

KENT REFUGEE HELP

England & Wales · Charity number 1120185

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2007-07-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Kent Refugee Help
Po Box 192
Whitstable
CT5 1WA

Phone 07703788773

Email info@kentrefugeehelp.org.uk

Website www.kentrefugeehelp.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3. THE OBJECTS THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS (THE OBJECTS) ARE 1. TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND OTHER IMMIGRATION DETAINEES AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IN KENT WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS WHETHER IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION OR IN THE COMMUNITY.2. TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF POOR PERSONS IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION OR IN DANGER OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION BY PROVIDING SUCH PERSONS WITH SERVICES SUCH AS FINDING SURETIES AND SOLICITORS WILLING TO PROVIDE SERVICES UNDER LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION IN PARTICULAR IN RELATION TO ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL APPLICATION FOR BAIL TO THE IMMIGRATION APPELLATE AUTHORITY OR THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE OR SUCH OTHER STATUTORY BODIES WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER BAIL APPLICATIONS UNDER ANY IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION OR THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE OR IN RELATION TO RELEASE FROM IMMIGRATION DETENTION. 3. TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF SUCH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND OTHER MIGRANTS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS THROUGH COUNSELLING AND REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATE AGENCIES. ADDITIONALLY TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THEIR DEPENDANTS WHO IN ORDER TO ASSIST THEIR INCLUSION INTO THE WIDER COMMUNITY.1. TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND OTHER IMMIGRATION DETAINEES AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IN KENT WHO ARE IN

Activities: Kent Refugee Help supports refugees and migrants held in London and Kent prisons. We help people access legal advice and representation to fight their case. After release we continue to help in other ways, supporting them and providing small cash sums for emergencies. We offer legal advice for immigration via telephone or face to face. We are regulated to give immigration legal advice by OISC.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** KENT.
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£41,935	£33,175	-	-
2024-03-31	£22,103	£35,577	-	-
2023-03-31	£28,846	£37,196	-	-
2022-03-31	£36,361	£37,464	-	-
2021-03-31	£52,021	£25,765	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Jordan		2019-07-28
Christine Perks		2013-07-01
DR Bahriye Kemal		2015-05-30

Accounts



Charity no. 1120185

Patrons:

Anthony Anaxagorou, Poet and Publisher

Annual Report 2024-2025





Kent Refugee Help is a small user-led charity, now in its eighteenth year. Our main focus is working with foreign national prisoners in Kent prison establishments. Some of our clients are in prison under immigration laws, being deemed too high-risk to be placed in a removal centre. Others may be refugees, former unaccompanied minors, EU migrants, those with long residence who came to the UK fleeing human rights violations with their parents when very young, people who are undocumented or stateless. More recently, we have been involved in working with people coming over in small boats being arrested and criminalised. All are trying to navigate the complex legal system they are caught up in, with increasingly less help and advice available. Many of them are facing deportation at the end of their sentence without legal representation. We are there to listen, offer legal advice and point them in whatever direction is appropriate for each client.

During the year 2024-2025, we supported Foreign National Prisoners through a telephone advice line, legal visits, and remotely. We supported people in various prisons, which included HMPs Pentonville, Elmley, Maidstone, and Rochester. We also supported people who had been released.

During the year we also received individual referrals from HMPs Rochester, Elmley, Swaleside, Huntercombe, and Maidstone. There is still complex ongoing work with several former detainees from the DIRC (Dover Immigration Removal centre), which closed in 2015. This work is done by the previous case worker on a voluntary basis. Men on bail, waiting for their asylum case to be resolved, are forbidden to work, must conform to reporting restrictions, and are frequently tagged. This is akin to 'prison in the community'. This situation continues. KRH believes that indefinite detention of any person for administrative purpose is discriminatory and should be challenged.

We would like to thank all our funders and organisations who have helped us to continue our work.

KRH Personnel

Trustees: Bahriye Kemal, Andrew Jordan, Chris Perks

Legal Advisers: Antti de Ruano, FK

Caseworkers: Raga Gibreel, Pete Keenan

Prison Project Coordinator: Kate Adams,

Admin. support: Lesley Grove of Accuracy Accounts, Caroline Gipson VA,

Volunteers: Hakki Aganoglu, Pete Keenan, Rupert Bowers, Lucas Strauss, Nick Tompsett (website)

Although we no longer find Sureties for bail, we acknowledge that some of our former Sureties are still in touch with and support the people they stood bail for, some of whom must wait many years for the resolution of their case.

We continue to work with **The Prisoners' Advice Service** and **BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees)**

Finance and Funding

Our prison work this year has been funded by the **YAPP, The Allen Lane Foundation, Colyer-Fergusson, Henry Smith, Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the Vulnerable Persons Fund** administered through the **Kent Community Foundation**.

This year we have started a hardship fund to support our clients.

Donations from individuals and church groups have continued to be generous. We see this as proof of a strong public desire to see more positive action to welcome and support refugees in the UK. Donations are treated as 'unrestricted' funds, which we use for the many individual needs of our clients. This year, this included travel expenses to attend English classes; paying for phone calls for over 20 people to get help; accessing mental health services; contacting the Home Office; contacting their families. The funds were also used in other ways, such as: a winter coat; haircut for a client with mental health issues; gave a client money to buy Christmas and birthday presents for their children, who do not live with them. We gave a client the train fare to attend his deportation appeal hearing in January which would have taken all the money from his Section 4 support weekly allowance and he would have been left without food. The amounts are small, but each one makes a positive contribution to the lives of our clients.

Casework and Volunteer Reports

Report for Kent Refugee Help's AGM 2024 Kate Adams Caseworker and Prison Project Coordinator

Supporting Foreign Nationals in Prison and Beyond

This year we have come into contact with 42 people from the following countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, India, Hungary, Iraqi Kurdistan, Jamaica, Liberia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sri-Lanka, Somalia, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Our work comprised of 25 new referrals and 17 existing cases. We have provided a service to HMPS Maidstone, Elmley, Swaleside, Rochester in Kent and HMPs Pentonville and Huntercombe in London and Oxford. Referrals have come from the prison staff, individuals and their families. We have also been contacted by the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Bail for Immigration Detainees, Captain Support, Street Storage and Change, Grow, Live requesting immigration advice and support for prisoners. It is always positive to connect with other committed organisations, share skills and learn from each other.

Many of our clients face automatic deportation due to a sentence of 12 months or more. The majority due to legal aid cuts are unrepresented unless they can afford to pay privately. The average fee of £10,000 to fund an appeal on human rights grounds is prohibitive. People are left to represent themselves and sometimes in desperation seek help from impostors offering a cut price service without proper qualifications. This is a serious offence and we had to report someone to the Bar Standards Board the Barristers' register. It was very upsetting for our client who had borrowed money to pay them.

Our legal team provides immigration advice to clients through a bi-weekly advice line and legal visits. Written advice is included where appropriate. Offering legal support has made a huge difference both to our practice and our clients. We have several regulars to our advice line indicating confidence and trust in the service, knowing they do not face the complexities of the legal system alone. Most prisoners are suffering from some form of mental health distress fearing the prospect of deportation and separation from the people they love. Caseworkers provide emotional support and practical help inside prison and after release. Life on the outside can be equally traumatic as these two case studies show below.

When Leave to Remain means homelessness- Saving our clients from the street.

The grant of refugee leave should be a joyful experience but asylum seekers face eviction from their accommodation after 28 days. This comes in the form of a letter with a date to leave. Some local authorities will not accept a homelessness application until the eviction notice is served. This leaves the applicant in a state of limbo with no secure offer of accommodation in place. It is very retraumatising for refugees who have suffered loss, chaos and uncertainty. My colleague Lucas Strauss stepped up from volunteering to temporary caseworker to assist me with these cases.

Mr A suffered physical violence and other trauma in Jamaica. He was granted leave to remain a year after winning his appeal and hoped to settle in West London where he has friends and attends his church. A solicitor was engaged to press for his notice to quit due to delay. I made a referral to the Council's Homeless Team who accepted he was a vulnerable person and sent his medical evidence to a panel. He was interviewed by telephone the day before his eviction was due and only told a week later that his medical evidence had been rejected and he was not a priority for council housing. He was given an online housing plan and expected to search for properties in the private sector though he is illiterate and does not understand how to use a computer. Fortunately the solicitor who had challenged the delay obtained an extension of his asylum housing however he remained anxious about his future. Lucas Strauss and I searched for emergency accommodation but we did not have enough information about available resources and the Council did not provide this. Mr. A's mental health declined due to fears that he would soon be on the street. I notified the Council about this and they eventually placed him in a hostel. No meals were provided and there were no cooking facilities. He was expected to pay a £20 weekly service charge and failure to pay could result in eviction. Eventually he was offered and accepted a private sector rental in the area where he had lived but is at risk from a violent tenant with alcohol problems. Universal Credit payments did not cover storage of his belongings and multiple trips to appointments between the hostel in central London and his home ground. Failure to attend would have resulted in loss of the tenancy and his benefits. **We are indebted to KRH supporters who made donations which helped to keep him from the street. Also to Bhatia Best Solicitors who were so helpful in a time of crisis. An appeal has been lodged by Duncan Lewis Solicitors regarding the Council's decision to refuse MR A priority Homeless status. We are very thankful for their hard work and hope for a good outcome.**

Mr B suffered persecution in Iran because of his religion. He was falsely imprisoned in the UK for arriving in a small boat. He was pleased to have found a friendship group at his local church and hoped to stay in the area when he was granted 5 years refugee leave. I completed a lengthy homeless referral on line. Mr B was refused Council housing immediately after a telephone assessment and sent a complicated housing plan that he was expected to follow to find private sector viewings, though he speaks virtually no English. I complained to the Homeless Team and was told he could not expect help as they were very

short staffed. A homeless charity with links to the Council to the Council had said to me “He’s not the first refugee we’ve seen”, so we did not approach them again. Mr B became very depressed and talked of dying on the streets as it was cold and his eviction date was looming. Lucas Strauss searched intensively for a property but landlords required a deposit up front and proof of income. Then the Job Centre that Mr B attended recommended a referral to RAPAR, part of the Refugee Council. They accepted his case. The interim caseworker saw him the next day and placed him in a supported living accommodation. He has since moved to a rented property he likes and has found a branch of his church in his new area. **We are very grateful to RAPAR and the Job Centre who took a keen interest in his housing problems.**

Conclusion

Our work has become more essential as charities are left to take on legal advice and welfare support that was once provided by local authorities. Years of austerity has eroded public funding leaving vulnerable people prey to a hostile environment and exploitation. Legal aid cuts must be restored. However the new government in their Immigration and Borders Bill promises further attacks on the rights of people claiming asylum, including foreign national prisoners. The drive for more deportations and exclusion will not improve the lives of ordinary people. We must challenge systemic racism and poverty side by side with refugees and migrants in the hope of a better future for everyone.

Kate Adams
Caseworker and Prison Project Coordinator

.....

Prison Workshop and Advice Line Report Antti de Ruano, Raga Gibreel, FK

Antti de Ruano Report

Antti de Ruano Report

Our workshop at HMP Rochester continued to operate, with two workshops in the past year. Each time we would see several inmates during the couple of hours that we spent there. We continued to do this with two of us from KRH attending, a legal adviser together with a caseworker focused on welfare.

