



Erasmus+

The story of a hero

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ERASMUS+ KA2, "In A Far Away Land: Refugee Children

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COLEGIUL ENERGETIC, RAMNICU VALCEA, ROMANIA



The story of a hero

ERASMUS+ KA2
IN A FAR AWAY LAND: REFUGEE CHILDREN

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Doaa's story



- The story became known because of **Melissa Fleming**
- Chief Communications & Spokesperson, UNHCR Geneva, Switzerland

Areas of Expertise

- humanitarian action, international relations, **Journalism & Communication**, nuclear non-proliferation and security, Refugee Protection

Melissa Fleming – a Voice for Refugees

head of communications for the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees

- *“Every day, I listen to harrowing stories of people fleeing for their lives, across dangerous borders and unfriendly seas. But there’s one story that keeps me awake at night, and it’s about Doaa,”* Melissa Fleming Voice for refugees.

Did you know...



- There are 19.5 million refugees in the world.
- Syria continues to be the largest source.
- 4.3 million Syrians are refugees and 6.6 million Syrians are displaced internally. Half of them are children.

Doaa story – a greek refugee



- Doaa is a 19-year-old aspiring student who was forced by the war to live a grinding existence with her family in exile.
- One day, a motorcycle gang tried to kidnap her on the street.
- Despite all this, Doaa still had hope, because she was in love with another refugee, called Bassem and they run away onto an old fishing boat.

The story of a trip



- After two days at sea she started to get worried, and on the third day she told Bassem: “We will never reach the shore. We will all sink.”
- Within minutes, the boat capsized and sank, with 300 people trapped below deck.

The tragedy



- Unfortunately, Bassem drowned before her eyes.
- Later that day, a mother struggled towards Doaa with Masa, an 18-month-old girl. “Save her,” she said, “I will not survive.”

Courage

**“ NO ONE LEAVES
HOME UNLESS HOME
IS THE MOUTH OF
A SHARK.”**

~ The Fresh Quotes ~

- Sensing his end was near, a Palestinian approached with his nine-month-old granddaughter, Malek.
- “Please take the baby,” he said. “I am very tired.” Then he gave up and let the sea take his life.



Fighting for life



- Doaa, the 19-year-old who could not swim, who had just watched her fiancé drown, was now in charge of saving two fledgling lives.
- They were crying, agitated, hungry and thirsty. So she told them stories and played with them.

Being brave



- On the fourth day in the sea, Doaa saw a merchant boat.
- They spotted her with search lights in the dark and extended a rope – astonished to find a young woman clutching two babies.

Award

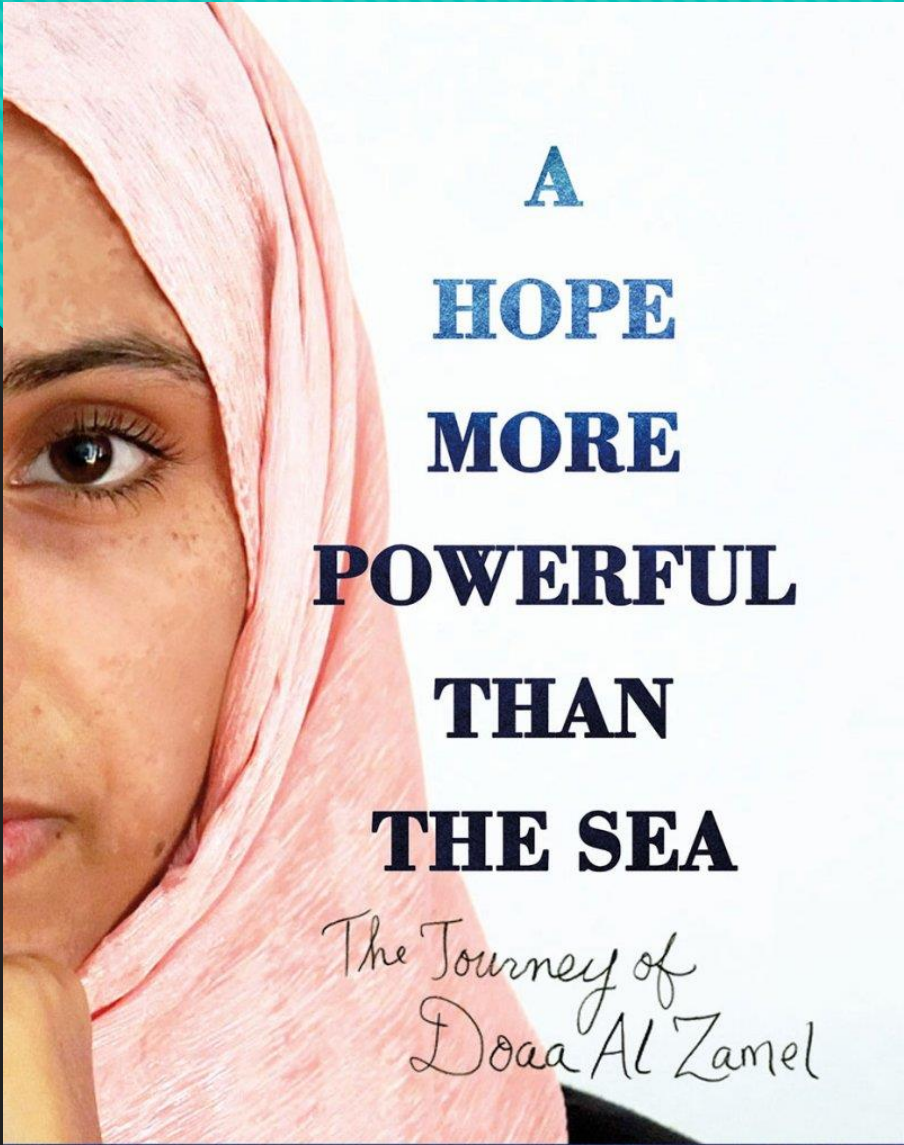


- Doaa's heroism was praised in the Greek media. On 19 December, one of Greece's most respected institutions, the Academy of Athens, gave her an award for bravery.

SOURCES

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- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/12/3-real-stories-from-refugees/>
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The book



**A
HOPE
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN
THE SEA**

*The Journey of
Doaa Al Zamel*

One Refugee's Incredible Story of
Love, Loss, & Survival

MELISSA FLEMING



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