

School for Syrian refugee children in the Russian Federation



Civic Assistance Committee

By migration issues Advisor

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Who are we?

The Civic Assistance Committee, a Russian NGO, is the first non-profit charitable organization helping refugees and forced migrants in Russia. It was founded in 1990.

The Civic Assistance Committee is acting as a mediator between migrants and official structures providing the former with legal assistance, defending their social rights as well as offering humanitarian aid to those in need.

The Civic Assistance Committee helps refugees and forced migrants integrating into Russian society by dealing with the challenges that refugees and forced migrants face when they are confronted to different public services and government institutions: migration, **education, social services**, health departments, prosecutor's office , police and courts.

Education for children

One of the most important aspect of integration for refugees and forced migrants is the education for children .

The right of children to education is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Federal Law.

However, in 1996, in Moscow, by order of the Mayor of the city, Yury Luzhkov, school enrollment was made dependent of the existence and type of registration.

Many children refugees from Armenia ,Chechnya and other countries were deprived of access to school because of that order.

That same year, in 1996, the Civic Assistance Committee opened a Center for adaption and education of refugee children in Moscow.

Center for adaption and education for children refugees in Moscow

After some times the center accepted all children refugees and became a heaven for them, there is no discrimination in classes or groups.

Children studied, played and went to the museum and theater.

All teachers were volunteer students from famous universities. The children studied mathematics, Russian language and foreign languages .

Civic Assistance Committee fought for four years with that order through courts, and in 2000, the order was canceled .

Center for adaption and education of children refugee in Moscow

In 2004 the Civic Assistance Committee was awarded the "Nansen Refugee Award" .

Part of this award was spent on the culture life in the center. All children went to a summer camp close to Crimea and visited Saint Petersburg .

This center is working till now and continues helping the children of refugees.



**NANSEN
REFUGEE
AWARD**

Restrictions in access to education in Russia 2007

In 2007, the ministry of Science and Education made the access to school again dependent on the existence of the residence registration. The Civic Assistance Committee met the deputy Minister and discussed that order with him. The result of that meeting was an explanation's note which specifies that priority in access to school is given to children with residence registration, and then, other children can have access to the school.



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

Restrictions in access to education in Russia 2014

In 2014, school enrollment was again made dependent on the existence of residence registration. We went to the highest court to cancel this order, but the judge did not cancel or change it .

He just added in his decision that all children have to go to school. This order issued by the Ministry of Education and Science gives right to the school director to require that parents provide documents about the legal status and registration in order to enroll children in school.

Restrictions in access to education in Russia

- 1- The parents should have a legal status in Russia.
- 2- The children and their parents should have a residence registration.
- 3- The children have to speak Russian language and understand it.

Protect the rights of children of refugees

Since 2014, the Committee conducts a systematic work to protect the right of refugee children and other migrants to education. This work includes:

1- Conducting monitoring of the violations of the right to access education: in 2015, 54 violations of the right of children to education were recorded.

2-Assistance in obtaining access to education for children .

In 2015, with the help of the Committee, 38 children gained access to education.

3- Cooperation with the authorities in order to change the overall situation (letter to the Ministry of Education, the Government of Moscow, the prosecutor's office and appeal to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, and others).

The immigration crisis

The military actions in Syria and Yemen, the ongoing confrontation between armed groups in Afghanistan and Africa, many conflicts all over the world have generated unprecedented flows of refugees.

The current migration crisis, the biggest in the world since the Second World War, poses a serious challenge for the world community.



Syrian refugees in Noginsk

Many Syrian families with children live in Noginsk and neighboring Losino-Petrovskiy.

Around 2000 Syrian refugees live in Noginsk and Losio-Petrovsk. Most of these people have started working in the garment factories that were opened by their compatriots a few years ago.

Most of them have no legal status and only some of them have received temporary asylum in Russia, and are now trying to register their place of residence in order to gain access to health care and send their children to school.

In 2015, there were 59 kids, between the ages of 7 and 13. None of them have access to the school .

The first attempt to open a school 2015

The Syrian journalist refugee Muiz Abu Aljadail organized an informal study group, initially in Arabic, after which the Civic Assistance Committee got involved and recruited professional teachers.

Classes had begun in May of that year under the auspices of the Civic Assistance Committee's Adaptation and Education Center for Refugee Children, with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Around thirty Syrian children who had settled in Noginsk that year were pupils at the school.

On August 24, 2015, the school was closed by the local Russian Federal Migration Service (FMS) officers.

Only one Syrian child Enrolled In Noginsk Schools during two years

Civic Assistance Committee organized small group of specialists to go with each child to the school to enroll him in regular schools.

Several times, this group went to many schools in Noginsk with no results. Most of children do not have a legal status , resident registration or they do not speak Russian language . only in the school number 17, did the director was ready to accept the pupil without resident registration.

First child, who has been officially enrolled in school, became 9-year-old Fatema Dzhassir. The girl speaks Russian fluently. she has learnt the language, watching Russian TV.

The school director received a reprimand from the Department of Education for his actions.

