

# REFUGEES WELCOME: HOW FOOTBALL CAN SUPPORT REFUGEES GLOBALLY

British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award



## PROFILE

Dr Mark Doidge



## GRANT

£14,996



## DURATION

2016 – 2017



## UK INSTITUTION

University of Brighton

“Football can be a powerful social activity for refugees. It is cathartic, and helps boost mental and physical health. Most importantly, it provides an important site of social interaction that can generate a sense of belonging and safety when carefully managed. To do this, there needs to be strong cooperative networks that share best practise and support each other.”

## SUMMARY

As part of Dr Doidge’s BARSEA, two events were held in Paris and Brighton with football fans and policymakers to understand the ‘refugee crisis’ holistically. Football can play a part and requires work from fans, clubs, governing bodies and various interested parties, like voluntary organisations and NGOs in order to support refugees.

## OUTCOMES

- Evidence to All Parliamentary Group on Refugees – the role of sport in supporting refugees, September 2016
- Evidence to Brighton and Hove City Council’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in International Migrants, September 2016
- Creation of a Refugee and Asylum Seeker Community group by the Football Association
- Support for Amnesty International’s first #FootballWelcomes campaign
- involving 30 football teams on 22nd and 23rd April 2017
- Advisor on football and refugees to Copa 90 for ITV documentary ‘The Liberte Cup’ (Screened January 2017)
- Fan-led workshop in Paris run in partnership with Football Supporters Europe in June 2016. Over thirty fans and grassroots refugee teams introduced the different initiatives from around Europe and shared best practice. It also highlighted some of the structural issues affecting volunteers helping refugees on the ground
- Showcase event at Amex Stadium, home of Brighton and Hove Albion on 25th November which brought together seventy-five delegates including policymakers, NGOs, grassroots organisations and a variety of interested parties, including UEFA, the FA and Premier League. This was done in partnership with the University of Brighton’s Football 4 Peace which was established to build bridges in divided communities