and secure their transition. Using social media and modern technology, they provide an essential communication point between refugees and coastguards, rescue organizations and volunteers on the ground, tracking boats, monitoring crossings and coordinating rescue efforts as and when necessary.

Once refugees have made the crossing into Europe, United Rescue Aid works to support them in any way possible: connecting with local aid organizations and assisting new arrivals with accessing food and medical care, shelter and essential services as they adjust to their new lives.

From grassroots beginnings in July 2015 the organization was officially registered as a non-profit in Sweden on 19 November 2015. In that time, they have assisted in almost 1,000 cases, helping approximately 50,000 displaced people find their way to safety. United Rescue Aid has no political affiliations, and is run and staffed entirely by trained volunteers.

With refugees attempting ever more dangerous crossings in their bid to reach Europe, and essentials such as boats and life vests often falling far short of their necessary safety requirements, United Rescue Aid's work is more vital now than ever before.

The organization is currently seeking funding to further develop their work.

After the European Union signed their controversial deal to return all refugees arriving in Greece from Turkey after March 20, 2016, many are attempting to reach Europe via alternative routes. These pose even bigger challenges, and donations will help put processes in place to reduce the risks involved. They will also help to cover costs such as phone bills, equipment and administration.

United Rescue Aid also hopes to improve their presence in the areas most affected by the refugee crisis, leasing with organizations on the ground to provide better care for arriving refugees. Through donations, their members can visit camps in Greece, Italy and other areas to ensure that their work is as effective and efficient as possible, establishing connections that will prove invaluable throughout the coming months and years.