We have also continued to work with the charity Asylum Welcome, who provided us with referrals at HMP Huntercombe.

As there remains no organised provision of free legal advice on immigration law to prisoners, as opposed to the legal aid surgeries at immigration detention centres, we feel we continue to fill a gap by providing advice to prisoners about immigration.

We also continue to have a good working relationship with the prison staff.

**Antti de Ruano
Legal Advisor**

Raga Gibreel Report

We visited RA, from Sudan, in prison and provided him with assistance to access mental health support there, as well as access to legal advice, and a solicitor, who was very helpful to him. He was released to street homelessness, with Leave to Remain, shortly before Christmas. We helped him with financial support for food and one night in a hostel. However, he was sleeping on the street after that, and was badly attacked, causing brain damage. He was admitted to hospital, and operated on. By liaising with other NGO's, and with help from his solicitor, he was housed safely, and was helped to apply for Universal Credit. We gave him further financial support before his Universal Credit came through. He sent us a thank you message, as follows:

To Kent Refugee Help, thank you for help and support. Really appreciate what you guys done for me, and now I've got my new flat is in Chertsey nice area thank you Raga, Katie Adam and all kent refugee help Wish you all the best.

Raga Gibreel Report
Caseworker

FK Report

The following clients have been assisted on the Advice Line in the period 01/04/2024 -31/03/2025

Mr TB, Greek, HMP Maidstone Advice on deportation procedure, Right of appeal and Bail application

Mr J J, Jamaican, detained at Brook House
Advice on bail application, bail address, etc

Mr AB, nationality Ghana, HMP Maidstone
advice on Deportation appeal, Case Management Hearing, Bail application, Probationer's report,

Mr PLG, France, Maidstone
Update/Advice on prison transfer request

Mr OA, Nigeria
Advice on making a fresh claim on Article 8 and Article 3 of the ECHR grounds

Mr SJ, Iraqi, HMP Maidstone

Advice on deportation appeal, Asylum, right of appeal

Mr AA, Liberian, HMP Maidstone

Advice on deportation procedure, Deportation notice, right of appeal

Mr RP, Jamaican HMP Maidstone Advice on automatic deportation and exceptions to deportations under Article 8 of the ECHR

Mr PM, Polish, HMP Swaleside,

Mr PM contacted the Advice Line regularly (21 times) in the period December 2024-April 2025. We provided Advice/support on Deportation, wing transfer within the HMP Swaleside and we assisted in his request for transfer to a prison in Poland under the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe.

Mr PM was assisted by the Caseworkers Team.

Mr PM was in regular contact with our office and was assisted by Kate Adams (Caseworker), who contacted his prison Offender Manager on several occasions in order to progress his request for the prison wing transfer.

Mr PM was also assisted by Antti de Ruano (Immigration Adviser), who wrote to the Prisoner Governor in Swaleside requesting his transfer to HMP Maidstone.

Mr AK Kovacs, Hungarian, Maidstone

Advice on Deportations, Article 8 of the ECHR, appeal procedure, what evidence to provide and submit in support of the appeal. Later in April, Kate Adams provided advice and support concerning access to legal aid and welfare benefits (with reference to Carmen Kearney, ADAP, Bail for Immigration Detainees and the Child Poverty Action group) and initiated an application for Exceptional Case Funding.

Mr VP, Sri Lankan - Advice on Section 72(2), NIAA 2002 and how to respond to and what relevant evidence to submit in support

Legal visits to the client serving at HMP Huntercombe

1. Mr TN, Vietnam - Advice on Deportation order, Exception under Article 8, as well as the legal definition and elements of Trafficking, and what relevant aspects of his claim may establish he was a victim of trafficking.

2. Mr SN, Fiji, Advice on Deportation procedure, Article 8 of the ECHR, the Appeal outcome and legal remedies, ie application for permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal, if the appeal is refused.

3. Mr AC, Dutch/Somali- Advice on deportation appeal, forthcoming Case management Review Hearing, Exceptions under Article 8 of the ECHR

4. Mr M A, Bengali- Advice on deportation matter, National Referral mechanism negative reasonable grounds decision, Exceptions for deportations under Article 8, Private and Family life, Asylum claim, fear of non-state agents and state protection

5. Mr AD, Romanian -Advice on deportation procedure, Advice on Request to

Transfer under the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons by the HMPPS. We reviewed his immigration documents and provided him with advice on a potential breach of Human Rights under the ECHR.

Legal visit to the clients serving at HMP Maidstone

6. Mr KR, Iran, Advice on deportation procedure, Asylum claim, and Appeal procedure. Legal remedies are available if the appeal is refused.
7. Mr JS, Ugandan - Advice on Deportation Order, Article 8 of the ECHR, further Representations.
8. Mr FF, Iraq - Advice and ongoing support regarding his request for repatriation to Iraq upon his forthcoming completion of his sentence under the Tariff Expired Removal Scheme (TERS) scheme. We reviewed his evidence and wrote representations to the Foreign National Offenders, Returns Command at the Home Office, arguing that there were no barriers to Mr FF's removal to Iraq when he completes his sentence on 25/07/2025.
9. Mr LB, Algeria -Advice on deportation, Private and Family life under Article 8 of the ECHR, Appeal procedure and ongoing support with the appeal
10. Mr RM, Algeria- advice on Deportation procedure, Asylum claim under the Refugee Convention, state protection, Human Rights claims under Article 3 of the ECHR
11. Mr AT, Algeria- Advice on deportation, Asylum claim based on fear of nonstate agents and state protections, Human Rights claim Article 3 of the ECHR
- 12.Mr HF, Tunisia - Advice on deportation procedure, Asylum claim, definition of Refugee Convention, Human Rights claim under Article 3 of the ECHR
- 13.Mr GN, South Africa - Advice on Judicial Review Merits, further representations in support of Article 8 of the ECHR claim
- 14.Mr AO, Iraq - Advice on Decision to Deport, revocation of refugee status, s72(2) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum 2002 and how to respond
15. Mr SA, Irania- Advice on deportation procedure, revocation of refugee status, right of appeal
- 16.Mr KR, Iran - Advice on Decision to Deport, Exceptions to deportation under Asylum, Private/Family Life under Article 8 of the ECHR, Right of Appeal, relevant evidence in support of appeal
- 17.Mr J E, Jamaica - Advice on deportation procedure and exception under Article 8, Private and Family Life of the ECHR
- 18.Mr RG, Lithuania- Advice on deportation procedure, EUSS scheme, the Withdrawal agreement, Section 72(2) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002

19.Mr BS, India - Advice on deportation procedure, Asylum claim, Mental health issues and Article 3 of the ECHR, the purpose and procedure of the Asylum

Interview

Legal visit to HMP Swaleside

20.Mr PM - two aborted visits. The client was not produced for the visits. We, however, provided legal advice on the telephone advice line to Mr PM continuously from 05/12/2024 to date (as above).

An example of how we assisted our clients:

Mr AB contacted the Advice Line 17 times on various dates throughout the years seeking advice on his deportation matter. Mr AB also regularly contacted our office and was assisted and signposted by Kate Adams.

We attended the Case Management Review hearing for Mr AB and advocated on his behalf for the court to issue relevant directions and allow Mr AB sufficient time to prepare his appeal.

We continued advising him on his Deportation Appeal, his Family Court matter and how the decision from the Family Court would impact his Deportation appeal. We also provided limited advice on the bail application.

We guided Mr AB on how to prepare for his Deportation Appeal hearing, what relevant evidence to submit to build his case based on Private and Family life in the UK under Article 8 of the ECHR. We advised Mr AB on the First Tier Tribunal appeal procedure and how to give evidence in the hearing.

Following the dismissal of his appeal, we provided advice to Mr AB on the merits of his case and on how to draft grounds for permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal, and what relevant grounds to focus on.

We also advised on the relevant deadline to submit his grounds and what legal remedies are available if the permission is refused.

Through the advice line and legal visits, we have established relationships with people who are legally unrepresented and excluded. We have assisted them in building their confidence in navigating the legal system when they lack representation.

.....
Pete Keenan

Another long and testing year; I have continued in my support work with both historic clients and new people referred to me from various sources. A significant element in several cases has been attempting to find legal representation typically(if even possible), coupled with the long term battles for many, with the realities of having no recourse to public funding – whose accompanying diktat is the effective criminalisation, of any attempts by those so defined, to



generate the wherewithal for even the basic needs for survival – health, a roof over ones head and food.

People’s lives are complicated generally, but far greater when your identity is essentially defined as a negative, a phantom presence, disallowed from basic engagements with the society/community within which you are so vulnerable.

Within that picture, our persistence in the face of both legal and social bureaucratic blocks, can lead to a human contact, whose empathy and engagement with the human needs of a client, can be amazing. In the health arena, a doctor whose partner is actually an H.O. rep, going the extra mile to provide evidence and on going support for a demanding client (due to status); an H.O. worker, policing conformity to reporting conditions, who suddenly appreciates from the pile of medical evidence in the files, coupled with evidence of a winter spent in a garage and no power to charge a TAG; that they push way outside their role, to set in chain a process which ultimately provides accommodation, against all the odds. Individual solicitors, hard pressed by L.Aid cutbacks, who go way beyond the norm for a client

These breaks with systemic conformity, great though they feel immediately, provide what is so much more than the relief of this one person in crisis now; such acts of simple humanity, empower our awareness of the need to reform these dehumanising strictures, which are shown up for the evils they are, by contrast from within

.....

Events

In the year 2024-2025, we organised and attended various events and presentations that showed our solidarity with activists, refugees and migrants.

We organised an event entitled **Post-Election Hopes: End the Hostile Environment for Refugees & Migrants** on 19 July 2024. The event consisted of contributions from our team, experts, activists, poets/artist and those with lived experience discussing hopes for change



The event consisted of powerful talks by **David Suber** on Government's Counter- Smuggling Campaign to "Stop the Boats.". **Former Detainee, BP** spoke on Hopes for New Government **BP** shared his difficulties in getting a lawyer and other aspects of the Hostile Environment. **Leroy Letts** presented a creative piece on Memories of Jamaica, which consisted of Art, Performance Poetry and Music. Leroy also spoke about the inspiration for his painting entitle *Sing Song*, which we used on the flyer to advertise the event.

We dedicated the event to Hubert Moore, a poet and friend of Kent Refugee Help. During the event we had several powerful readings from his poetry collection, including 'hello dear' and other poems

Presentation

Chris Perks and Antti de Ruano took part in the 2024 Post-Detention Support Project "My Home, My Voice" on 13 June 2024 at the Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre in London, organised by Samphire.

Antti was also a speaker at the event, making the point that while any criminal offending is concerning, it is always important to see the person beyond the offence, as often seems to be missed in public debate simplistically and excessively focused on the offence, assuming all

offenders are a permanent danger, ignoring actual risk of reoffending which can be low, as assessed by the Probation Service, and that deporting a foreign national criminal can affect not only the offender but their settled or British families and children and through them our society. Rather than vilifying the offender as such, one should look at the person and their individual characteristics, without focusing on rare extreme offences but "seeing the wood from the trees". People deserve a second chance



Vigil for Unity

Kate Adams spoke at the vigil for Unity organised by Whitstable residents Elane and Mary in July 2024. 200 people gathered outside the library in solidarity with refugees and migrants after vicious attacks on asylum hotels orchestrated by the Far Right. Law Firms and Charities providing immigration advice were also under threat. This powerful event demonstrated a sense of community, challenging the rhetoric and practice of Fascism.



