



Welcome from Maurice Wren, Refugee Council CEO

The world is in the grip of a growing global refugee crisis, described recently by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as the greatest and most challenging since the Second World War. Over 51 million people worldwide are presently uprooted from their homes because of wars, civil conflicts, repression or oppression, with the Syrian conflict alone displacing 9 million people over the last three years.

This was the backdrop, in 2013-2014, to a year of considerable upheaval, but no little promise, for the Refugee Council. It was a year during which we weathered some storms, but in doing so, set an exciting new course for the charity with a renewed focus on our independence, our commitment to work inclusively and cooperatively with our peers, and our responsibility to speak up, loudly, clearly, and without fear or favour, for the needs and interests of refugees in the UK.

The progress we made during the year is evident in many areas, but I am particularly proud that the Refugee Council responded decisively and publicly to this burgeoning, global crisis by leading a successful campaign that, in January 2014, compelled our Government to establish a resettlement programme in the UK for Syrian refugees forcibly displaced by the conflict in their country.

And we didn't stop at calling for this Syrian resettlement programme, as we also worked with the Home Office to set it up, on the basis of our long and successful experience of supporting and empowering refugees resettled in Sheffield and Hull to live safe, stable and fulfilling lives.

We were delighted when the first group of Syrians arrived in the UK earlier in June this year to start a new, and above all, safe, chapter in their lives, but we were disappointed too by the modest scale of the Government programme. We believe it should be far more ambitious in scope and that the UK should be doing much more to alleviate the hardship and suffering in the region, so our campaign is continuing with the intention of securing a substantial increase in the number of Syrian refugees resettled in the UK.

That we have certainly and demonstrably transformed the lives of so many of our beneficiaries this year is a deserved and fitting tribute to the skills, the empathy, the resourcefulness and, often, the single-mindedness, of the Refugee Council's staff and volunteers delivering directly our destitution, children's, therapeutic care, resettlement and refugee integration services.

Whether we are working with destitute, refused, asylum seekers; or separated children trafficked into the UK to be cruelly exploited; or refugees whose mental health has been undermined by the torture they suffered, but who cannot obtain the clinical help they need; or those granted leave to remain in the UK as refugees, but who are then left to navigate the complexities of life in the UK society with no support; our sole purpose is to make a significant and positive difference in their lives.

The Refugee Council exists to improve the treatment of and the prospects for refugees in the UK, and whether we are succeeding in this mission is the test by which our work should always be judged.

Applying the same test of effectiveness to our broader advocacy and campaigning work, we can look back positively on a year of impact and achievement in this area too. In addition to our successful Syrian resettlement campaign, we persuaded the Government to pilot the provision of independent advocates for all trafficked children in care, and we obliged the Home Office to be far more sensitive in its treatment of women seeking asylum while in the later stages of pregnancy.

Through our coordination of NGO engagement with senior Home Office officials, we enhanced the extent to which they are held accountable for the operation of the asylum system, and by providing an effective secretariat function for the All Party Parliamentary Group in the Commons and the Lords, we enabled a higher level of Parliamentary scrutiny of asylum and refugee policy and operations.

We also discharged our responsibilities as a leading and prominent voice in the UK refugee movement with considerable aplomb, by maintaining a high and effective media profile throughout the year. This enabled us to articulate publicly the case for providing refugee protection at a time when the public discourse on immigration is dominated by ignorance, fear and hostility.

Our commitment to playing a key role in 'movement building' was further advanced during the year by our hosting of and providing assistance with fundraising, for both Detention Forum, a campaign network for NGOs working on immigration detention matters, and the Migrant NGO Communications Project, an initiative designed to achieve better balance in the coverage of immigration and refugee protection stories in the media. Both are geared to facilitating greater cooperation and collaboration between immigration and protection NGOs, in order that we are more than the sum of our parts, and both are making their mark as vital and effective initiatives.



