

A REFUGEE'S STORY

Katie Seaton reports that the film, *Suspended*, made in conjunction with Herts Welcomes Refugees (formerly known as Herts Welcomes Syrian Refugees) is now available to watch on YouTube: [youtube/6b61EbMrido](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6b61EbMrido)

Its premier was at St Andrew's Church in September. The filmmakers from left to right are **Catherine Henderson**, writer and creative consultant; **Rosie Wyllie**, animator; **Katie Seaton**, producer, editor and composer-sound designer.



Here are five things Katie told us about the film:

- Our film, *Suspended*, tells the story of a man resettled in Hertfordshire under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme. He is a former restaurant owner who had to flee Syria to protect his family.
- We chose to make the film using stop motion animation with sound and music (as opposed to a traditional documentary) in order to protect the identity of this refugee for the sake of his friends and family who are still in Syria. We also thought this was a really good way to show what it felt like to be there.
- He showed great courage and humanity in telling his own story, and was so hospitable and lively. He was passionate about making his experiences more widely known so that everyone can understand how the Syrian regime operates.
- The title of our film came from thinking about a life stopped in its tracks, suspended. There are chapters in the story that draw out the difficult physical meaning of that word too: torture, and dependence on medical interventions. So we see suspension a lot. And, of course, the story isn't yet over.
- I hope this story does for viewers what it did for me: makes them ask "what would I do, how would I cope?" I have so much admiration for the fortitude of the refugees I meet.



If you're interested in finding out more about *Suspended* please get in touch with Katie, katharine.s.seaton@gmail.com

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