



NEWS BULLETIN 294
MONDAY JUNE 19, 2017

Celebrate World Refugee Day by Investing in the Ladies of Hope!

[Global Giving will fully match donations made after 9:00 am EDT, June 20](#)



Roa'a, from Iraq, was one of 12 Hope artists who produced embroidery for the [Middle Eastern Refugee Quilts](#) in 2016. This square recalls the engineering tools she left behind in Iraq, underscoring her desire to work.

The Advocacy Project (AP) will mark World Refugee Day tomorrow (Tuesday) by launching an appeal to help 50 Syrian and Iraqi women refugees expand their handicrafts co-operative in Amman, Jordan.

The appeal is coordinated by [Reina Sultan](#), an AP Peace Fellow who is serving at [Collateral Repair Project](#) (CRP), an AP partner organization in Amman that provides essential services to refugees. [To learn more and donate to the appeal click here.](#) All donations made after 9 am EST on Tuesday will be fully matched by Global Giving while funds last.

The 50 beneficiaries are among more than two million refugees who have sought shelter in Jordan from the wars in Iraq and Syria. All fifty are members of the Hope Workshop, which is hosted at CRP and offers women refugees in Jordan the chance to receive training and exercise their skills.

The Workshop makes a critical contribution because Jordanian law does not permit refugees to work, even though many are talented and motivated. As

Ms Sultan noted [in a recent blog](#), this can cause problems: "Refugees can become wholly dependent on aid, which is unreliable due to changes in funding or donor engagement. Refugees, desperate to support themselves and feed their families, can begin to work informally which can be exploitative and dangerous."

AP began working with the Hope Workshop in 2016 and helped twelve members to describe their dramatic escape from war through embroidered squares which were then assembled into [two spectacular quilts](#) by quilters in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. The quilts have since been shown at several American universities and admired by hundreds of students in partnership with [No Lost Generation](#), a student-led initiative which advocates on American campuses for the rights of refugees.

The quality of the Hope embroidery has been widely praised by professionals, and their products sell widely in Jordan. AP hopes to expand their market in the US and will use proceeds from the appeal to commission embroidery for wall hangings and tote bags.

Equally important, as Ms Sultan noted in her blog, investing in the Hope Workshop will help the craftswomen strengthen and manage their own organization "by planning the creation of each item, taking attendance, executing the product, assigning homework, book-keeping, and more. This makes the program sustainable and empowers the women by giving them ownership of their lives and their new skills."

A number of the 12 women who worked on quilts last year have since been resettled in third countries, where they can use the skills they learned last year in Jordan. Ms Sultan and her hosts at CRP will shortly hire trainers to work with 25 refugees this year and a similar number in 2018. "The Workshop could become a model for empowering female refugees throughout the region," she says.

* To donate to our June 20 appeal [click here](#)

* [Click here](#) to read Reina's blogs and email Reina: rsultan@advocacynet.org

* To view and learn about the Middle Eastern Quilts, [click here](#)

* To see video of the Middle Eastern Quilts being assembled in Rhode Island [click here](#)

Drafted by Brianna Goetske: bgoetske@advocacynet.org

Thanks to Humanity United for supporting our 2017 program and to the Peace and Collaborative Development Network for re-posting our bulletins.