The year was not without its difficulties though, and chief amongst them was the loss of Home Office funding for the independent information and advice services for adult asylum seekers that we had been providing for 14 years. Though the Government had made the terms of the funding far more restrictive than in the past, it was a major blow to lose the service, and not just financially, as losing the funding meant we had to say farewell to many long-standing colleagues whose resilience and dedication to the cause of refugee rights had long been one of the Refugee Council's strongest assets.

The loss of the service reflected that the world in which we operate is changing and it made us realise that if we are to achieve our primary purpose of being an influential and effective advocate of refugee protection rights, then we must change too. We started that transformation process last year, confident not only that we have a big and influential part to play in shaping and steering refugee protection policy in the UK and Europe for many years to come, but also that the best of the Refugee Council is yet to come.

I hope we can count on your continued support.

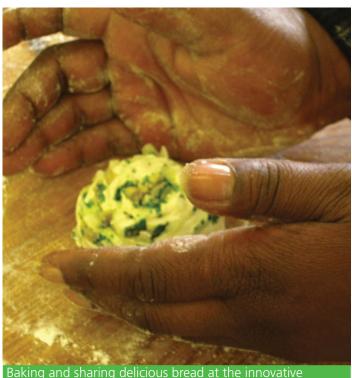
Maurice Wren

Refugee Council CEO

*Please Note: Names accompanying quotes throughout this report, have been changed to protect clients.



Refugee Council Services



Baking and sharing delicious bread at the innovative Just Bread project.



We deliver a range of advice and support services for asylum seekers and refugees which support people through the asylum process and help vulnerable men, women and children rebuild their lives here in the UK. Our wide range of services in 2013-2014 made a real impact on the lives of individuals.

Gateway Protection Programme

Through the government and EU funded Gateway protection programme we support very vulnerable families in need, who have been identified by the UNCHR as suitable for resettlement in the UK. The resettlement programmes, in partnership with Sheffield and Hull City Councils, work with families who have been in refugee camps for many years.

In 2013-2014, we helped resettle 38 families across Sheffield and Hull and they were supported by 30 volunteers. This year, we celebrated 10 years of Gateway resettlement in Sheffield, with a celebratory event featuring speakers from UNHCR, the Home Office and performances from refugee community organisations.

Children's Section

Our Children's Section works specifically with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, helping them to access education, training, healthcare and legal advice as well as providing much-needed emotional support.

We worked directly with very vulnerable children, helping them through the complex asylum process.

We received over 1,200 referrals in the year, ran 2,000 drop-in sessions, accompanied children to 1,330 official appointments and provided specialist support for 41 trafficked girls and 22 trafficked boys.

"Coming to the social evening has completely changed me in so many ways — I was shy and never wanted to talk much but people at Refugee Council have made me feel so comfortable." 15 year old boy from Afghanistan

Age Dispute Project

Our Age Dispute Project opened in 2010, and demand is increasing to help children who are assessed as being adults, and which can result in them being placed in detention centres. We received 131 referrals in 2013-2014 and were able to support 69 of these cases. This extremely effective service had an 82% success rate of releasing young people - mainly aged 13-17 from detention; and ensuring they are cared for appropriately by social services.

Therapeutic Casework

The Therapeutic Casework Unit, works with people who have faced torture, violence and enormous loss in their home country or while traveling to the UK. The team meets the practical and emotional needs of those seeking help in a safe and secure environment. One to one sessions and support groups for individuals and families provide stability and a lifeline to those who have faced trauma and upheaval. In 2013-2014 the services saw 142 women and 159 men. working with them on an individual level to come to terms with past trauma.

Destitution Centres

In our destitution centres, we see asylum seekers caught in a spiral of poverty and destitution, due to administration faults or due to their claim being refused. Many are homeless, have no money and no food. We provide support in a variety of ways; signposting to services, legal advice from visiting solicitors, therapeutic services, ESOL services and cold and hot food, to name a few. In the short period from January to March 2014 we saw 170 clients and recorded 772 visits to our regular drop-in sessions.

