

Working with displaced people: exploring
and navigating the complex issues
surrounding OT practice in refugee
camps

Debi Altman

Terminology

Asylum seekers	Those seeking safety from persecution or serious harm in a country different to their own. They are waiting for their claim to be processed and to be granted refugee status. (UNHCR, 2018)
Refugees	People with residency and right to work in their host country granted as a result from the need for protection due to persecution (UNHCR, 2018)
Migrants	People who choose to move due to a desire to improve their lives for reasons such as employment, family reunion, education or other (UNHCR, 2018)
Displaced person	Term used to encompass all of these people (Blankvoort et al, 2018)

Introductions

Recent OT MSc Graduate

Spent two weeks volunteering in Calais and Dunkirk June 2018 and one week in May 2019 with The School Bus Project



Attended talks and workshops on the subject

Attended an ADAPT study day

Please challenge, question and contribute your knowledge and experience!

Background Information

“European refugee crisis” of 2015 - 2016 caused by conflicts in the Middle East and Northern Africa, leading to over 2.4 million asylum applicants (Eurostat, 2018).

Syrian conflict main driver as well as conflicts and disasters in Iraq, Nigeria, Burundi, Libya and Niger, and older unresolved crises in Palestine, Afghanistan, Pakistan, South Sudan, the DRC, the Central African Republic and Yemen (Eurostat, 2018).

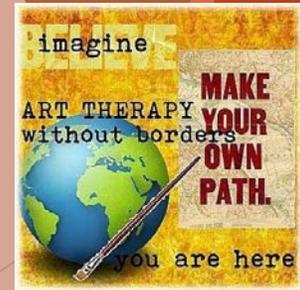
Due to the restrictive border policies, the refugee journey is often taken using illegal measures, including smuggling and trafficking; this leads to a massive loss of lives (UNHCR, 2018)

Calais and Dunkirk

- 1500 displaced people living outside in Northern France*
- Almost 200 of these are unaccompanied children*
- 1500 in Dunkirk, mostly families, without shelter*
- 500 people, in Calais, forests, under bridges*
- French authorities regularly destroying their tents and belongings in random acts of aggression

*Help Refugees (2018).

Supporting organisations in Calais



What occupational issues might be facing people in the camps?



What are the ethical issues of working with people in camps?

Section One: Introduction

- ▶ Defining OT, its values and its beliefs
- ▶ The purpose of the code

Section Two: Service provision

- ▶ Focusing on occupation
- ▶ The OT process
- ▶ Equality
- ▶ Resources and sustainability
- ▶ Risk management
- ▶ Record keeping

Section Three: Service user welfare and autonomy

- ▶ Duty of care
- ▶ Welfare
- ▶ Informed consent and mental capacity
- ▶ Confidentiality

Section Four: Professionalism

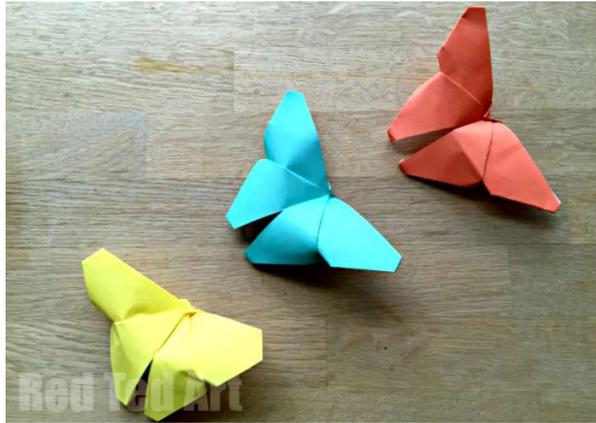
- ▶ Professional conduct
- ▶ Professional and personal integrity
- ▶ The professionalism of colleagues
- ▶ Personal profit or gain
- ▶ Information and representation
- ▶ Relationships with service users
- ▶ Fitness to practise

Section Five: Professional competence and lifelong learning

- ▶ Professional competence
- ▶ Delegation
- ▶ CPD
- ▶ Collaborative working
- ▶ OT practice education

Section Six: Developing and using the profession's evidence base

What would occupational therapy look like in refugee camps?



Assessment

Intervention

Evaluation



Thank you!

Blankvoort, N., Moore, T., Roos, K. & Schiller, S. (2018). Occupational Therapy Europe Interest Group Displaced Persons Report on Occupational Therapy with Displaced Persons

Help Refugees. (2018). Calais and Dunkirk. Retrieved from <https://helprefugees.org/calais/>

UNHCR. (2018). Global report 2017. Retrieved from Retrieved from

http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/gr2017/pdf/GR2017_English_Full_lowres.pdf