



The City of Athens and The HOME Project signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the benefit of unaccompanied refugee children

Athens, 17 May 2019: The City of Athens and the non-profit organization, The HOME Project, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize their commitment to collaborate by strengthening existing capacity through the delivery of high-quality services for lone refugee children residing in Athens.

The aim of this partnership is the development of best practices and the identification of potential synergies within the city of Athens that could benefit unaccompanied minors.

The collaboration will focus on the following areas: Protection, Health and Wellbeing, Education, Empowerment and Livelihoods, Advocacy and Communication, Coordination and Information Management.

The City of Athens' Mayor George Broulias said, "The City of Athens remains focused on its strategy for the management of the refugee issue and the integration of the refugees. A strategy which is in the benefit of the city as well as the rights of the refugees, and –with this partnership- it focuses on their most vulnerable group, the unaccompanied children who are in need of our absolute attention"

"We are very happy to have on our side The City of Athens in our effort to protect unaccompanied refugee children offering them equal opportunities for social inclusion. With targeted actions of community building we can have a positive impact on the lives of both the refugee as well as the Greek community", noted Sofia Kouvelaki, CEO of The HOME Project.

The deputy mayor of Migrants and refugees of the City of Athens Lefteris Papagiannakis noted that "The partnership with The HOME Project will allow The City of Athens to develop collaborations on issues that are pertinent to unaccompanied minors. We will be able to develop technical know-how and to interact with neighborhoods and cities through local authorities and local activities".

The HOME Project is a non-profit organization, set up to address the needs of unaccompanied refugee children. In two years, it has supported more than 350 children in its 11 shelters, providing a holistic child protection network of services including medical, mental health support, education, and social inclusion services.

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www.homeproject.org/en/get-involved

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Notes to EditorsThe HOME Project

Standing for 'Help, Overcome, Motivate, and Empower', The HOME Project's mission is threefold. First, to bring unaccompanied minors to safety in dedicated shelters where they will be clothed, fed, and supported. Second, to source, refurbish, and convert unused buildings throughout Greece into shelters, bringing them back to life and into good use. Third, through the conversion, refurbishment, and ongoing operation of these shelters it is creating employment, including for refugees – 130 new jobs were created in its first year of operation. At the moment, The HOME Project is housing 200 children in ten homes and creating more than 130 jobs. The founding sponsor of The HOME Project is the Libra Group, a privately owned international business.

www.homeproject.org