"You know you are alive for the five hours this centre is open, after that vou don't know what will happen."

A female client from Liberia who uses the Hackney centre and sleeps on buses

Integration Employment Advice Service

We continued to deliver the Integration employment advice service, with funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, offering education, training and employment advice to help support refugees to build new lives. We provided advice to over 150 people. After making initial assessments of clients, and working with people via workshops and one-to-one sessions; 45 people undertook training courses,

23 people entered voluntary work or work placements and 48 people moved into employment. Our innovative new programme Just Bread, created and run by a volunteer, uses bread baking as a pathway to skills development, employment and integration for refugee women. Of the eight women who joined the course, three attended work placements, one became self employed and one started a training course.

Our Refugee Health Professionals, Building Bridges project, with our partners RAGU, Glowing Results, HENCEL and some London NHS Trusts, supports doctors, dentists and other health professionals to equip themselves with required skills, re-qualify and access employment within the NHS. In 2013-2014, 37 refugee health professionals have gone into paid employment, 10 refugee doctors were supported to obtain license to practice and 8 were employed, and 2 refugee dentists accessed dental nursing. Through our Integration and Health Professionals programmes, we have been able to place a grand total of 85 people into employment.

Refugee Community Organisations

Supporting and strengthening the impact of London's Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) is a project, to build the capacity of RCOs to meet the needs of their communities. We supported 450 RCOs and directly provided a one-to-one service with free training and events for over 100 organisations.

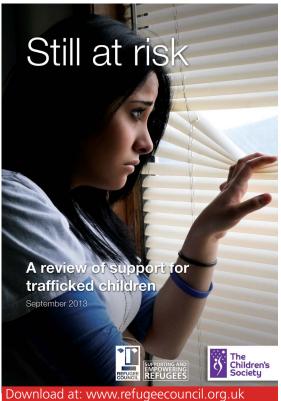
"This place has stopped many people from killing themselves. Myself included. Coming here, I found out my problem was nothing compared to other people's. If you know anyone that is feeling that way, bring them here." Sally* A client who was referred to Destitution day centre from our Therapeutic Casework Unit

At the end of 2013-2014 and after 14 years, we stopped providing independent information and advice services for adults seeking asylum. The terms of the contract were changed significantly and we handed over the service to a new provider with precision, saying goodbye to many longstanding colleagues whose dedication to the work of the Refugee Council's cause was second to none.



Advocacy Team





/assets/0002/9408/Still_at_Risk-Report-final.pdf

The Advocacy Team works to make the UK a welcoming place for refugees, by achieving policy changes and raising awareness of issues faced by those who are forced to flee their countries in search of protection. We want policy and decision makers to understand the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, and ensure that they are treated fairly and with dignity. We want the UK to be a place that enables refugees to rebuild their lives in safety and realise their potential. We use a range of methods to influence policy and practice, including research, public campaigns, policy influencing, parliamentary lobbying and media work.

Over the year, we engaged with Home Office officials on a range of issues including age disputed children, the dispersal of pregnant women and violence against women, asylum support, the operation of the asylum process, the care arrangements for children and detention.

We conducted research funded by the Home Office in partnership with The Children's Society, investigating the support arrangements for trafficked children. The research report, *Still at risk*, highlighted gaps in the support being given to trafficked children, which could leave them vulnerable to further exploitation. This review identified that opportunities

to protect children were being missed because of a culture of doubt and suspicion among professionals. On the back of this research, the Government announced a pilot which will see some child victims of trafficking given increased protection through a network of new personal advocates.

We engaged with parliamentarians in a variety of ways. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, for which we provide the secretariat, held meetings on the Home Affairs Select Committee report on asylum, dangerous journeys and Syria. We met and briefed parliamentarians on Legal Aid support for trafficked children, the dispersal of pregnant women and the Immigration Bill (now Act).

