

# Maker Space FAQ

The Facework maker space is a one year pilot programme to see how refugees and those furthest from the labour market can be better supported to make connections, make networks, job opportunities and potentially their businesses. This FAQ starts to help people understand what it is we are trying to develop and we welcome other questions and support in answering these:

## 1. What do you mean by MAKING?

"MAKING" refers to mastering craft skills, acquiring new abilities to create products or services, or taking the risk of starting a small enterprise. By focusing on job creation rather than job searching, we help participants reimagine their careers, build self-worth, and experience the empowerment that comes from making. The Maker Space will provide tools and resources to support skill development, business creation, and connection through creative activities, which studies show can significantly boost happiness and life satisfaction.

## 2. How can local people get involved?

Local people can get involved by volunteering their time and skills. They can also participate in activities, workshops, and collaborate with refugees to support creativity and self-employment.

## 3. Do I have to pay to use it?

No, at the moment the Maker Space is free for refugees and local residents. In the future, to sustain the project, local people may support it by donating or paying to use the space for functions or classes, with all funds reinvested into the program.

## 4. What happens after the pilot?

After the 12-month pilot, we will review the outcomes, and if successful, seek additional funding to expand the Maker Space and offer more services to meet growing demand.

## 5. What is the evidence that refugees will use it?

Evidence from our work with over 200 refugees shows strong interest in learning new skills and starting small businesses. Refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine have expressed a need for affordable workspace, tools, and resources to aid their integration and employment.

## 6. Can I hire the space for Maker activities?

No, but local residents, artists, and makers can **book it in advance** to use the facilities for their projects, ensuring organised scheduling and accessibility for all.

## 7. How can I help?

You can help by volunteering, donating tools or materials, offering mentorship, or supporting the Maker Space by purchasing products or sponsoring workshops and activities.

## 8. What are the long-term goals of the Maker Space?

The long-term goals of the Maker Space are to create sustainable employment for refugees, foster community integration, and support local economic growth.

## 9. How will you evaluate the success of lessons learnt from the project?

We involve refugees in all aspects of the project, and a refugee filmmaker will document the progress, feedback, and impact. Additionally, we welcome those with expertise in holistic evaluation models to help design our assessment process.

## 10. What support is provided to help participants start their own business?

Participants receive tailored support, including help with business plans, financial management, market access, and branding. One-on-one consultations, mentorship from local entrepreneurs, and networking opportunities are also provided to help them successfully launch and grow their businesses.

## **11. Who is Facework?**

Facework is a social enterprise offering training, resources, and support to help individuals develop new skills and start businesses. Its programs aim to provide employment opportunities, foster integration, and promote sustainable economic growth for refugees and local residents.