

Know Your Rights is a legal empowerment project set up by DLA Piper in Europe. Participants are refugees and asylum seekers. They receive weekly training on various legal issues and learn about their rights in their host country.

The goal is to empower participants by increasing their core legal knowledge and associated soft skills. The project also aims to help them better integrate, advocate for their own interests and pursue their professional and personal goals using the information and techniques they learn during the sessions.

Know Your Rights is being run in Amsterdam, Paris, Vienna, Hamburg, Rome and we are in the process of expanding it to other cities where we have offices.



In each city, DLA Piper hires a refugee law student intern to help run the program.

All asylum seekers and all migrants leave behind lives, families and career paths in their countries of origin. Some were lawyers or law students. The Know Your Rights project seeks to collaborate with such persons, drawing from their legal expertise and giving them exposure to the international legal practice of DLA Piper. The project also provides them with an opportunity to use their unique skill-set to support other migrants in their new country.



Ous Haidar is a Syrian lawyer specialized in International Investment and Tax Law. Since arriving in the Netherlands three years ago after traveling from Syria via Turkey, he has received an LL.M from Erasmus University School of Law. In Syria he had worked at TNT Express Company as a Manager of the Legal Department. Ous supported the pro bono team to run the Netherlands Know Your Rights Project.



Fatami Mahamat has a Master in International and European Law from Sorbonne Law School and is currently studying at Sorbonne to prepare for the French bar exam. She joined us to run the Know Your Rights Programme in Paris. She arrived in France one year ago after traveling from Chad via Egypt. Fatami was born in Benin, grew up in Gabon and studied French law at Cairo University.

The classes are taught by DLA Piper lawyers and our clients such as Nike, Intel, General Electric, Amazon and BNP Paribas.

- We run the project in collaboration with local NGOs, such as our founding project partners, New Dutch Connections and Pro Bono Connect in Amsterdam.
- The sessions are interactive, fun and informative and are a way for newcomers to network and make friends, socialise and feel welcomed in their new home.
- The topics we cover range from country to country but our core sessions include asylum & immigration law, employment law, health law, courts & justice, writing & advocacy, contract law, entrepreneurship, education and housing.
- We assign a mentor to each participant in order to help them work on a personal project such as a university application or a job application, throughout the program.



For more information on the project, interns and the future cities where we will run the Know Your Rights project, please contact özgür.kahale@dlapiper.com or lamin.khadar@dlapiper.com

Watch the Know Your Rights Amsterdam video at <https://youtu.be/wldl654alhs>

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