

## Firestop helping Businesses to understand Refugee problems.



(Global Hand UK volunteer Natasha Williams teaching Lord Malloch-Brown in an Afghani school)

Firestop has started an innovative partnership with Global Hand UK, by providing their premises to support the charity's work.

As a result, Firestop has been supporting the voluntary organisation Global Hand UK in running a Refugee simulation at the World Economic Forum's Davos conference earlier in the year. Organised in conjunction with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the "Refugee Run" allows the participants of WEF to experience the challenges faced daily by the world's 42 million displaced people.

For a moment in time, participants were thrust into another environment, stepping into the shoes of refugees in order to meet, through simulation, some of the struggles they face. Following the event a debrief invited participants to discuss the refugee situation, and explore ways to strategically engage with the issue.

Refugee Run participant, Mr Thoeny said: *"Reading a thousand books would not teach me what I learned in the past hour"*

Global Hand is a matching service, connecting businesses and charities to form partnerships aimed at addressing global need. It has been likened to a "humanitarian eBay."

Ben Solanky, Global Hand UK director stated,

*"It's partnerships that we seek to bring alive in places where these experiences are run. We've seen their power to transform, and the impact they have on the participants. Indeed we are very grateful for the partnership with Firestop in supporting our work."*

