## **OUR STEPPING STONE ACADEMY**

## TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF DISPLACED CHILDREN AND MOTHERS WHO LIVE INVISIBLE AMONGST US, EXPOSED TO LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS

PROTECTION AND LEGAL SUPPORT

BASIC NEEDS (HOUSING, FOOD)

ACCESS TO MEDICAL SUPPORT



**EMPOWERMENT** 

VOCATIONAL TRAINING LANGUAGE COURSES AND JOB FINDING

CHILD DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT AND
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



## BY DONATING AT OUR STEPPING STONE ACADEMY

You help a mother and her children to receive support and 'graduate' from our Academy to a safe and sustainable life.

By allowing us to be by their side, we can help them take their lives back in their hands, leaving exploitation and invisibility behind.

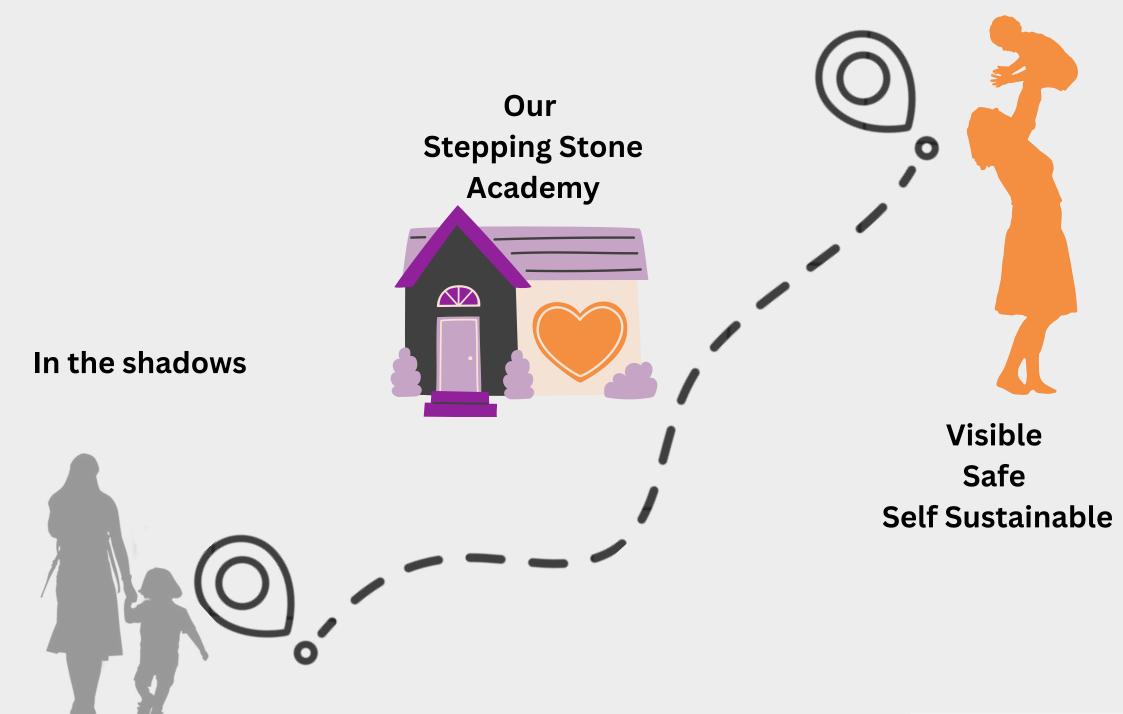
With 2500 pounds/month, we can offer them our holistic support.

Help us reach our monthly goal!

2500£ per month

**Every donation counts!** 







Pauline\* is a single mother of three children from Congo. Back in her country she was kidnapped and suffered torture. Her trauma deepened even further when she realized the people that 'helped' her leave her country were, in fact, her traffickers. In Greece, her asylum application was rejected, because as she later told us, she did not have the strength to share her experiences. Pauline for a long period of time, did not receive any legal or psychological aid. The final straw in her life was when, after a brief hospitalization, she realized her children were taken from her. For one and a half years, Pauline did not know where her children were, whether they were dead or alive. When she first came into our offices, she was desperate.

Our team had first to guarantee her access to basic rights that she was deprived of, due to the rejection of the asylum claim, while at the same time we started looking for her children and working on reopening her asylum case. Her children were located after some months in an orphanage, shortly before being put up for adoption. With our intervention, we managed to pause the procedure of adoption and start the one for reuniting them with their mother. In the meantime, our psychologist started working with her.

With our ongoing support, Pauline has attained refugee status, secured a full-time job in a hotel, while prioritizing her mental health. Despite these successes, the road to reunification with her children remains challenging. Reclaiming custody demands further legal support and representation through a complex legal process. She requires stable housing that complies with specific requirements, including a two-bedroom apartment. Additionally, sustaining her sessions with the psychologist is crucial, and ongoing support will be indispensable once she regains custody of her children. The journey ahead is filled with obstacles, but our dedication to her cause persists, ensuring she receives the necessary support to bring her family back together.

## HELP FAMILIES LIKE PAULINE'S

