1. **Introduction**

Good morning,

We are some of the participants of the Global Smiles project. A project in the Spanish Department in partnership with IESO Sierra la Mesta in Spain, a secondary school in Spain in the region of Extremadura.

We have been working with Spanish students on different activities on cultural understanding and tolerance through an online platform, we have exchanged numbers and instagrams and we are now in touch with them. The last activity we worked on was the presentation for refugee week.

The winning presentation is the one we are going to show you today, made by Amira Guendouz, year 9, Duaa in Year 10, Jesus and Andrea from Spain. We have worked very hard on this and we want to raise awareness on the issue of refugees and forced migration. We hope you find it interesting and bring your spare coins for the different activities that we are doing in the week to raise money for Nottingham Refugee Forum.

1. **Who are refugees and asylum seekers?**

Refugees are people fleeing conflict or persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.

Asylum seekers are refugees who make an asylum claim in the country of destination, for example, England, Spain, Lebanon, Turkey… they seek international protection. The asylum seeking process can take very long time, even a few years during which refugees live unstable and difficult lives in the country of destination.

1. **How are we helping refugees?**

In Spain, there are many organisations helping refugees such as Proactiva Open Arms or Proem Aid which went to work in Greek to rescue refugees arriving to the coast from the Mediterranean Sea; Accem or the Spanish Commission for Refugees, these have been providing legal and social support to refugees for 30 years.

In England, we have other organisations such as Asylum Aid, Migrants Help, Refugee Action and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. They provide a range of services such as legal aid or they work in community development.

1. **Why do we need to do something about the crisis as citizens of the world?**

This is what Jesus from Spain thinks. Take a minute to read it please.

…

We think that by understanding their situation and helping them we become stronger. If teenagers are aware, we will become aware adults and we will be able to fight for peace and tolerance in our communities and country.

1. **How can we help?**

Number 1: Donating.

There are many charities and organisations which we can donate money to, which help refugees and asylum seekers in England. For example, the Nottingham Refugee Forum.

Number 2: Volunteer

There are different ways of volunteering, for example getting involved in a running project at any local charity, teaching English, sorting out clothes and goods donated by people and many other things.

Number 3: Fundraise

We can raise money by doing sponsored runs, cake sales, non-school uniforms and any idea you may have!

Thank you very much for listening, we hope you are now more aware of this issue which affects thousands of people every day.