We submitted evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee's inquiry into the asylum system. We also gave oral evidence to the Committee, and many of our concerns were reflected in the report of the inquiry. We also submitted evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' inquiry into violence against women and girls. We responded to Government consultations, including proposals to change the health charging arrangements for people from overseas, and checks on immigration status being carried out by private landlords.









Top Left: Anna Musgrave, Women's Advocacy Manager, Advocacy & Influencing Team on BBC News.

Other pictures: Maurice Wren talking on Worldwide TV.

Media

During our Syria campaign, we achieved extensive media coverage. In January alone, we featured in over 700 print and online media clips in national (including front page stories), regional and local outlets, and participated in interviews on the Today Programme, BBC Breakfast, ITV News, Sky News, BBC 5 Live, BBC News Channel, BBC World TV, the Jeremy Vine show on BBC Radio 2, BBC World Service and London Broadcasting Company [LBC].

Success for Syrian refugees

We ran a successful campaign to persuade the UK Government to offer resettlement places in the UK for refugees who have fled the Syrian crisis. After five months of campaigning that involved engagement with parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, high profile media coverage, joint-working with other agencies from the aid, human rights and refugee sectors and campaign actions being taken by supporters, the Government announced the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme on 29th January 2014.

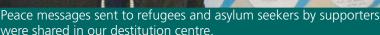
"I confess that when the Refugee Council first came to me and asked for my support for this campaign, which I was happy to give, I was a little sceptical of its chances of success in the current political climate. Its success is a real tribute to the Deputy Prime Minister and others in government, as well as to Hon. Members on both sides of the House, including many Conservatives, who have pressed for a change of policy, but most of all it is a tribute to the Refugee Council, Amnesty International and other organisations and their supporters who have campaigned for change. They can be very proud of what they have achieved this week for some of the most vulnerable people in the world."

Martin Horwood, MP for Cheltenham



Fundraising









The Refugee Council has been privileged to enjoy the continuing support of thousands of individual donors – as well as committed organisations and trusts – who are vital to help fund our work. We are incredibly grateful for the loyalty and donations which we received in 2013-2014. We look forward to sharing more insight into our work in the coming year; and how this funding genuinely transforms the lives of refugees and asylum seekers.

Individual supporters

Thousands of supporters continued to help our work by giving regular gifts through 2013-2014. We also ran several appeals through the year and raised over £41,000 from our 2013 December appeal. The campaign saw a fantastic response from almost 1,000 supporters who wrote messages of support for refugees and asylum seekers. The messages were shared at our Destitution services during the festive season, to show that refugees and asylum seekers are not alone during this time.

Trusts and maior donors

The Refugee Council relies on the generous voluntary contributions of trusts, foundations, statutory and major donors. Sadly, space does not allow us to thank them all, but we would like to make special mention of: the Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, the Basil C Bellhouse Charitable Trust, BBC Children in Need, the Beatrice Laing Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Comic Relief, Crisis, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust, the Goldsmiths' Company, Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund, the Home Office, the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, London Catalyst, the London Churches Refugee Fund, London Councils, NHS London, the Separated Child Foundation, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation and Volant Charitable Trust, without whom much of our vital work would not have been possible.

Training and conferences

We ran a very successful conference in February, Separated Children and Young People in the Asylum System, for professional audiences working with children. We also ran over 20 training courses through the year where our experts delivered courses on subjects such as Age Awareness, to key audiences – including local authority staff – across the UK.

Volunteers

For the 2013-2014 financial year we had 300 volunteers, who assisted us with our Gateway, Health Befriending, and Advice Programmes; as well as fundraising.



