

Humanity House

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Press release

HUMANITY HOUSE IN THE HAGUE REVAMPS PERMANENT EXHIBITION

No such thing as ‘the’ refugee, but plenty of reasons why people seek refuge.

THE HAGUE - Launching a new presentation doesn’t sound like anything special. But what if you create a ‘permanent collection’ by adopting eight real people? That is precisely what Humanity House in The Hague is doing. From February on, this museum and debate centre in The Hague will introduce you to eight individuals from eight different places around the world, each with a story unlike any other. What unites them is that they are all refugees who have ended up in the Netherlands.

Visitors will soon get to know Bruce Cerew (33) from Nigeria, who lived through the war in Liberia as a child soldier. And Lidija Zelovic (45) from the former Yugoslavia, who can still picture the face of the boy she loved until her father sent her away to escape the war. Akhrat Selevani (17) from Iraq describes what it was like to spend eight years living and waiting in various Dutch asylum seeker centres. Also, Ram Karki (40) explains his love-hate relationship with the traditional clothing of his home country of Bhutan.

Frederiek Biemans, head of exhibitions at Humanity House: “There’s no such thing as ‘the’ refugee, but there are plenty of reasons why people seek refuge. Each of the people portrayed in our new ‘collection’ is linked to a theme, such as war, peace, reconciliation or human rights. Those are big words for subjects that can be difficult to comprehend. But meeting Bruce, Lidija, Akhrat, Ram and the others makes it easier to grasp them and feel their effect.”

You encounter the eight people from the new ‘collection’ on an intensely informative voyage of discovery. For a visit to Humanity House lets you slip into the shoes of a refugee and undertake a journey, allowing you to feel what it’s like to end up in a war or conflict situation. Then you meet people to whom this really happened. As a visitor, you are not only an observer but also a participant that thinks and acts. After that, you have an opportunity to ask questions and offer ideas on humanitarian issues.

About Humanity House

Humanity House was founded by the Red Cross and the City of The Hague. Attracting almost 40,000 visitors annually, the building on Prinsegracht also houses a centre for debate and education that highlights humanitarian themes related to refugees, emergency aid and people in war and conflict.



Hier wordt geïnvesteerd in de toekomst.
Dit project is mede gefinancierd door
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Rode
Kruis



Den Haag

The revamping of Humanity House coincides with major maintenance work required after five years of use, and has been made possible by VSB, Democracy & Media Foundation, Fonds 1818 and Janivo. Visitors can take a look for themselves from 10 February. Until then, entrance to Humanity House remains restricted so that renovation work can be carried out. For opening hours, see www.humanityhouse.org.

Note for the press, not for publication:

For more information, high-resolution pictures and interview requests with the participants, our Head of Exhibitions or our director, contact Gabriël de Graauw: E. gabriel.degraauw@humanityhouse.org T. 070 31 000 50 or 06 18 29 31 90.

The attached photos may only be used in publications with the accompanying captions and photo credits. We would of course like to hear from you if you decide to publish about us.