Photo supplied Mary Sullivan.

Looking Forward...

The state of the world and hostile environment towards people seeking asylum has not changed, indeed it has worsened considerably despite a change of government. After the change of government, we expected a more welcoming attitude towards people seeking asylum; however, this has not materialised, and the present government looks to be even more punitive than the previous one

The Illegal Migration Act 2023, amended in 2024 by the previous government, makes it illegal to enter this country by any other means apart from by approved routes. This is impossible as there are no approved safe routes apart from those for citizens of Ukraine and Hong Kong. The Nationality and Borders Bill was passed in parliament despite vigorous campaigning against it by all refugee organisations.

The current proposed legislation is the Border Security Asylum and Immigration Bill 2025. The purpose of the Act is to deter refugees from seeking safety in the UK. It places a duty on the Home Secretary to oversee the removal of anyone who enters the UK outside of normal immigration laws or has travelled through a ‘safe third country’ – even if they’re fleeing persecution or torture.

The Bill denies sanctuary rather than offering welcome. The proposals for asylum reform focus on refusing people protection and aims to make life in the asylum system unbearable – these reforms will force people to live in anxiety, under the continuous threat of removal, and denied the chance to reunite with family and loved ones. It focuses on penalising and criminalising refugees, turning them into legal and illegal people. Dividing people between “illegals” who took a clandestine entry, including dangerous crossings, and “legals” who took the orderly process of resettlement directly from refugee camps under government programmes.



In spite of this overwhelming hostility towards displaced people, we continue to have hope, with many people in civil society, organisations and the public expressing their opposition to the increasing hostility.

Our work in supporting refugees and migrants is more urgent than ever, and we will do our utmost to make their voices heard.

Charity No. 1120185

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

TRUSTEES	Chris Perks Dr Bahriye Kemal Andrew Jordan	Chairperson
----------	--	-------------

CHARITY ADDRESS	PO Box 192 Whitstable Kent. CT5 1WA.
-----------------	--

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT 19 Pintail Way Herne Herne Bay Kent. CT6 7XP
----------------------	---

BANKERS	Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 49 High Street, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 2SE.
---------	--

CHARITY NUMBER	1120185
----------------	---------

CONTENTS

	1	Index
	2	Independent Examiner's Report
Page	3	Profit & Loss Account
	4	Balance Sheet
	5 & 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees report is provided seperately

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:

dated:

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

KENT REFUGEE HELP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total 2025</u>
Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objectives:-				
Grants receivable	2	0.00	34,250.00	34,250.00
Donations	3	6,491.49	0.00	6,491.49
Activities to generate funds	3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other & Reimbursements	3	973.70	220.00	1,193.70
		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total incoming resources		<u>7,465.19</u>	<u>34,470.00</u>	<u>41,935.19</u>
 Charitable expenditure				
Employees/Sub-contracted assist	4	5,067.33	20,483.31	25,550.64
Activity costs	5	709.59	1,817.01	2,526.60
Management and administration	6	2,025.99	3,072.13	5,098.12
Total resources expended		<u>7,802.91</u>	<u>25,372.45</u>	<u>33,175.36</u>
 Fund balance brought forward at 1st April 2024				
		<u>20,857.69</u>	<u>7,567.86</u>	<u>28,425.55</u>
Transfers between Funds - Petty cash		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund balance carried forward at 31st March 2025		<u>20,519.97</u>	<u>16,665.41</u>	<u>37,185.38</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Current assets			
Debtors		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		37,185.38	28,425.55
Cash in hand (Petty Cash)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		37,185.38	28,425.55
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net current assets/liabilities		0.00	0.00
Net assets		<u><u>37,185.38</u></u>	<u><u>28,425.55</u></u>
Represented by:			
Restricted funds			
Emergency Fund		123.60	0.00
Eddie Barns Memorial Donations		160.00	32.87
Collyer-Ferguson Charitable Trust		0.00	4,340.49
Allen Lane Foundation		0.00	1,919.50
The YAPP Charitable Trust		1,207.28	1,275.00
Kent Community Foundation Overstone Fund		0.00	0.00
Dougherty Street Chambers		777.87	0.00
Henry Smith Fund		3,189.45	0.00
Society of The Holy Child Jesus		8,680.30	0.00
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Fund		2,526.91	0.00
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		20,519.97	20,857.69
Daughters of Jesus donation		0.00	0.00
Cotmore Trust donation		0.00	0.00
Petty Cash		0.00	0.00
Total funds		<u><u>37,185.38</u></u>	<u><u>28,425.55</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:-

Dated:

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2025</u>
2 Grants receivable			
The YAPP Charitable Trust	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Kent Community Foundation Overstone Fund	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Dougherty Street Chambers	0.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
Henry Smith Fund	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Society of The Holy Child Jesus		15,000.00	15,000.00
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Fund		3,000.00	3,000.00
			0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>34,250.00</u>	<u>34,250.00</u>
3 Other income			
Donations	6,491.49	0.00	6,491.49
Daughters of Jesus Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cotmore Trust Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eddie Barns Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising Events	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other & Re-imbursements	973.70	220.00	1,193.70
	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>7,465.19</u>	<u>220.00</u>	<u>7,685.19</u>
4 Sub-contracted assistance and Employees			
Paid to sub-contractors	4,858.45	20,265.73	25,124.18
Employee Gross Pay	208.88	217.58	426.46
Employer NIC Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>5,067.33</u>	<u>20,483.31</u>	<u>25,550.64</u>
The average number of employees during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis was 0 (2019-20).			
No employees received remuneration amounting to more than £50,000 during the year.			
No trustee received any remuneration during the year.			
5 Activity costs			
Professional & Volunteer Travel Expenses	53.90	100.84	154.74
Professional & Volunteer Telephone Expenses	334.62	867.66	1,202.28
Detainee & Ex-detainee Expenses	321.07	848.51	1,169.58
Meetings (inc Hall Hire)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>709.59</u>	<u>1,817.01</u>	<u>2,526.60</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2025</u>
6 Management and administration			
Administration Costs	1,703.51	2,597.45	4,300.96
Insurance	217.48	319.68	537.16
Independent examiner's fee	105.00	105.00	210.00
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committee and meeting expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publicity	0.00	50.00	50.00
	<u>2,025.99</u>	<u>3,072.13</u>	<u>5,098.12</u>
7 Debtors			
Grants due	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Deferred income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:



dated:

17/6/2025.

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

Accounts



Charity no. 1120185

Patrons:

Anthony Anaxagorou, Poet and Publisher

Annual Report 2022-2023





Kent Refugee Help is a small user-led charity, now in its fourteenth year. Our main focus is working with foreign national prisoners in Kent prison establishments. Some of our clients are in prison under immigration laws, being deemed too high-risk to be placed in a removal centre. Others may be refugees, former unaccompanied minors, EU migrants, those with long residence who came to the UK fleeing human rights violations with their parents when very young, people who are undocumented or stateless. More recently, we have been involved in working with people coming over in small boats being arrested and criminalised. All are trying to navigate the complex legal system they are caught up in, with very little help or advice available. Many of them are facing deportation at the end of their sentence without legal representation. We are there to listen, offer legal advice and point them in whatever direction is appropriate for each client.

During the year 2022-2023, we supported FNPs through workshops (HMPs Maidstone and Rochester), legal visits, and remotely on occasion. We supported people in various prisons, which included HMPs Pentonville, Elmley, Maidstone, Littlehey and Rochester. We also supported people who had been released.

During the year we also received individual referrals from HMPs Wormwood Scrubs, Rochester, Elmley, Swaleside, Huntercombe, Maidstone, and Stoke Heath. There is still complex ongoing work with several former detainees from the DIRC (Dover Immigration Removal centre), which closed in 2015. This work is done by the previous case worker on a voluntary basis. Men on bail, waiting for their asylum case to be resolved, are forbidden to work, must conform to reporting restrictions, and are frequently tagged. This is akin to 'prison in the community'. This situation continues. KRH believes that indefinite detention of any person for administrative purpose is discriminatory and should be challenged.

We would like to thank all our funders and organisations who have helped us to continue our work.

KRH Personnel

Trustees: Bahriye Kemal, Andrew Jordan, Chris Perks

Legal Advisers: Antti de Ruano, Fatima Kadić

Caseworkers: Kate Adams, Raga Gibreel, Pete Keenan

Admin. support: Lesley Grove of Accuracy Accounts, Caroline Gipson VA.

Volunteers: Hakki Aganoglu, Pete Keenan, Maria Ruano, Liza Seed, Rupert Bowers, Lucas Strauss, Nick Tompsett (website)

Although we no longer find Sureties for bail, we acknowledge that some of our former Sureties are still in touch with and support the people they stood bail for, some of whom have to wait many years for the resolution of their case.

We continue to work with **The Prisoners' Advice Service**, **Kent Law Clinic** and **BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees)**

Finance and Funding

Our prison work this year has been funded by the **YAPP, The Allen Lane Foundation, Community Justice Fund, and the Vulnerable Persons Fund** administered through the **Kent Community Foundation**.

Donations from individuals and church groups have continued to be generous. We see this as proof of a strong public desire to see more positive action to welcome and support refugees in the UK. Donations are treated as 'unrestricted' funds, which we use for the many individual needs of our clients. This year we also had an emergency fund, which supported numerous clients in various ways. This included paying for phone calls for over 10 people to get help in: finding a legal representative; accessing mental health services; contacting the Home Office; contacting their embassy - for renewing their ID; contacting their families. The funds were also used in other ways, such as: a haircut and beard trim for a client with mental health issues; a coach fare so a father could visit his daughter who lives some distance away; money to a client to buy Christmas and birthday presents for their children, who do not live with them. We also paid fares for someone's family to come to The Christmas Party and we bought presents for everyone which were paid for by a raffle. The amounts in each case are small, but each one makes a positive contribution to the lives of our clients.



Christmas Party with our casework, Kate Adams, and our client's family



May Day 2023 by Nasrin Parvaz

I call this painting 'May Day 2023'. This is because this year's May Day was the first after the uprising in Iran. There was a huge workers strike on this day which proved how important it is. The workers who started their strike on May Day are still on strike today, and are refusing to go back to work until their demands are met. Many workers have already been on strike for the last few months and are still on strike.

Whilst Western governments and their media are silent, the Iranian regime has been executing those who have been arrested during the uprising, as well as those who have been arrested for drug offences. People arrested during the uprising have been interrogated and subjected to torture that includes sexual violence in order to force them to make "confessions". These torture induced confessions have been used as evidence and broadcast on state media prior to their trials in an attempt by the authorities to vilify

them and justify their executions. Prisoners have also been denied access to legal representation and are executed in secret, with no final visits or notice given to their families. Despite the rise in executions, people are showing their anger in many forms such as demonstrations and civil disobedience. Dancing is forbidden in Iran yet people are gathering in the streets and dancing. The regime looks away. Tens of thousands are in prison; how many more can they arrest?