School in Noginsk for Syrian children refugees

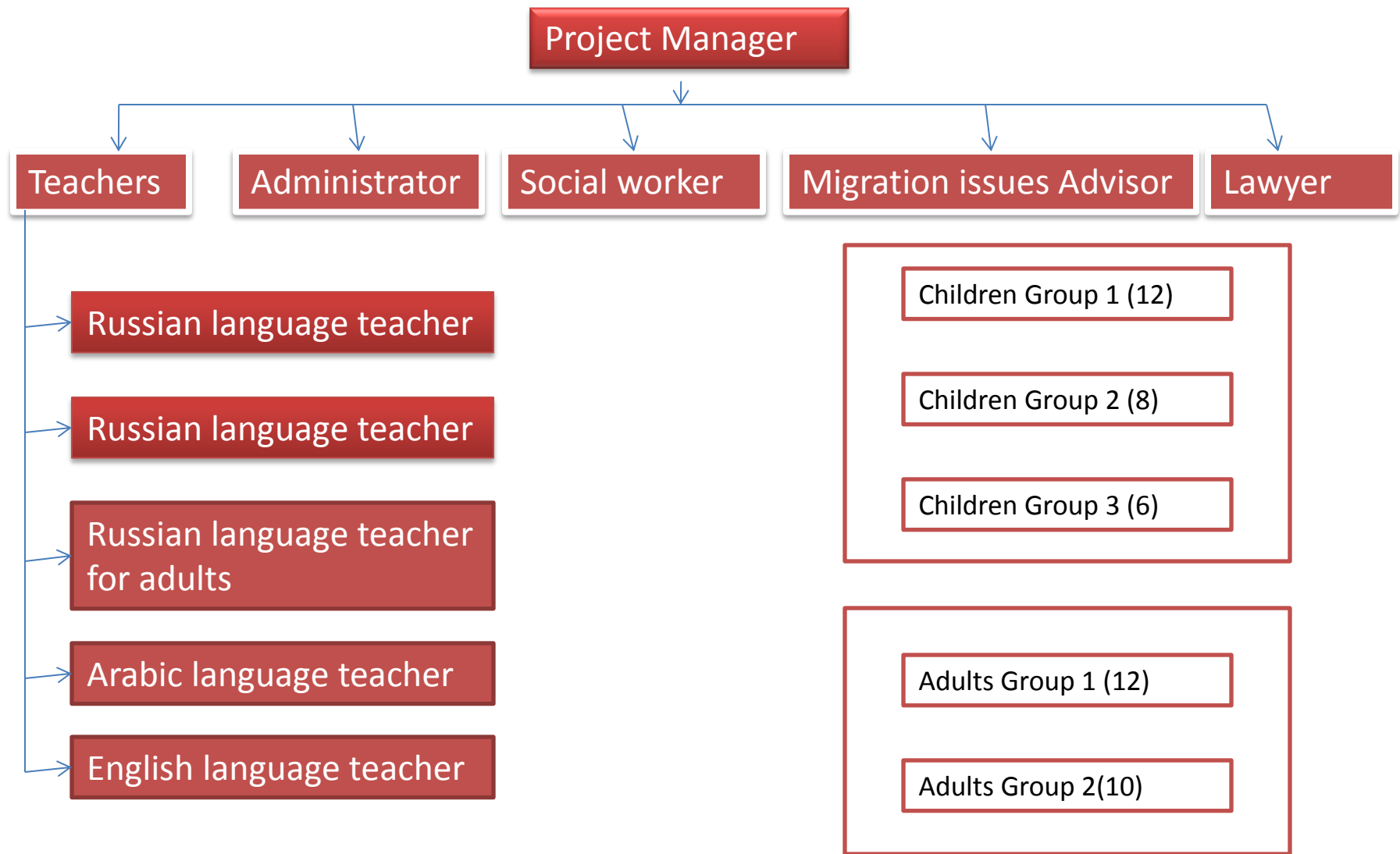
The Civic Assistance Committee decided to launch special Russian language and integration courses for Syrian refugees and has obtained, for this project, a financial support from the UNHCR for six months.

The purpose of the project is to help people, who fled war in their country, to integrate into Russian society.

This project is focused primarily on children because they are not accepted to schools, and the primary goal is to prepare the children to enroll in regular schools in Noginsk in September.

Courses are not only for children but for adults as well, because there are a lot of Syrian refugees living there and they lacking Russian language for communication in everyday situations.

The school chart



Syrian children are taught from morning till afternoon,
adults come to these classes after they get off from work

Main activities of the school

Learning activities

Reading , writing and understanding

Entertaining activities

Go to camp in summer, go fishing

Cultural activities

Watch video, visit museums, visit theaters

School in Noginsk for Syrian children refugees

It is difficult to apply for asylum in Russia, so many refugees do not have legal status and therefore have no access to health care and are not allowed to work, and their children cannot enroll to school .

The Civic Assistance Committee helps refugees and forced migrants to integrate into Russian society by dealing with the many challenges these people are confronted to.

The Civic Assistance Committee helps refugees and forced migrants with health care and try to give them financial assistance, food, and clothes.

Civic Assistance Committee

Thank you for your attention

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