



THE LOUDSPEAKER

Dear world,

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in Europe, we have been asked on many occasions, how are refugees and migrants doing during the lockdown?

Well, the answer isn't so different than what everyone is facing globally - **it's complicated**. Like all diverse groups in society, migrants and refugees have been faced with additional challenges - yet it is impossible to sum up the newcomer COVID-19 experience into a single narrative. Yes, **challenges have been created** and accelerated, but **so have solutions**. And behind every solution is **a leader who stood up** to make it happen.

This month on **Stories of place** we will be shining a light on the stories of some **resilient leaders**, all newcomers to Europe, and how they stood up during the COVID-19 lockdown. **Four stories**, featuring a doctor, a born-teacher, a caregiver and an entrepreneur who jumped to action during this unprecedented time. It is with their stories in mind that we then explore how **new points of view** will play a key role in the **design of the new normal**. We then close the month with a snapshot of how **leaders in the PLACE community** continue to **sharpen their skills in practice** all from the safety of their own homes.

As our global community emerges from this unprecedented situation, let's make sure we don't do so unchanged. We all have a role to play in **turning this crisis into an opportunity**.

Welcome to your monthly digest of **Stories of place**.

STORIES OF PLACE MAY 2020

Newcomer leaders during the COVID-19 lockdown

Thoeiba, is a doctor with an expertise in respiratory illnesses, who previously worked for the Ministry of Health in Sudan. Despite not being able to serve on the medical front-line, she took action. During the lockdown, Thoeiba led the coordination of an emergency hotline to enable access to essential services for persons in need.

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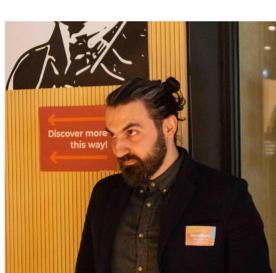
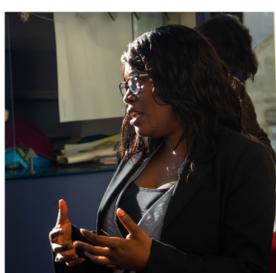


With the gift of languages, professional interpreter and translator, **Rohullah**, has been offering his translation services for asylum seekers who find themselves caught in the administrative blindspot left by the global pandemic. Meanwhile, he has also been translating essential medical information into Pashto and Dhari for some of France's hardest hit hospitals.

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Marie is an entrepreneur who fights elderly isolation in Europe with her project Keur Service. When the lockdown came into effect, the health and social systems that were already leaving the elderly in a fragile position, were now threadbare. Throughout the lockdown, Marie volunteered her services, all while applying her meticulous approach to adapted care.

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Despite being under lockdown, **Moulham** took the opportunity to let his creative mind roam free. A café to enable interfaith dialogue, a new way to up audience interaction in the game of tennis, a book and a fashion line - over the past three months, he has ideated four projects that he is now ready to take to the next level.

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How can we #buildbackbetter in the new normal?

Amid the coronavirus crisis, there has been a far-reaching call to refrain from "getting back to normal" - to build a new normal. But we're still collectively looking for the how - how can we #buildbackbetter?

One way to do so is to include new voices and new points of view in creating the new normal.



From where we stand in the world of innovation, the fact that the economy needs new points of view on existing systems and behaviours has been clear long before the coronavirus accelerated our global thinking. At the European scale, a source of new points of view to co-create the new normal we are craving comes from recent migration.

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When immersive learning has big stakes



It is becoming increasingly clear that 'feedback' is the currency of the PLACE community. And on April 29th, the PLACE Catalysts received a big investment.

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When you own your story, the world is yours



By reappropriating her own story, PLACE Catalyst and architecture student, Duaa was able to visualize the breadth of her potential.

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Take care until next time,