The Farsi word in the painting that is holding the woman-made flag aloft means "we". It is the first time in the world that women have led and started a revolution. As I am in the UK I can't do the same kind of activism as the people in Iran, but I can try to amplify their voice with my writing and painting. This is a collective experience that has not only affected Iranians outside the country, but also the many women and people who are witnessing it. Both my writing and art are about our current historical period, and this is a painting about fighting back against brutal power, politics and social injustices. It is also about the absence of information about this situation in the British media.

Nazrin Parvaz is a writer, artist, and activist who fled Iran after being tortured in prison and facing execution for her support for women's and civil rights. Nasrin was granted refugee status in the 1990s. She continues to support the Iranian people's struggle, while also campaigning for refugee rights in the UK. She has frequently provided her artwork to support our work with foreign national prisoners.

<http://www.nasrinparvaz.org/> 'One Woman's Struggle in Iran, A Prison Memoir' 'The Secret Letters from X to A'

Talking to the Spirits by Kadour Milnyali



Kadour Milnyali is an Algerian artist based in Birmingham who has contributed many of his paintings to provide images for our posters and postcards



Casework and Volunteer Reports

Report for Kent Refugee Help's AGM July 2023 Kate Adams Caseworker and Prison project Coordinator.

This year I have worked with 50 people from the following countries: **Afghanistan, Algeria, Albania, Bengali, Brazil, Columbia, Congo, Eritrea, France, Jamaica, India, Iran, Pakistan, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Romania and Sudan. I have provided casework support to clients in HMPS Maidstone, Pentonville, Stamford Hill Open Prison, Littlehey and Huntercombe.** I have also provided general advice and information to those who have contacted us regarding issues that are outside our remit through our main email and on Facebook. Our Facebook page has brought us into contact with people of many nationalities and allowed them space to publicise their campaigns and stories.

I am grateful to two advisors Anti de Ruano and Fatima Kadic for the legal support provided through visits and our immigration advice line. The majority of our clients are facing deportation unrepresented and the cuts which reduced legal aid for foreign nationals in this position have not been rescinded. Many immigration firms have closed and those that remain struggle to find capacity to take on these complex prison cases. The advice line is a lifeline for prisoners who can connect and re-connect with a friendly voice and receive specific and detailed advice which can be followed up with a letter. No such support exists within the prison service for immigration matters which is why we are pleased that post Covid our advice surgery at HMP Rochester run by Anti de Ruano and Raga Gibreel has been reinstated and we plan to expand by starting advice surgeries in other prisons.

Of the 50 clients I have worked with 27 were new referrals and the rest people known to us, some still dealing with the effects of imprisonment and immigration detention after many years and without secure immigration status. Supported by our immigration advisors I have assisted clients with various issues including making a fresh claim, varying their reporting conditions and challenging a refusal of a Modern Slavery claim. I have liaised with Bail for Immigration Detainees (Bid) in supporting clients applying for immigration bail without a solicitor who need help with applying for a release address from the Home Office and gathering documents to evidence their case. I have helped clients access Exceptional Funding (ECF) legal aid for their deportation case. All applications have been successful so far. The application requires providing a detailed and accurate immigration history and exploring the relationships which bind a person to the UK and demonstrate their **Article 8 rights to Family and Private Life.**

Casework Example: I felt privileged to support a Nigerian man and his Ghanian partner who were particularly concerned about the effects of his potential deportation on their little daughter who was suffering from insomnia, nose bleeds and losing weight. He was dealing with multiple bereavements from losing all his family in Nigeria, which he has addressed through psychological therapy. A successful ECF application helped me place him with a solicitor and I have provided written evidence citing their commitment to family life for his deportation appeal.

I am very concerned about the mental health of prisoners. Imprisonment and particularly prolonged detention under immigration powers is detrimental to mental health. A report by

the charity Medical Justice identified mental illness as the most significant issue for immigration detainees.

Casework Example: A young man who originally came to the UK as an unaccompanied child had a troubled history of drug and alcohol misuse, which resulted in periods of incarceration in prison and immigration detention. He made many suicide attempts including using a ligature made from bed clothes and setting fire to his cell. Recently after completing a short sentence for criminal damage he remained under immigration hold though the Home Office had no means of deporting him. He contacted me to tell me he had cut his arm badly and that he planned to hang himself. I immediately reported his case to the Mental Health team as there was some delay in assessment and treatment. I told him he could call me every day until support was in place. I also involved Medical Justice who spoke to the prison about strategies for suicide prevention and self-harm. An immigration solicitor who knew my client previously took his case for bail and eventually the young man was released into Home Office accommodation. He has said that our interventions saved his life.

I have been working with one of our legal advisors to help him build medical evidence for a fresh claim. Like many who came here as separated children he has been damaged by his experiences and both legal and psychological factors remain barriers to him becoming settled in the UK.

I spoke about the mental health experiences of some of our clients at a meeting arranged by Faversham and Villages Refugee Solidarity Group which was well received and supported by a generous donation.

Conclusion

Our legal and psycho social support for foreign nationals in prison exists under the shadow of increasingly draconian legislation that dismantles protection for asylum seekers and other marginalised people. **The Nationality and Borders Act** has denied asylum rights to thousands and criminalised asylum seekers who are now being held in Kent prisons charged with illegal entry and arrival which carries a maximum sentence of 4 years. Those who are charged with facilitation of illegal immigration by driving the boat can face a life sentence.

The Illegal Migration Bill currently in process promises to deny asylum to everyone who does not arrive by “legal routes” and massively increase detention and deportation. There are no “safe and legal routes” for asylum seekers fleeing conflict in Iran and Sudan and for the majority who come by whatever means necessary and were previously allowed entry under the Refugee Convention.

This blatant state sanctioned cruelty has given ammunition to the far right. Along with other colleagues I supported the peaceful protest in Dover which countered an inflammatory visit from English Patriot. I also spoke at a meeting in the University of Kent about the growing authoritarianism in the UK which can both intimidate and divide communities and is reflected in the dehumanising treatment of refugees and migrants. As a small charity we stand in solidarity with those displaced, detained and dispossessed and continue to be part of the resistance.

Kate Adams

.....

Legal Project Report
Antti de Ruano, Legal Advisor

We continue to operate a telephone advice line twice a week for foreign national prisoners. We usually receive several calls on both days. The advice line enables us to provide one-off legal advice about immigration law to prisoners and their families.

There remains no organised provision of legal aid to prisons for immigration law unlike in immigration detention centres where there are daily legal aid duty advice surgeries. While legal aid for immigration matters is available on an ad hoc basis it appears to be extremely difficult for prisoners to find such representation and even we find it difficult to find legal aid providers who would accept our referrals for legal representation. We therefore continue to fill in a gap as far as we can.

Even the one-off legal advice on immigration issues and options appears to be useful to prisoners as often they do not seem to have access to such advice from anywhere else. This at least enables them to make better informed choices about their options and in some cases also helps them, to some extent, in representing themselves if they have to.

A recent example is Mr M. He was claiming asylum and seeking release after completing his prison sentence. Like many people in his position, after finishing his criminal custody with the Probation Service having no objection for his release, he was held in immigration detention in the prison. He was given a form IS91 which has certain standard boxes for an immigration officer to tick as the reasons for his immigration detention, as far as the detainee was aware of the reasons for such a decision. With a pending asylum claim, he was eligible for Home Office accommodation but the Home Office had decided to keep him in immigration detention while his asylum claim remained pending for months. He was not successful in finding a legal aid provider to represent him with asylum and bail despite both matters being within the scope of legal aid even after 2013. He was left with the support of charities with limited capacity and resources to process his bail application very quickly. We were however able to apply for Home Office accommodation for this person, something that does not appear to be funded by legal aid. We were also able to make a referral to BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees) for them to make an immigration bail application to the First-Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

Antti de Ruano, Legal Advisor

.....

I have continued to support historic ex detainees, with whom we have worked through asylum and beyond. Some new faces encountered locally, via interactions and involvement with Napier Barracks campaigning for instance, we have been able to assist refugees to gain legal representation through to Asylum application; even grappling with hostile rental legislation - successfully in one case.

The moral complications of engaging, in the interest of refugees, with negative government legislation and new practices, never gets easier; it has been a fine line between practical compassion for individuals and in that very action, potentially being seen as validating the latest institutions established to undermine their human rights.

I was walking in the Spring sunshine yesterday through Folkestone Warren, in its balmy microclimate, with new friends from Napier away from cold winds – from whatever direction.

Pete Keenan

.....

Prison Workshops (Surgery):

Our work with HMP Rochester (Young Offender Institution – YOI) became more established this year. This was because KRH's information sheet became much more accessible with the help of the prison community distributing it. We saw new clients at our workshops and also received new self-referrals over the phone.

Support for Foreign National Prisoners:

We provided financial support for clients to access phones so they could keep in touch with their families or to contact their solicitors. In addition to this we provided support for clients to find legal representatives; access mental health services; contact the Home Office; contact their embassy - for renewing their ID (as for example the case of Mr. C. S, a Portugal National, which is not resolved but we are working on it.)

Our Rochester workshop became more regular between 2022- March 2023. There were a few postponements due to internal changes or staff replacement in the prison.

Support for men at Napier: Folkestone Drop-in Centre.

Much of this work was done through referrals. As part of this we provide support and advice on accessing important information. As an example, one of our clients is a very distressed young Eritrean who feared for his family's life. He was previously supported by the IOM (international Office of Migration) relocation programme. He was separated from his eight family members including younger siblings in the moving process. He became homeless and lived on the streets in Italy and struggled to find work or shelter. He wanted to track his family. After some discussion with our trustee, Andrew, we agreed that the Red Cross, IOM and Refugee Council would be useful contacts. In the end I assisted the young man to contact the International Red Cross to track his family before his transfer.

Community: Examples of Cases

M. K. Algerian. He was transferred from HMP Maidstone to Brook House Immigration Removal Centre in 2020. After being released into the community, he was sent to Cardiff. I referred him to the Oasis charity in Cardiff. Occasionally he calls for support as his immigration situation is not resolved. Last time he called was 13/05/2023.

M.M. Algerian. He arrived in the UK as unaccompanied minor. After his release from HMP Maidstone in 2020, he was sent to Cardiff. After his release he continued to receive support from us. We provided him with access to legal assistance, emotional support and referred him to local support groups like the Oasis charity. We also made sure he was able to attend the Home Office meetings and appointments. We provided him with funding to make phone calls and travel. He subsequently returned to Kent and was sofa surfing at a friend's house. He received support from me and Antti de Ruano, our Legal Adviser. I last contacted him on 29th of January to remind him of his biometric appointment.

One referral made to Doctors Without Borders.

R. E. was first supported by Kate Adams. I visited him in prison, provide him with phone access, and worked closely with his personal adviser/ social worker. I referred him to both legal and mental health support as he expressed suicidal thoughts. KRH also, provided him with small financial assistance to contact his solicitor and friends. These were three small payments of maximum £30. After his release, we supported him through providing him with a SIM with 20 GB data, which made it possible for him to contact us and help him through our networks. I referred him to local support groups and appropriate services in London. We offered grants to help him to attend to court and go to hospital.