Financial Information

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 21 March 2014 including Income & Expenditure Account

31 March 2014 including Income & Expenditu	re Account
Incoming Resources 2013/14	£′ 000
Incoming resources from generated funds Donations, legacies and other voluntary income Investment income	2,421 38
Incoming resources from charitable activities Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers Campaigning and policy Capacity building, education and training	5,174 50 421
Total incoming resources	8,104
Resources expended 2013/14	£′ 000
Total cost of generating funds	714
Charitable activities Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers Campaigning and policy Capacity building, education and training	6,433 291 590
Governance costs	27
Total resources expended	8,055
Net incoming resources	49

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014	£′ 000
Tangible fixed assets	535
Investments	4
Fixed assets	539
Current assets	
Debtors	1,756
Cash at bank and in hand	4,287
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(908)
Net current assets	5,135
Provisions for liabilities	(238)
Net assets	5,436
Funds	
Unrestricted funds	
General	1,940
Designated	2,716
Total unrestricted funds	4,656
Restricted funds	780
Total funds	5,436





Independent Auditors' statement to the Members of British Refugee Council

We have examined the summary financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2014. Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Impact Report in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement within the Impact Report with the full annual financial statements, Strategic Report and the Report of the Trustees, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made there under.

We also read the other information contained in the Impact Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

Our report has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. No person is entitled to rely on this report unless such a person is a person entitled to rely upon this report by virtue of and for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006 or has been expressly authorised to do so by our prior written consent. Save as above, we do not accept responsibility for this report to any other person or for any other purpose and we hereby expressly disclaim any and all such liability.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 'The auditors' statement on summary financial statement in the United Kingdom' issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements and on the Report of the Trustees.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Report of the Trustees of British Refugee Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 and complies with the applicable requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made there under.

BDO LLP, Statutory Auditor Gatwick

United Kingdom

Date: November 18th 2014

BDO LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales (with registered number OC305127).

Trustees statement

The summarised financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet derived from the full audited trustees' report and financial statements of the charity, which were approved by the board of trustees on 23 October 2014. The auditors' statement under section 496 of the Companies Act 2006 was unqualified. Copies of the full annual financial statements have been filed with the Charity Commission and Companies House. These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full audited trustees' report and financial statements may be obtained on application to the charity's central office at Gredley House, 1-11 Broadway, London E15 4BQ. For and on behalf of the Council: Richard Foster, Chair, Heather Foster, Treasurer.



Board of Trustees





NAME

Richard Foster (Chair)
Heather Foster (Treasurer)

Graham Abbey
Douglas Campbell
Sirak Hagos Berhe

Hussein Mohammed Hassan

Benjamin Hopkinson

Vaughan Jones

Connie Mante

Yen Nyega Rita Paulino

Sunetra Puri

BACKGROUND

Criminal Cases Review Commission (Co-optee)

Company Director (Co-optee)

Associate Dean, University of Bath (Co-optee)

(Co-optee)

Investing in People and Culture (RCO)

ILAYS (RCO)

NERS (NGO)

Praxis (NGO)

East London Community Law Service (NGO)

GHARWEG (RCO) Resigned 18th September 2013

South Sudanese Women's Association (RCO)

Retired World Bank official (Co-optee)

Highlights from our Members

Latin American Disabled People's Project (LADPP)

LADPP is devoted to serving disabled people in London whose first language is Spanish or Portuguese. LADPP attended free online fundraising training last year. In the same training this year, we were glad to notice that LADPP had put their learning into practice and modernised their website in a way that can attract visitors, supporters, and potential donors, and can demonstrate the impact of their work.

Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership (REAP)

REAP empower refugee communities and publish a directory of refugee organisations in West London. Refugee Council are working in collaboration with REAP on issues of equality. Following on from their previous work in this area we have involved them as a delivery partner in delivering training on equalities and in the publication of a small briefing on equalities for Refugee Community Organisations.

PRAXIS

This group provides advice, support and a welcome meeting place for vulnerable migrants and refugees in London. Praxis are keen contributors to our training sessions. Their staff members attended two training sessions including the training on fundraising and business planning.

