



# Libraries and refugees in The Netherlands

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# Dutch situation at the political and societal level

- Discussion on the organisation of accommodating refugees: large size/ small size, camps/housing
- Public responsibility vs citizens' initiatives
- Awareness: balance with right wing sentiments

# Libraries' initiatives, national level

- National public Library Association collects best practices
- NPLA Provides Two video s on practices on you tube: Haarlem, Nijmegen.
- National Library seeks contact with national asylum organisations
- National Library provides language toolkit, support for volunteers who help refugees with learning Dutch.
- Refugees get free code to work online on learning Dutch and related services.
- A number of digital services can be accessed through the digital library services
- The professional Library Journal collects stories and best practices

# Language learning



- Toolkit for volunteers who help refugees to learn Dutch.
- includes step by step, how to use the learning method
- Includes offline and online learning materials
- Makes use of dedicated online code, self-learning at any moment
- Makes use of mobile phone for making your own Dutch dictionary
- <https://www.kb.nl/ob/leren-lezen-digivaardigheden/taalkit-dutch-voor-vluchtelingen>

# Library Plan



Photo: Eimer Wieldraaijer

- The Netherlands Public Library Association offered a proposal to the Minister for a coordinated action of libraries for the integration of refugees
- Minister visited a local library, and discussed with refugees, libraries and local community in this rather deprived neighbourhood
- Positive view of the role of libraries, in combining language lessons, dance classes and reading aloud to children

# Fundraising: Book festival

- The National Reading Coalition organised a Book festival with famous authors , to raise funds for the project My Book Buddy
- Benefits helped all children in Asylum seeker camps
  - to have their own picture book Dutch,
  - to have reading materials in their asylum schools.

# Local Library initiatives

- Handing out free Library Cards
- Support bookdonations, and bring to Camps; pop up libraries
- Reading aloud for refugee children
- Introduction course: New in The Netherlands, in 7 meetings with Dutch/Arabic speaking host/ leader.
- Library Flyers etc. translated into various languages.

# Local Library initiatives

Opening a Library for refugees: Tilburg

- The library is for all people, learning, getting to know, language and culture
- Collection with Arabic and English titles, all types of genre; computers in English, with Press reader for international Press
- Library cooperation with Volunteer Services and Central Asylum seekers Unit