‘Reimagining integration’
What happens on the way to become a refugee?
Every refugee had a life before
A life before making the extreme difficult decision to flee
During travel and procedures becoming a refugee life changes drastically
The process of leaving till acquiring a status of refugee extends from several months to years.
We have chosen for one single sexless human image to illustrate the individual transformation every refugee is dealing with.
In order to cover all ethnic origins we gave our human being an all skin-tones-striped bodysuit.
We will take you on a journey
A journey of a human being
We want you to become aware of what happens on the way to become a refugee
REFUGEE
Before fleeing and seeking asylum our human being used to be:

Family, mother, father, children, relatives
Economically stable & independent
Hopeful & creative in life
Skilled in work or studying
Innovative & ambitious
Social status
Cautious and concerned
Aware of dangerous developments
Caring for loved ones
Dedicated
Desperate for a future
Willing to take great risks at great costs
Able & capable to flee
doctor, surgeon, lawyer, security, politician, nurse, architect, builder, baker, hairdresser, teacher, student, mechanic, ICT, writer, journalist, fisherman, farmer, business owner, factory worker, therapist, specialist, cook, musician, performer, beautician, translator, director, customer service, cleaner, health-carer, driver, accountant, human resources, caretaker, manager, professor, filmmaker, dancer, designer, electrician, florist, photographer, nursery, pilot, gardener, soldier, plumber
A human with full identity elements:

- Social status
- Economic status
- Marital status
- Ethnic status
- Religious or not
- Sexual orientation

A human with experiences:

- War
- Discrimination
- Prosecution
- Loss of life loved ones
- Loss of a realistic future
- Loss of faith
This is my story:

In 1998 I finished my secondary school education, with the ambition to be a doctor who relieves sufferings of people.

In 2007 I received my medical degree in Syria. I worked as physician in training for 4 years.

In 2011 my medical specialization – internal medicine – was fulfilled. I worked as a specialist in intensive care units of hospitals.

The war started… but I refused to leave.

In 2013 I was forced to leave under threats.

In 2013 I tried to work in Jordan… I was not recognized.

I left to Yemen… there I was recognized… I was stable, working, with a family, and a future…

In 2015 I left Yemen because of the war. I entered Saudi Arabia, hoping to be able to work. Again, I was not recognized.

I took a scholarship to study global health in the Netherlands, it was my only way out of a warzone.
In 2016, I finished a MSc global health... I tried to find work... I was not recognized

I applied for refugee status because I cannot go back to Syria...

With a refugee status... a whole new life began... not only my education was not recognized, **my whole identity was not recognized**

I have to learn a new language, a new culture, new education, new medical training... etc...

**Is there something wrong with me?**

**Or is there something wrong with governance systems?**
Becoming a legal refugee can be a demoralizing process
The fading process

Before arrival the majority of refugees suffered various traumatic experiences
The tagging process

Being seen as just another refugee is very frustrating
A frustrated refugee will fail during integration

1. Lack of **Perspective**
2. Lack of **Hope**
3. **Frustration**
4. Lack of **Individual Evaluation**
5. Lack of **Recognition**
6. Narrow **Possibilities**
7. Loss of **Cultural Identity**
8. Lack of **healthcare**
9. **Untreated** psychological trauma
What does failed integration mean?

2/3 of the refugees are failing the integration exams
The financial consequences are enormous
All parties and participants are at loss:

1. Refugees
2. Government
3. Market
4. Civil Society
What would be a perfect integration?
The solution must be found in changing the standardized procedures to a more personalized manner of dealing with newcomers.

**KEY** is recognition of *individual values* of the human being!
Reimagining Integration!
Thank you!

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