

# CLAUDIA MARIA ZEDDA & MARTA SOFIA CORREIA

## FÁILTE REFUGEE SOCIETY, UCC, CO. CORK

STAND



### THE STORY

Meet Claudia Maria Zedda and Marta Sofia Correia. Both have embarked on transformative journeys that have spanned multiple countries and deepened their connection to the refugee cause.

Originally from Sardinia, Claudia's path led her to various leadership roles within the Fáilte Refugee Society. Her efforts weren't just theoretical; they were grounded in tangible impacts. Marta's passion for refugee rights was ignited by her mixed Portuguese and Venezuelan heritage, giving her a unique perspective on the global refugee crisis.

Having witnessed the plight of refugees first-hand, Claudia and Marta were motivated to join the Fáilte Refugee Society in University College Cork.

Marta said:

**"I always thought it was really unfair how refugees are treated and the lack of systems in place."**

A vivid and evocative example of the work being done by Fáilte Refugee Society was All Together, a project in collaboration with the European Solidarity Corps and the Glucksman Gallery, which gave children from the Clonakilty Direct Provision Centre a space to creatively express their views and experiences.

Working with artist Elisa Babkinaunder, under the guidance of Helen O'Keeffe and Claire Coughlan from Creativity and Change, the young people were given the freedom to decide the message they wanted to convey to the public.

The final artwork is now on display outside The Hub in UCC. The mural encapsulates Claudia and Marta's central mission: to promote and empower the integration of refugees and to celebrate diversity and inclusion. With a background in international development and social work, their motivation is rooted in personal experiences and a burning desire for change.

### THE WHY

Witnessing the struggles of refugees first-hand, they were drawn to the work of Fáilte Refugee Society, which was actively making a difference in the lives of these marginalised individuals. The stark differences in refugee treatment across countries further solidified their commitment, motivating them to create positive change.

### THE RECOMMENDATION

**Marta recommends**  
PODCAST - *Asylum Speakers*  
Podcast with Jaz O'Hara.

**Claudia recommends**  
BOOK - *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri.

### THE CHALLENGE

The society encountered bureaucratic hurdles, societal biases, and misconceptions about refugees. However, Claudia and Marta's unwavering determination and the collective efforts of the society members pushed through these obstacles.

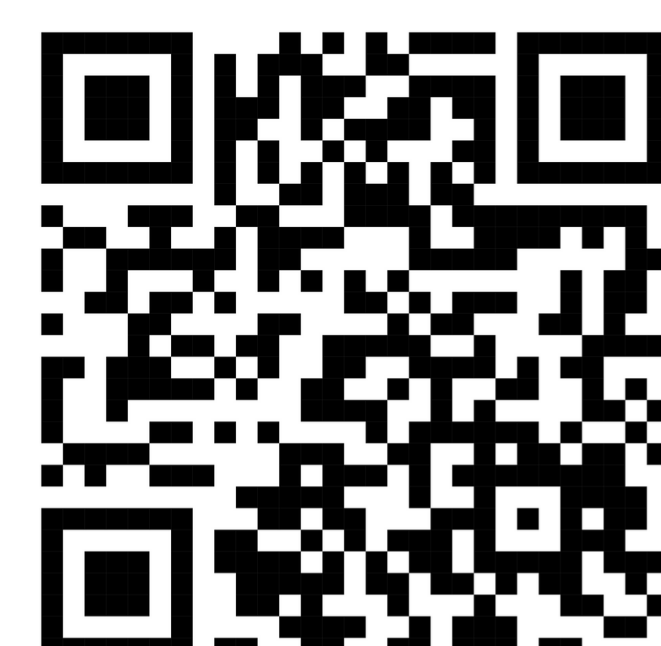
To find out more follow them on social media  
[@claudiazedda99](#) and  
[@marta\\_sofia\\_correia](#)

Interview by Tejaswy Swathi Kovuri

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**We are working with the people we want to support, giving them a space to belong and helping them to express their voices.**

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CHANGE  
PRODUCTION

Photo by Lizzie Downes