ILAYS

This organisation is a non-profit making organisation established in April 2004 to help socially marginalised and disadvantaged BME refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant communities in West London. The majority of the service-users are refugee and asylum seeker Somalis from East Africa. ILAYS has benefited from our capacity building services as every year they receive one-to-one support on fundraising. Their coordinator has attended training sessions and recently we delivered an in-house training session to ILAYS on online fundraising. The session was also attended by two more organisations which are sharing the office with ILAYS.



List of Members

The Refugee Council is a membership organisation and works closely with its members to champion the rights of refugees and asylum seekers

ACHRO	RCO	Latinos Help Centre	RCO
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	RCO	Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network	RCO
Action for Social Integration	RCO	Methodist Church	NGO
Afghan Academy International	RCO	Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation	RCO
Afghan Foundation	RCO	Minority Rights Group International	NGO
Africa Educational Trust	NGO	Multilingual Community Rights Shop	RCO
Africa Educational Trust	RCO	New Communities Forum	RCO
African French Speaking Community Support	RCO	North of England Refugee Service (NERS)	NGO
African Support and Project Centre	RCO	Northern Refugee Centre	RCO
African Women of Substance	RCO	Ogaden Women's Relief Association	RCO
Amnesty International UK	NGO	One World Foundation	RCO
Angolan Civic Communities Alliance (ACCA)	RCO	Polish Ex-Combatants Association	NGO
Angolan Community in London	RCO	Positive Awareness	RCO
Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID)	NGO	PRAXIS Community Projects	NGO
Asylum Aid		Quakers in Britain	NGO
Barnado's	NGO	Reading Refugee Support Group	NGO
Birmingham Justice & Advocacy Centre		Reconnect	RCO
Black Disabled Peoples Association	RCO	Refugee Action	NGO
Black Integration Group and Advice Services (BIGAS)		Refugee and Migrant Centre Ltd	RCO
Bridge & Tunnel Voices		Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton	RCO
Camden Chinese Community Centre		Refugee Studies Centre	NGO
Children's Society		Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership (REAP)	RCO
Community Advice & Support Services (CAASUK)		Russian British International Club (RUBRIC)	RCO
Congolese Voluntary Organisation		Russian Immigrants Association	RCO
Detention Advice Service (DAS)		Sahal Community Development Centre	RCO
DEWA Project		Sahara Communities Abroad (SACOMA)	RCO
East London Community Law Service		Samaddoon Social Development Organisation	RCO
Emergency Aid		Scottish Refugee Council	NGO
Ethiopian Community in Britain		Sierra Leone Muslim Women Cultural Organisation (SLMWCO)	RCO
Faith Zoe Foundation		Society for Afghan Refugees	RCO
Freedom from Torture		Society of Afghan Residents in West Midlands	RCO
Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group		Somali Speakers Association	RCO
GHARWEG		South Sudan Women Skills Development	RCO
Great Lakes African Women Network		St Mary's Church	NGO
HALKEVI -Turkish Kurdish Community Centre		Swedish Community in the Midlands	RCO
Harrow Refugee Forum		Tamil Relief Centre	RCO
Helping Hands for Refugees and Disabled		UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)	NGO
Helping Hands S.A.		Welsh Refugee Council	NGO
ILAYS		Welwitschia Welfare Centre	RCO
lleys Community Association		Western Kurdistan Association	RCO
Imani		Windows for Sudan	RCO
Immigration Law Practitioner's Association (ILPA)		Women and Child Development Organisation	RCO
Investing in People and Culture		Women's Association for African Networking	NCO
Iranian Welfare Association		and Development (WAND UK)	RCO
Islington Somali Community			
-		York Racial Equality Network Yorkshira Congolose and African Association (YOCAS)	NGO RCO
Jesuit Refugee Service Kohistan Kanissa Charitable Association		Yorkshire Congolese and African Association (YOCAS) Zimbabwe Association	
Kohistan-Kapissa Charitable Association			RCO
Latin American Disabled People's Project (LADPP)	NCU	Zimbabwe Association in Birmingham	RCO
		Zimbabwe Community Association	RCO