T.M. a young person held in Rochester (YOI). We provided him with access to legal support, and he is now supported by Turpin Miller. I also provided him with information to access

mental health, work-related information in prison, and assistance to keep in touch with his family. T.M. was very happy with our support, which he shared with us in a meeting and with the prison officer. He went on to promote our work and shared our contact information with his friends in HMP Rochester.

The boat men:

I received one referral from a criminal solicitor (Tuckers Kent Branch), who had previously assisted one of our clients. They referred Mr. K.M. who I saw in HMP Elmley for support in accessing an immigration solicitor and assistance to get to court after being released on bail. Our Legal Adviser is helping with this case.

Other referrals are mostly done by post as self-referrals. I have written back to 25 people so far, and have received numerous forms. Most of the men are in HMP Elmley and requested financial assistance. We are still working on this with other support groups to figure out the best way to assist and avoid duplication.

Here is some feedback received from a client:

R.E. sent this by WhatsApp after being released this year.

“I just want to say thank you very much for your help and yeah you've been helped me a lot”

We saw him first in HMP Rochester, when he received support from Kate Adams and myself. I continued to provide him with assistance after release.

Raga Gibreel

.....

Volunteer Case Worker
Lucas Strauss

I started volunteering with Kent Refugee Help (KRH) in April 2022. Over the last year I have worked with 2 clients from Jamaica and Guinea. Both of these clients have served a custodial sentence in prison and are currently living in the community. I am in telephone contact with these clients each week and provide both practical and psychosocial support. Furthermore I am in regular contact with my supervisor from KRH supporting my clients to access the charity's financial and legal support services. Both of these clients have responded differently to our telephone contact.

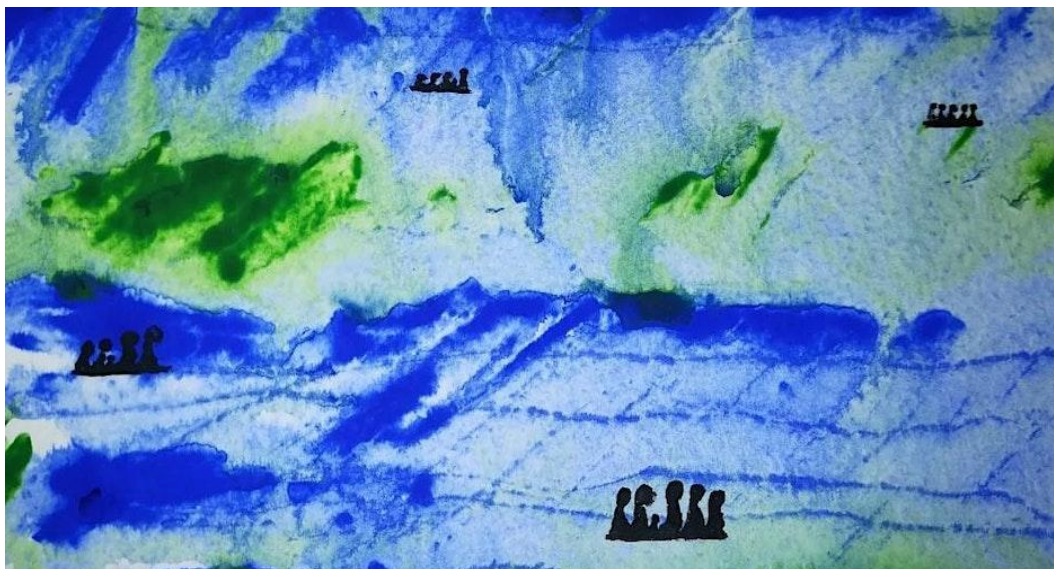
Volunteering with KRH has been a learning experience for me. Having completed a training in counselling and therapeutic skills, I had a preconception of how the telephone contact could benefit the clients and KRH. What I learnt was that although many of these skills were useful, the clients benefitted from a more human connection. Although I would maintain a “professional relationship” with the clients, I also felt that by connecting with them as equals (sharing interests, dreams, passions, struggles) we could understand each other clearer, bridge cultural frames of reference, and develop a more congruent relationship. These conversations with the clients and my supervisor have helped me to understand some aspects of the lived experiences and the processes involved for refugees and asylum seekers. I have also learnt a lot about the financial, legal, and community resources available to my clients and helped them to access some of these services. The support that I provide clients is multifaceted. Beyond our weekly conversation, they will contact me for “everyday” support. Examples include using transport services, literacy support, technical support, navigating customer services, and education (homework support).

Working alongside my supervisor, an immigration lawyer, and the client I have drafted a witness statement to be used in their immigration proceedings. Due to the nature of my relationship to the client, I felt that it was important to include the client in the writing process in order to accurately reflect their experience and empower their autonomy to share their own experience. Too often refugees' voices are alienated from the legal and bureaucratic process. By including them in the drafting process I attempted to bridge some of this power imbalance and support them to navigate the tension between sharing their story and drafting a legal document. At each stage of the drafting process I wanted to be sure that the client felt comfortable about the information it contained and the language used to describe their experiences.

Furthermore KRH has sponsored me to complete a CPD training in “**Working with Refugee People and their Families**”, at the Tavistock institute. This is a 10 week online course which will assist me to enhance my theoretical understanding of issues surrounding the asylum seeking and refugee experience and the practical skills and dynamics involved in supporting KRH clients. This training provides a systemic, therapeutic, and politically informed framework when working with refugees and asylum seekers. This opportunity will help me in my personal and professional development and help me improve the support that I provide KRH clients in future.

Lucas Strauss Volunteer Case Worker

Events



In 2022, we organised an event entitled *Seeking Asylum is a Human Right- Stop criminalizing refugees and migrants!*

The event consisted of powerful talks by Antonia Bright from Movement for Justice, by any means necessary, and Graham Minter, Amnesty International, Human Rights!

Policing the Hostile Environment by Social Scientist Against Hostile Environment



We attended a webinar on Policing the Hostile Environment organised by the Social scientist against the Hostile Environment. The webinar focused on critical social scientific and criminological perspective on the 2022 Act and subsequent policing policies, and accounts of how they are impacting on migrant communities,

anti-racist activism and Roma, Traveller and Gypsy communities, including in Kent around the detentions centres, prisons and arrival points.

Our session consisted of Christian Algar, local activist in Kent with Freedom From Manston and Channel Rescue, and Kate Adams, Kent Refugee Help, in dialogue with Bahriye Kemal, University of Kent, on the current situation in Manston

The speakers included Dr Samuel Burgum, Lecturer in Sociology, Birmingham City University, who spoke on Damage, Disruption, Distress: Unsettling the Police Bill. The second talk was by Dr Monish Bhatia, Lecturer in Criminology, who spoke about the impact of policing law on migrants and refugees.

Protest



**Solidarity Knows No Borders
June 2022**

**KRH stall in protest against
Deportations to Rwanda**

SHUT MANSTON DOWN!

We attended the Shut Manston Down protest on 6th November 2022. This was a call to shut the centre and for freedom for the estimated 4000 people held there without access to doctors, lawyers, phones and belongings.

Together with hundreds of people under the pouring rain, Kent Refugee Help stood outside the centre calling out **SHUT MANSTON DOWN!**

NO-ONE IS ILLEGAL

BRAVERMAN OUT NOW

REFUGEES WELCOME



REFUGEES WELCOME

SHUT MANSTON DOWN!

Protestors Welcome Refugees

A counter-protest and rally in Market Square Dover organised by community and anti-racist groups against fascist groups.

On 4th March, the far-right group English Patriot visited Dover in an attempt to divide residents and undermine support for asylum seekers. KRH joined community groups, trade unionists, and Roma activists in a counter-demonstration held in Dover Market Square. The far-right group marched accompanied by the Police but their toxic action was rendered ineffectual by the strength of solidarity with refugees from local people.



Jewish Protestors welcome refugees



Activists from Stand Up to Racism in front of the KRH banner.

No Human is Illegal



KRH attended this No Human is Illegal protest. In this photo, protestors are bringing toys to children. The photo is by Thanet Left group



Our volunteer Lucas Straus and caseworker Kate Adams set up street stall to raise awareness of Kent Refugee Help, Defend the Human Rights Act and Shut Down Manston Centre

Mental Health, Faversham and Villages Refugee Solidarity Group

Kate Adams attended a meeting organised by Faversham and Village Refugee Support. Kate spoke about our work with focus on the mental health experiences of our clients. The talk was very well received and supported by a generous donation.

Since the pandemic we noticed many of our clients are experiencing mental health struggles. In light of this, at our 2022 AGM we organised an event entitled *Seeking Sanctuary: Mental Health, Space, Papers in Hostile Environment*. Here vulnerable people, poets, experts and campaigners spoke on the complex struggle for the right to well-being and health experienced during the pandemic.

In 2023, we have found that mental health struggles continue to grow among our clients, and we do all we can in helping them access mental health support. We are very concerned about the mental health of our clients because imprisonment, prolonged detention and isolation is detrimental to mental health.

Looking Forward...

The state of the world and hostile environment towards people seeking asylum has not changed, indeed it has worsened considerably. Following last year's victory in court for those people accused of steering a boat, the government has introduced a draconian new Illegal Asylum bill. If passed, in its present form, it will make it illegal to enter this country by any other means apart from by approved routes. This is impossible as there are no approved safe routes apart from those for citizens of Ukrainians and Hong Kong. The Nationality and Borders Bill has been passed in parliament despite vigorous campaigning against it by all refugee organisations. The Bill denies sanctuary rather than offering welcome. The proposals for asylum reform focus on refusing people protection and aim to make life in the asylum system unbearable – these reforms will force people to live in anxiety, under the continuous threat of removal, and denied the chance to reunite with family and loved ones. It focuses on penalising and criminalising refugees, turning them into legal and illegal people. Dividing people between “illegals” who took a clandestine entry, including dangerous crossing, and “legals” who took the orderly process of resettlement directly from refugee camps under government programmes.

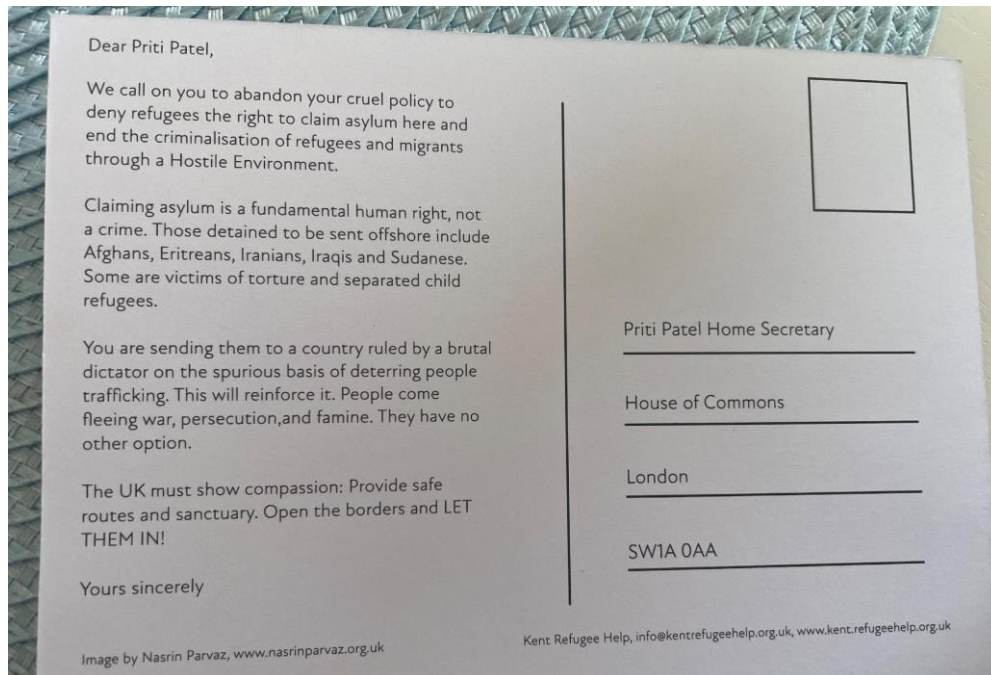
In spite of this overwhelming hostility towards displaced people, we continue to have hope, with many people in civil society, organisations and the general public expressing their opposition to the increasing hostility.



