



What a privilege today has been. During 7 months of almost weekly visits to Calais I have met many unaccompanied children. I have witnessed the devotion of Citizens UK/Safe Passage staff, lawyers, translators and volunteers (with and without papers) who have lovingly, patiently and tenaciously implemented the Dublin 3 agreement to reunite children with family in the UK. But TODAY I got to greet 2 boys as they arrived legally at St Pancras. I sat with them on Sunday in Calais and talked about who would be meeting them today. I met their relatives this morning as we waited their arrival. Nothing will ever erase from my memory the welling tears of anticipation and hope that I saw in the relatives eyes as we waited, nor the intensity of love and relief that was in those first embraces, nor the looks of disbelief and refamiliarisation as they starred at each other, nor the sight of these boys walking away in freedom to their new future, free of bombs, tear gas, tents and lines.

Well done all who have sought to support and protect these boys whilst on their journeys and their months in 'the jungle' - who have offered advice and mentoring, shelter and hospitality, informal youth work and schooling. You all know who you are... and you are all awesome. It is a privilege to cheer you on and fight for justice with you.



Juliet Kilpin- Baptist Minister