

SAOL NUA

THE REFUGEE
EXPERIENCE
IN IRELAND

PRESENTED BY

THE IRISH
REFUGEE COUNCIL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

MICHAEL SUGRUE

PRODUCED BY

THE MAYROSE
FUTURE COMPANY

God, why the mistrust of
a soul within your fist?
Of a promise left unsure
along the western shores.
As I was searching for
a sign, gazing at my palm
I wondered..

Why a child born yesterday
is in short for luck?
She was just pulled out
of water, while her mother
was busy, watching the clock.
'A long way is still ahead.'
She whispered.

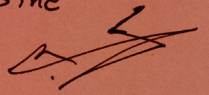
'I don't blame Odysseus.', I said,
for I have a boat of my own,
and for 20 years, I've been
chasing silhouettes.

Standing at the prow, I ponder.
What kind of a sailor leaves
home with no destination
nor victuals?

But I felt no hunger.
Through the darkness, I found
an empty bucket.
I picked it up while god was
watching in silence,
and now..
my bucket is filled with anger.
'It wasn't me who killed the old
lady!' I shouted.

And as I felt the weapon
swinging on the side of
my jacket, with guilt added
to my bucket,
I saw a land.
A man holding a lamp,
waving for me to land,
The thousand nights are over
there's still one to go,
and from now on,
you'll be Shahrazad' he said
I took the lamp and walked on
thinking of the remaining
night,
leaving everything behind

- Levant Yassine



Saol Nua, an Irish term meaning “new life”, was conceived to show that a refugee is not always what you think.

The factors that lead people to uproot their lives for pure uncertainty are as diverse as the people themselves. Whether social, political, economical or meteorological, we all have our reasons for living where we do. The individuals portrayed in these images are no different than you or me. We're all on the same journey.





Balancing School, Friendship
ture feels overwhelming,
you'll see that these ex
are essential for your gro
ural to feel scared with
nt life changes especially



confused and uncertain. You
about the life you're bring
world but also worried a
for it and fearing judgmen
ners. You will learn and grow
y from these changes. The

that you are well and to see who you
becoming, let me say that I am proud
part of you, to see how you are growing
and becoming a beautiful person, who
fights for his ideals and who always s
peace with you, let me tell you that if
managed to come out of the wardrobe



and those hands will always be exte

to you.







ووجدني في الطريق، دعي حبي لك
 لك أهد أن يهرب لك حلمك ويغير من نظرتك
 في الأشياء التي ~~تفعلها~~ تفعلها
 أنا أنارت حريقك في الصمت قبل أن أعلم أنك
 بيننا هذا و بيننا البيعة التي ولدت فيما لكن
 حبلنا في الزمان ~~فقط~~ منك فقط



في مكان بعيد عن القيود
 يحنني لك زفت ببقاك أنت شجاع أكثر
 وهم ما صار هالدا أنا ما يحبونك وما يحبونك

2024.05.13

✍️

مالح



This selection is a very small sample of a larger body of work.

I'm eternally grateful to each of the participants for their trust, their willingness to share their stories, and their endless optimism.

Special thanks to Wendy Muperi, Rory O'Neill, Deirdre Mullen, Nick Henderson and Ciara Ross from the Irish Refugee Council for their trust, and for their tireless efforts at bringing this project to life.

- *Michael Sugrue, 22 June 2024*

The Irish Refugee Council's mission is to support and work with refugees and people seeking international protection in Ireland. We do this through delivering essential services, supporting their integration and inclusion, conducting research and advocacy for change, and sharing best practice. These photos demonstrate the strength and resilience of people we work with. They are a window into their life changing journeys and the work of communities across Ireland that support them.

In recent times, we have also been working tirelessly to fight misinformation on refugee and protection issues. For answers to some of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) visit our website via the QR Code below.

- *Nick Henderson, CEO Irish Refugee Council*



lgbt.ie
mayrosefc.com
irishrefugeecouncil.ie



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