In 2022, Amal a puppet representing a Syrian displaced young person returned to Canterbury, and we were invited to welcome her. Amal arrived in the UK in 2021 after walking 8000km from Gaziantep. Amal, whose name means Hope in Arabic, made us all feel hopeful that we can have concrete change. In June 2022, as part of Refugee Week with its focus on Healing, Amal returned from Manchester to Kent for an event entitled Together Again. Here she was welcomed by the Migration and Movement Signature Research Theme at the University of Kent as part of the Youth Summit for young people who have lost learning as a result of the pandemic. The first day of the Summit focused on Migration and Amal was joined by young people and charities to dance a dapke with the different music that she experienced throughout her journeys. Together we Healed through dance. Kent Refugee Help had a stall and was very excited to welcome and dance with Amal.



We produced a postcard to Priti Petal in response to the Border Bill, which we gifted to Amal. Amal sent the postcard



The need for our work continues to increase all the time. We are very grateful to the support of our volunteers and friends upon whom we depend for so much.

Our work in supporting refugees and migrants is more urgent than ever, and we will do our utmost to make their voices heard.

Charity No. 1120185

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES	Chris Perks Dr Bahriye Kemal Andrew Jordan	Chairperson
----------	--	-------------

CHARITY ADDRESS	PO Box 192 Whitstable Kent. CT5 1WA.
-----------------	--

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT 19 Pintail Way Herne Herne Bay Kent. CT6 7XP
----------------------	---

BANKERS	Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 49 High Street, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 2SE.
---------	--

CHARITY NUMBER	1120185
----------------	---------

CONTENTS

	1	Index
	2	Independent Examiner's Report
Page	3	Profit & Loss Account
	4	Balance Sheet
	5 & 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees report is provided seperately

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:

dated:

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

KENT REFUGEE HELP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objectives:-				
Grants receivable	2	0.00	24,196.00	24,196.00
Donations	3	3,814.43	0.00	3,814.43
Activities to generate funds	3	30.00	0.00	30.00
Other & Reimbursements	3	805.68	0.00	805.68
		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total incoming resources		<u>4,650.11</u>	<u>24,196.00</u>	<u>28,846.11</u>
 Charitable expenditure				
Employees/Sub-contracted assist	4	3,417.09	23,525.52	26,942.61
Activity costs	5	1,157.61	3,630.29	4,787.90
Management and administration	6	2,051.73	3,414.53	5,466.26
Total resources expended		<u>6,626.43</u>	<u>30,570.34</u>	<u>37,196.77</u>
 Fund balance brought forward at 1st April 2022				
		38,640.78	11,609.05	50,249.83
Transfers between Funds - Petty cash		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund balance carried forward at 31st March 2023		<u>36,664.46</u>	<u>5,234.71</u>	<u>41,899.17</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current assets			
Debtors		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		41,899.17	50,034.83
Cash in hand (Petty Cash)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>215.00</u>
		41,899.17	50,249.83
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net current assets/liabilities		0.00	0.00
Net assets		<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>50,249.83</u></u>
Represented by:			
Restricted funds			
Eddie Barns Memorial Donations		568.75	794.25
ARM Trust - Prison Project		0.00	6,510.13
French Huguenot		0.00	329.35
YAPP		0.00	597.04
Allen Lane		0.00	3,378.28
Access To Justice - Cost of living crisis		4,665.96	0.00
		0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		36,664.46	32,425.78
Daughters of Jesus donation		0.00	1,000.00
Cotmore Trust donation		0.00	5,000.00
Petty Cash		0.00	215.00
Total funds		<u><u>41,899.17</u></u>	<u><u>50,249.83</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:-

Dated:

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>
2 Grants receivable			
Kent Community Foundation - Changing Lives	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
YAPP	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Access to Justice - Cost of living crisis	0.00	12,196.00	12,196.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>24,196.00</u>	<u>24,196.00</u>
3 Other income			
Donations	3,814.43	0.00	3,814.43
Daughters of Jesus Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cotmore Trust Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eddie Barns Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising Events	30.00	0.00	30.00
Other & Re-imbursements	805.68	0.00	805.68
	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>4,650.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,650.11</u>
4 Sub-contracted assistance and Employees			
Paid to sub-contractors	3,417.09	23,525.52	26,942.61
Employee Gross Pay	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employer NIC Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>3,417.09</u>	<u>23,525.52</u>	<u>26,942.61</u>
The average number of employees during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis was 0 (2019-20).			
No employees received remuneration amounting to more than £50,000 during the year.			
No trustee received any remuneration during the year.			
5 Activity costs			
Professional & Volunteer Travel Expenses	40.45	271.00	311.45
Professional & Volunteer Telephone Expenses	0.00	1,164.21	1,164.21
Detainee & Ex-detainee Expenses	314.07	1,945.08	2,259.15
Meetings (inc Hall Hire)	77.41	0.00	77.41
Training	700.00	200.00	900.00
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	25.68	50.00	75.68
	<u>1,157.61</u>	<u>3,630.29</u>	<u>4,787.90</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2023</u>
6 Management and administration			
Administration Costs	2,219.24	2,601.66	4,820.90
Insurance	0.00	279.36	279.36
Independent examiner's fee	52.50	157.50	210.00
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committee and meeting expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publicity	66.00	90.00	156.00
	<u>2,337.74</u>	<u>3,128.52</u>	<u>5,466.26</u>
7 Debtors			
Grants due	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Deferred income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

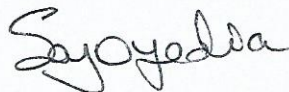
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:



dated:

18/6/23

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

Accounts



Charity no. 1120185

Patrons:

Anthony Anaxagorou, Poet and Publisher

Annual Report 2021-2022





Kent Refugee Help is a small user-led charity, now in its fourteenth year. Our main focus is working with foreign national prisoners in London and Kent prison establishments. Some of our clients are in prison under immigration laws, being deemed too high-risk to be placed in a removal centre. Others may be refugees, former unaccompanied minors, EU migrants, those with long residence who came to the UK fleeing human rights violations with their parents when very young, people who are undocumented or stateless. All are trying to navigate the complex legal system they are caught up in, with very little help or advice available. Many of them are facing deportation at the end of their sentence without legal representation. We are there to listen and take forward in whatever way is appropriate for each client.

During the year 2021-2022, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic it was still difficult to go into prisons, so we mainly continued to support FNP and people who had been released, remotely. We supported people in various prisons, which included HMPs Pentonville, Elmley, Maidstone, Littlehey and Rochester. In order to continue our support during these difficult times, we applied for and secured emergency funding from the Community Justice Fund. With the cooperation of HMP Rochester, we managed to send money to FNPs during December holidays so they could call their families.

During the year we also received individual referrals from HMPs Wormwood Scrubs, Rochester, Elmley, Swaleside, Huntercombe, Maidstone, and Stoke Heath. There is complex ongoing work with several former detainees from the DIRC (Dover Immigration Removal centre), which closed in 2015. This work is done by the previous case worker on a voluntary basis. Men on bail, waiting for their asylum case to be resolved, are forbidden to work, must conform to reporting restrictions, and are frequently tagged. This is akin to 'prison in the community'. This situation continues. KRH believes that indefinite detention of any person for administrative purpose is discriminatory and should be challenged.

We would like to thank all our funders and organisations who have helped us to continue our work.

KRH Personnel

Trustees: Bahriye Kemal, Andrew Jordan, Chris Perks, Chelcie Henry-Robertson

Legal Advisers: Antti de Ruano, Fatima Kadić

Caseworkers: Kate Adams, Raga Gibreel, Pete Keenan

Admin. support: Lesley Grove of Accuracy Accounts, Caroline Gipson VA.

Volunteers: Hakki Aganoglu, Pete Keenan, Maria Ruano, Liza Seed, Rupert Bowers, Lucas Strauss, Nick Tompsett (website)

Although we no longer find Sureties for bail, we acknowledge that some of our former Sureties are still in touch with and support the people they stood bail for, some of whom have to wait many years for the resolution of their case.

We continue to work with **The Prisoners' Advice Service** and **Kent Law Clinic** and **BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees)**



Finance and Funding

Our prison work this year has been funded by the **ARM Trust, YAPP, The Allen Lane Foundation, Community Justice Fund, and the Vulnerable Persons Fund** administered through the **Kent Community Foundation**.

Donations from individuals and church groups have continued to be generous. We see this as proof of a strong public desire to see more positive action to welcome and support refugees in the UK. Donations are treated as 'unrestricted' funds, which we use for the many individual needs of our clients. In addition to small amounts to cover emergency food, travel and phone top-ups, we have paid for gym membership, clothing and footwear. We paid for 12 art therapy sessions, subsidised and provided by Birmingham Art Therapies for a client who became mentally unwell in prison and needed community support for him to carry on. We have for the past two years supported an ex-client by paying his allotment fees in order for him to carry on keeping his chickens. A long term client who is still awaiting the outcome of his asylum claim was able to obtain a place at college, and we gifted him a laptop to help him with his studies. The amounts are small, but each one makes a positive contribution to the lives of our clients.

Personal and Political Journeys by Nasrin Parvaz



Nasrin's painting the Crowded Cell is a reflection of her experiences in Evin Prison Iran where she was held for 8 years and tortured because of her activism for civil rights. This painting was featured in our exhibition of foreign national prisoner's art in 2018. Nasrin was our guest artist. All Nasrin's work features the struggles of refugees and other displaced people. Her boat paintings are a continuation of this theme. Nazanin Zaghari -Ratcliffe who has British and Iranian dual citizenship was detained in Evin

prison for five years on charges of espionage against the Iranian government. Nasrin supported her campaign to be released and has continued to fight for the freedom of people detained for spurious reasons in Iranian prisons, some of whom face execution. When Nazanin was released on 16 March 2022 and flew home, journalists also contacted Nasrin for her story.

