



Dear world,

So, what now?

Where do we go from here?

As a global community, we are at a **strange crossroads**. We don't want to go back - we know we can do **better**. Yet forward is forked with some pretty big choices. Coming out of the other side of COVID-19, the **unequal impacts** of the global pandemic are becoming increasingly clear, with some groups in need of immediate relief, while others are in a position to spark **much needed long-term changes**. We may not all have the same footing, but we all need to go in the same direction.

This month on **Stories of place** we explore society's short and long term needs for the **economic integration of newcomers** and how they can be balanced. We then share **some tools** and stories of **professionals** who have been actively improving their intercultural **collaboration** and **networking** skills during the lockdown, and how you can do so as well. Finally, we finish off with some words for thought that resonate with the growing **global call for change**.

And talking of **global change**, the recent upheaval of the **#blacklivesmatter** movement has resonated so closely with our team and community that we sometimes found it hard to focus on continuing our respective daily routines. To say that **PLACE stands behind #blacklivesmatter** and black communities seems like an understatement, as many of us are active shakers on the topic of diversity in both our professional and personal lives on a daily basis. Yet it is a statement we want to make at this time, and we hope for all to make: black lives matter, and black communities need **a voice, a power and a seat at the table** that they simply have not had. Until all are given an equal chance to thrive, there's no routine worth keeping.

So where do we go from here?

Forward, together.

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

STORIES OF PLACE
JUNE 2020

What does economic integration of refugees look like post covid19?

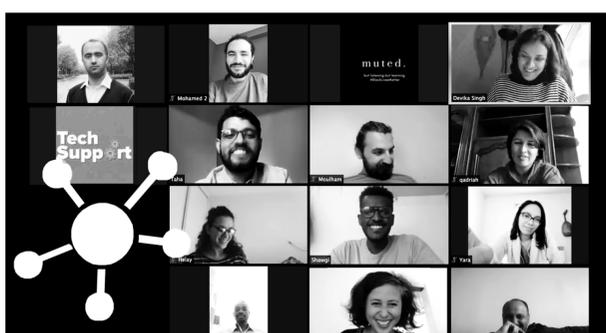
The response to the economic integration of migrants and refugees has historically been based on entry-level jobs. A response that favours urgent income generation and autonomy, but understates the potential of newcomer talent and forsakes our longer term needs for diverse leadership.



Our economies may not have been mastering the economic integration of newcomers in the past, but in the post-covid world we have a chance to make things work - for everyone this time.

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Cultivating rich networks remotely



Coming out on the other side of the lockdown and into the new normal, we are not necessarily jumping back into the office. Remote working is here to stay - and with it comes a new skill to be mastered - remote networking. As we change the way we network, we have an opportunity to improve the shortcomings of past networking tactics to come out stronger and more resilient in the future of work.

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Coaching emerging leadership



Earlier in 2020, PLACE put out a call for professionals from around the world who wanted to connect with emerging leaders from newcomer backgrounds. Through this far reaching call we welcomed 11 professionals, representing 9 nationalities and spanning across 5 countries to the PLACE community. After being trained on remote, agile, coaching methodology, the coaches were matched with the Catalysts of the Emerging Leaders program. Through monthly calls, coaches and Catalysts have been connecting, problem-solving and solution-finding as they work towards the Catalysts' goals in the area of public leadership.

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[Become an agile coach with PLACE](#)

Crafting masculinity in the 21st century



Bolewa Sabourin is a champion for changing the status quo. A proud feminist, he is vocal on the question of masculinity and the need to move past the era of male domination and perceived invulnerability, for the betterment of everyone involved. Bolewa has been a part of the PLACE collective since 2017 - regularly bringing power and energy to PLACE Catalysts as they embody their leadership roles in a changing Europe.

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Take care until next time,

