

A Million Stories – The largest collection of unfiltered personal accounts from refugees in Europe

A Million Stories is an intercultural storytelling project, initiated and led by Roskilde Libraries in collaboration with Cologne and Malmö public libraries and Future Library in Veria.

The aim is to foster respect for intercultural diversity by creating references we can all recognize from our everyday lives. The project has created an online library of human experiences, containing 650 unfiltered accounts from refugees whom have fled to EU in recent years, making it the largest curated collection of unfiltered personal accounts from refugees in Europe.

By offering refugees a platform from which to share their experiences, we have brought forward the opportunity for EU citizens to identify with their new neighbors, thereby contributing to the integration process from a new angle. Stories about refugees, portrayed in the media, edited by journalists or told from political perspectives, are often taken out of context. Instead of telling parts of stories, which tend to illustrate our differences, A Million Stories seeks to encourage identification between people. Identifying with other peoples experiences, feelings and perspectives is what makes cultural transmission and social integration possible.

The stories told in this project create narrative connections between two storylines. One from the refugee's past life and one from their present, which offers great insight into the cultural context they are part of. Not only do we learn about the storytellers past lives, and harrowing experiences of war and plight; we receive outside perspectives on our own cultures and way of life.

Our website enables refugees to share their experiences, culture and life stories in various formats including film, audio/visual and written stories. By doing so, refugees can communicate their stories regardless of language and storytelling capabilities.

The range of formats and the geographical outreach that an online platform provides enables us to communicate not only on a social level, but on a political and educational level, e.g. making it possible for schoolchildren to learn about the lives of refugee children living in their country, or higher learning facilities using stories to conduct sociological research.

A Million Stories encourages cultural institutions worldwide to contribute to the digital library, offering a [toolkit](#) and short [film](#) describing our work and methodologies. Please go to the project website refugeelives.eu to learn more.