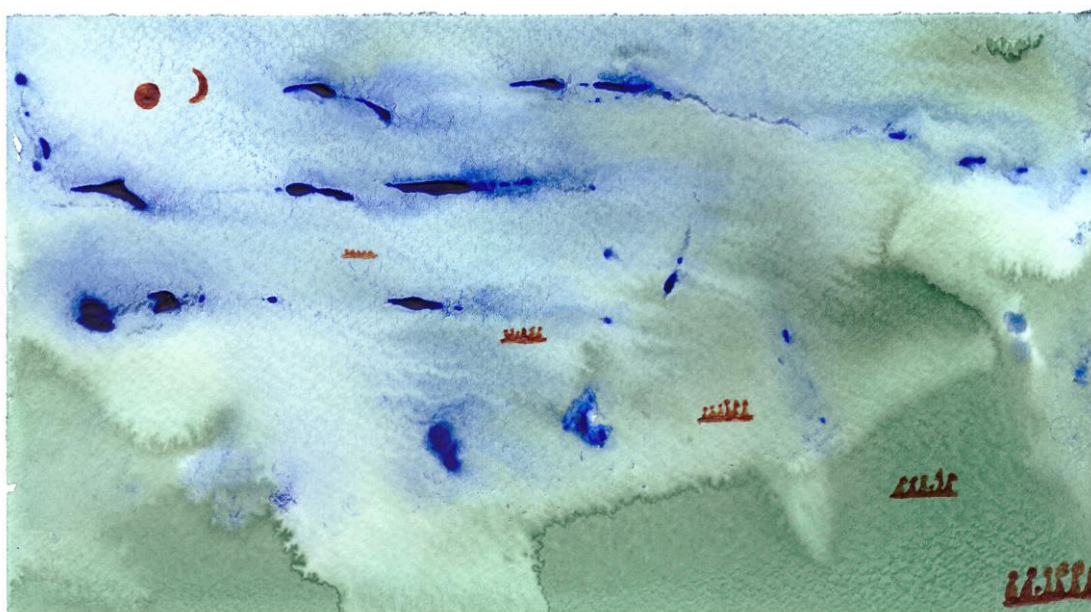
Nasrin's Statement on the Boat Paintings

My works explore personal and political journeys based on both my life and collective experiences that I have witnessed and heard about.



I'm interested in evoking an emotion expressing the concerns of everyday life such as imprisonment, immigration, poverty etc - but also seeing the other side with hope and kindness. My work explores the vulnerabilities of humans, which are a snapshot of collective trauma, inflicted on us by the corrupt system. I capture this in my work, regardless of the media I use: drawing, painting, sculpture or printmaking.

My exploration of these subjects started with the realisation that there were no pictures or vivid paintings when I was a political prisoner in Iran. I became a civil rights activist when the Islamic regime took power in 1979. I was arrested in 1982, tortured and spent eight years in prison.



My background study was not art, so while I started to work with watercolours at home to depict the images of prison, I went to life drawing to learn proportion. My hands met clay for the first time in 2018 and I worked with several different printing methods which helped me realise that I could say what I wanted to through art. I have found that despite the lack of control over the final image in printmaking, I could play with it during the process of creation, which made the result interesting.



Both my writing and art are about our historical time: brutal power politics and social injustices all over the world as well as the collective trauma this places on people. I feel that painting and printmaking are more immediate forms of art and means of expression than writing.

These paintings of refugees are about the English Channel which is a shameful sea of blood.

My books are: 'One Woman's Struggle in Iran, A Prison Memoir', and 'The Secret Letters from X to A', were published by Victorina Press in 2018.

<http://www.nasrinparvaz.org/web/>

Casework and Volunteer Reports

Kate Adams Caseworker and Prison Project Coordinator.

The Prison Project is the core work of the charity, reaching out to foreign nationals in Kent and London prisons. This group is comprised of refugees and migrants who have sought safety and a better life in the UK, only to find themselves incarcerated because of mistakes they have made often resulting from poverty and the cruelty of immigration control. They are a neglected and stigmatised group struggling to survive in a hostile environment. Now under the shadow of the Nationality and Borders Act, which has outlawed asylum claims and diminished migrant rights, they exist in a heightened state of fear and loneliness.

This year our casework team has assisted 55 people from the following countries:

Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Congo, Cuba, France, Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Kurdistan, Nigeria, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe. 22 were new cases and 8 required intensive support. Further funding of £20,000 from the Community Justice Fund has allowed us to continue to provide an immigration advice line and comprehensive support through advice letters and legal visits tailored to meet individual needs. The team consists of two experienced part time immigration advisors, Antti de Ruano and Fatima Kadic and myself a generic caseworker. The majority of our clients face deportation without legal representation, due to stringent cuts which caused many immigration firms to close. Those that remain have limited or no capacity for prison cases.

Our legal advisors have assisted clients to build their case for appeal, and represent themselves at the First- tier Tribunal, Immigration and Asylum Chamber. (IAFT). Additional material can be sourced from Bail for Immigration Detainees website (Bid). Clients are also provided with a very useful guide to completing the appeal form produced by a former legal volunteer Catherine Carpenter. This shows them how to apply for a fee waiver so they can request an oral hearing, which is essential to the success of a case. The fee of £140 is prohibitive to many prisoners who are without financial resources and they will opt for a paper hearing which does not allow them a voice in court.

Our Successes

Through generic casework I have helped clients challenge reporting conditions, apply for a release address and lodge an appeal if this is refused. Using a template provided by Bid I assisted our client M in obtaining Exceptional Case Funding legal aid for his deportation appeal. M is from the Sudan which has not accepted him as a citizen so the Home Office are unable to deport him. He has lived in limbo for almost 20 years and is effectively stateless. This contributed to the break- up of his marriage and his attempted suicide. The KRH legal team liaised with the court and helped him prepare to attend the initial case management hearing for the appeal unrepresented. The Judge was sympathetic and gave him adequate time to find a solicitor. He attended his full hearing with good representation and his confidence renewed. We hope he will be granted leave to remain.

A is from Algeria. Algeria has a history of refusing emergency travel documents (ETDS), issued to people the Home Office wants to deport. However in A's case an ETD had been obtained and he was facing deportation within 9 days. He was in prison, very isolated and without representation. Another NGO had been trying to find him a solicitor without result for some time. A KRH legal advisor visited him and provided him with a detailed assessment of his case. Following her advice, he wrote to the Home Office and asked them to suspend removal directions which they did. This has allowed him a breathing space to continue his

search for a lawyer. The next steps are to make an application based on long residence in the UK.

Victory for asylum seekers convicted of “boat steering.”

We received referrals from asylum seekers who had crossed the channel and had been imprisoned and arrested for steering a small boat on the basis that they were assisting “illegal immigration” and effectively people trafficking. These clients were from Iran, Iraq and Sudan and had come to the UK to escape persecution and conflict. I was given the contact details for Canel Halil of Emmerly Halil and Brown Solicitors who had made a successful legal challenge on one such a case which set a precedent. Despite the Crown Prosecution Service advising that there should be no more prosecutions the Home Office continued to press for the arrest and imprisonment of these vulnerable asylum seekers. Canel took five cases from KRH to the Court of Appeal. They were represented by Aneurin Brewster of Red Lion Chambers. Their convictions were formally quashed by the Court on the 8th February 2022 and all were eventually released from prison and immigration detention and have gone on to process their asylum claims.

However, the injustice of their treatment by the British state impacted severely on their health and well-being, leaving them angry, confused and mistrustful. One person tried to take his own life in prison and was saved by a supportive friend. The immigration solicitors we found for one of our clients will press for an unlawful detention claim and I believe there could be grounds for all the clients we referred. I have recently been notified of another client with the same conviction languishing in prison past his sentence date. I immediately him referred to Canel Halil to launch an appeal. We express heart-felt thanks to Canel and his colleague Aneurin Brewer for their indefatigable work in assisting innocent asylum seekers to obtain their freedom and clear their names. Our concern is that criminalizing asylum seekers for crossing the channel is now enshrined in the Nationality and Borders Act which contradicts both the guidance from the CPS and the international refugee convention.

Christopher gets Leave to remain

Christopher, an ex-detainee I visited in the Dover Immigration Removal Centre in 2003, has kept in touch over the years. His nationality was disputed by the Home Office and he only survived after leaving detention with support from his church. Christopher is now happily married with five children.

About two months ago Christopher called me to say the whole family had been granted leave to remain. The catalyst was the death of the kindly pastor who had supported him for so many years, which resulted in the family being made homeless. The Citizen’s Advice Bureau referred them to Social Services and an application was made by his wife for herself and the children in which Christopher was included. Now they have alternative accommodation and Christopher is looking for a job. At last, he has some security but it has taken so long! We congratulate Christopher and his family for their perseverance and endurance and wish them well for the future.

Kate Adams, Caseworker

.....

Antti de Ruano, Legal Project Report

While at present we can only offer one-off legal advice on immigration matters and only very exceptionally legal representation in a very small number of cases, it seems to us that the legal advice we can provide is already of considerable assistance to foreign national prisoners who often do not seem to even have access to the limited advice we give about the options they have but of which they do not seem to have any knowledge before hearing our advice.

Interesting Litigation with a Happy End - Confidentiality of Communication between Prisoners and their Legal Advisors

KRH was involved in litigation somewhat unusually on the issues of confidential access with prisoners.

It seemed a potentially interesting case about the scope of Prison Rule 39 and legal privilege in correspondence between prisoners and their legal advisers. It seemed an important point of principle that prisoners should have the benefit of legal privilege in their communications with their OISC regulated legal advisers on issues of legal advice and representation with their immigration and deportation cases. Rule 2 of the Prison Rules 1999 defines the term “legal adviser” for the purposes of these rules as a prisoner's 'counsel or solicitor, and includes a clerk acting on behalf of his solicitor...' but somewhat surprisingly this has been interpreted so as not to include OISC regulated legal advisers. Curiously on the other hand, in the case of *R (van Hoogstraten) v Governor of Belmarsh Prison* [2003] 1 WLR 263, it was held that an Italian *avvocato* by virtue of EU provisions then in force was entitled to be considered a legal adviser for the purposes of Prison Rules.

However, by settling the matter out of court in the end, KRH achieved an even better outcome through confidential access which now covers all our staff at KRH and not only the legal advisers who had sought to rely on Rule 39.

We remain deeply grateful for the considerable amount of work done, as would inevitably be the case with High Court litigation, completely free of charge, by Rupert Bowers QC and Tayyiba Bajwa, barristers of Doughty Street Chambers and Mark Spragg and Huguette Craggs of Keystone Law, Solicitors.

Antti de Ruano, Legal Advisor

.....



Pete Keenan
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT and Changing Attitudes
Diary of a Year to Date

Quote: from National Daily 2/12/21

‘DOZENS of mourners in Dover gathered under its White Cliffs on Wednesday evening to remember the 27 lives lost in the Channel a week on from the disaster.

The candle-lit vigil was the third to be held at the Dover coast in just over a year, the most recent taking place three months ago for a 27-year-old Eritrean man who drowned in the English Channel in August. “It’s absolutely horrific,” vigil organiser Kay Marsh(Samphire) told the Morning Star.

Local resident Pete Keenan, who is also a case worker for Kent Refugee Help, told the Star the vigil was symbolic of the coastal community’s historic resistance against threats to human rights.

“This area stood in direct opposition to the Nazis in the past and we’re not prepared to accept it from within, and not defend human rights,” he said.’

