In late 2015 the Italian church community established a program of ‘Humanitarian Corridors’ - the Corridoi Umanitari - to fly 1000 mostly Syrian asylum seekers to Italy from Lebanon. Since then, the model has been expanded in Italy and adopted in France. This paper is a preliminary study of the Corridors, based on interviews with church representatives conducted in mid-2017 as part of Dr Higgins’ Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the European University Institute. The paper situates the Corridors within the context of protected entry procedures more broadly, and provides an overview of their origin and operation.

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