The 3.5 metre-tall living artwork of a young Syrian refugee child was walked across Turkey, through Europe, arriving in Dover on 20th October last year, to focus peoples minds on the plight of young refugees fleeing Syria. Dover has very much been seen as a ‘front line’ for refugee and immigration policies and reaction; we had been forced to deal with the attentions of aggressive attention seeking far right groups. Thus as locals gathered for the walk through Dover and up the winding path to the Castle on the Hill, it was with great delight that we saw a really great number of adults and children gather under clear skies, before the walk under the stars, with dozens of large hand made lanterns towards the illuminated castle above.

Channel Rescue: ‘BREAKING: WE’VE WON! – the [Home Office](#) has announced that it is going to abandon Channel pushbacks in the face of legal challenges that we were bringing alongside [PCS Union](#), [Care4Calais](#), and [Freedom from Torture](#).

‘The abandonment of the pushback policy is thanks to the tireless work of organisations fighting against reckless, unlawful government policies. Pushbacks are a reckless endangerment to life and we have always maintained and reminded the government that they are unlawful. Huge thanks to our legal team, the [Good Law Project](#).’

The Hostile Government afront to Human Rights, was nowhere better demonstrated than by the callous enclosure within the condemned C19th local Napier Barracks huts, of registered Asylum seekers, in direct violation of its own Covid first wave regulations for the protection



of the populace. The subsequent inevitable large scale outbreak, despite warnings, caused no change of policy, and the same stark units were re populated as before.

The Refugee NGO's, in the light of such cynicism, established a 'Drop in Centre' not far from the camp, offering on-going support to residents from Napier, avoiding a potential for being seen as complicit with Government policy, by operating within the Barracks itself.

I supported a recent visit to Kent from European Refugee Research group MIGREUROP, who undertake comparative studies of different European states, their policies, popular reactions and NGO activities, our part of Kent being a focus in that regard again. I was able to introduce Pierre M. to NGO's at the Drop in Centre and arrange a meeting and tour of operations with members of Channel Rescue, who patrol the coast /observe/ support/campaign for those attempting the crossing from France in small boats.

We also managed to arrange an online meeting with representatives of the RNLI – whose vocal media refusal to cooperate with either Government 'Push Back' policies or hostile right wing rhetoric, was a truly heart-warming beam of light, in the midst of a particularly dark sequence of events and attitudes – and did no harm at all to their donations – again great to hear.

There have been many lows, but some very definite highs in the reaction of some people to events here in Kent over the last 12 months. Having lived long term with the Hostile Environment now, its historical trajectory and current state is expanded upon, in 'Status Now's web page and the likes of the 'Good Law project' are well worth investigating too – particularly in light of Rwanda perhaps?

Casework Report:

An unexpected role for me post DIRC years, was to find myself cast by circumstances in a 'Mckenzie friend' type of role, standing by a long term client/friend(by now), in a Legal hearing, in lieu of a professional counsel. We had the bonus of a not unsympathetic judge, who was also very competent. Unfortunately so was the H.O. representative. With a rather thin defence bundle, we had to focus heavily on undermining a very specific aspect of the H.O's case, which was unfortunately not enough to win the overall appeal, but was really highlighted in the judges Decision and Reasoning, to the point that it provides potential strong future evidence in dealing with another aspect of Mr. C's situation.

Pete Keenan, Caseworker

Message to the ‘Not the Andrew Marr Show’ of January 16 2022 by Canel Halil, Emery Halil & Brown Solicitors

The successful appeal and subsequent acquittal of Fouad Kakaei, and the successful appeals which have now followed from it, represent a fundamental victory for those individuals forced by circumstances beyond their control to seek sanctuary and safety from a world that is thankfully alien to the majority of us. What compels people such as Mr Kakaei to risk their lives in flimsy, unseaworthy boats in order to seek asylum is lost by those who use these people as political footballs when they try and kick them back across dangerous waters.

Heroes come in many guises. And Mr Kakaei is a hero for this cause. Having been arrested, prosecuted and wrongly imprisoned in December 2019 for an immigration offence, his misery was compounded at the end of his sentence when he was again visited by Immigration Authorities and told he was now being further prosecuted for a facilitation offence that carries up to 14 years imprisonment. It would have been easy for Mr Kakaei at that stage to ignore the legal advice that I gave to him in the cells at Medway Magistrates Court at the beginning of the pandemic that he was not guilty and he should fight to prove his innocence. It would have been easy for him to reject the advice of his Counsel, Mr Aneurin Brewer, that he had a defence to the charges. It would have been easy for him to adopt what had become the standard practice in the local courts of pleading guilty to receive the maximum discount off the routine 2-3 year sentence of imprisonment and stay quiet! And it would have been easy, some may even have said sensible, for him to have pleaded guilty at the commencement of his re-trial after his successful appeal in order to secure his immediate release as he had by then already served his entire (unlawful) prison term!

But Mr Kakaei kept his faith in himself and I am pleased to say his legal team. Despite the concerted efforts of the Crown Prosecution Service to secure his conviction having maintained an interpretation of the law which the Court of Appeal has now ruled was a “legal heresy”, Mr Kakaei finally left prison a free, and more importantly, an innocent man! Thankfully, others now tread a similar path, despite the continued efforts of the State to argue for their criminalisation and imprisonment.

The Government’s answer to these cases has been to enact their Immigration and Borders Bill which will junk the protections enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention for those desperate to seek asylum in the UK and for humanitarians who help them.

As a footnote, I hope that Mr Kakaei’s case, and those of the other successful Appellants, highlights the importance of a properly funded independent legal profession. For as many years publicly funded criminal defence practitioners have struggled to keep our profession and practices alive in the face of critical legal aid cuts. Without properly funded defence practitioners innocent people such as Mr Kakaei have passed through the courts at break neck pace and been advised to take their medicine and plead guilty or take their punishment without much challenge. If the Government continues to cut rather than invest in legal aid it will force firms to close or offer a cut-price service, and access to justice for people such as Mr Kakaei will be “lost at sea”. This is an SOS on all fronts.

NB Canel cannot attend our AGM due to other commitments, but gave us permission to include this piece about his work in the Annual Report.

Events



**Seeking Sanctuary:
Mental Health, Space & Papers in a Hostile Environment
Saturday 15 May 2021**

Introduction and Chair **Bahriye Kemal**

Kate Adams, Raga Gibreel & Peter Keenan (Kent Refugee Help Caseworkers)
Annual Review: On Casework, Legal Project, Napier Barracks

Antonia Benfield, Leonie Hirst, Shu Shin Luh (Barristers, Doughty Street Chambers) Re-triggering Past Trauma and Torture in Napier Barracks: Role of NGO volunteers to enable access to justice, support and evidence gathering.

Cornelius Katona (Medical Director of the Helen Bamber Foundation) Mental health in immigration detention and contingency accommodation

Faith Ngcobo (Status Now 4 All) Until Everyone is Safe, No One is Safe: Indefinite Leave to Remain for All!

Readings, screenings and talks on Lived Experiences by Write to Life | Freedom From Torture, and our new patron Anthony Anaxagorou

Celebrating 14 years of working with detainees and ex-detainees
www.kentrefugeehelp.org.uk | info@kentrefugeehelp.org.uk

22 MAY
Empty the barracks
Close the camps

In 2021, Bahriye Kemal organised and chaired an event entitled Seeking Sanctuary: Mental Health, Space, Papers in Hostile Environment, where vulnerable people, poets, experts and campaigners spoke on the complex struggle for the right to health, space & papers experienced during the pandemic.

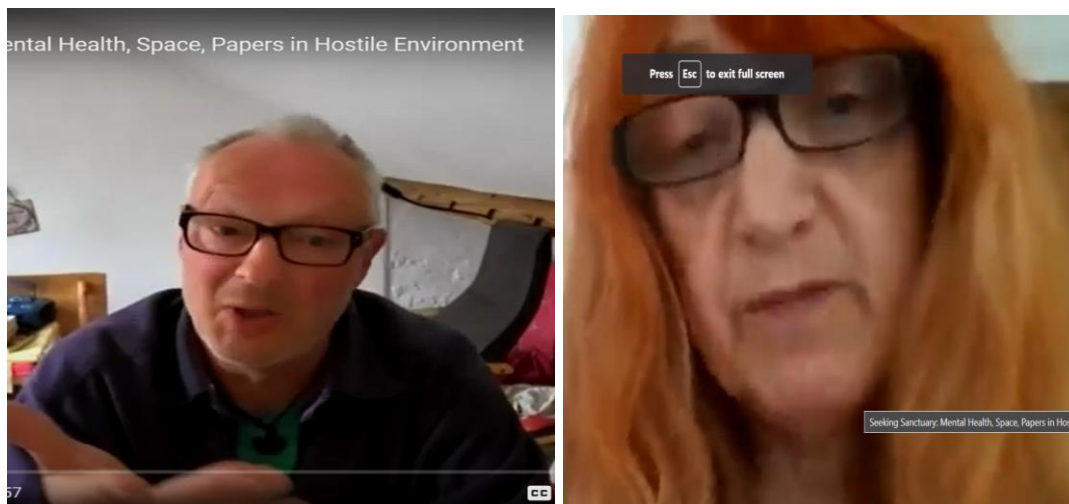
Everyone deserves the right to healthcare, spacious living, food and an income to survive the pandemic; however, the hostile environment has prevented people from having these basic rights to survival. The online event responded to this, focusing on the ways destitute and undocumented people have been refused the right to a safe environment. It focused on the ill-treatment of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants, the problems of surviving without papers, how it affects mental and physical health, and the new proposals from the government.

Talks explored the legal, social, spatial and psychological challenges experienced by refugees, asylum seekers and those without immigration status from various shocking perspectives, including: response to the containment of vulnerable people in unsafe, contagious and filthy Napier barracks, where 200 caught Covid and seven attempted suicide; exposing how people without papers have no access to healthcare and public health directives necessary to limit COVID-19 viral transmission; demanding indefinite leave to remain for all; revealing ways vulnerable people are forced to survive without right to space, right to spatial isolation; role of NGO's against the injustice.

The event was a call against the shocking condition in Napier Barracks, and a campaign against the appalling New Plan for Immigration that fundamentally undermines the right to claim asylum, will increase destitution, and criminalises refugees and migrants.



These and other issues were considered through a range of perspectives, which included migrant workers, charity workers, experts, academics, campaigners, activists, artists, poets, and more.



The event kicked off with a session with our caseworkers Raga Gibreel, Kate Adams, and Pete Keenan discussing casework, legal projects and the Napier Barracks.

The event continued with four excellent presentations

We would like to thank the speakers – Antonia Benfield, Leonie Hirst, Shu Shin Luh (Barristers, Doughty Street Chambers), Cornelius Katona (Medical Director of the Helen Bamber Foundation), Faith Ngcobo (Status Now 4 All), Freedom From Torture, our new patron Anthony Anaxagorou, and our former clients – who participated in this successful zoom event.

The first presentation was by Antonia Benfield, Leonie Hirst, Shu Shin Luh (Barristers, Doughty Street Chambers) who discussed re-triggering past trauma and torture in Napier Barracks with focus on the role of NGO volunteers in enabling access to justice, support and evidence gathering.





Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Cornelius Katona MD FRCPsych
Medical and Research Director
Helen Bamber Foundation

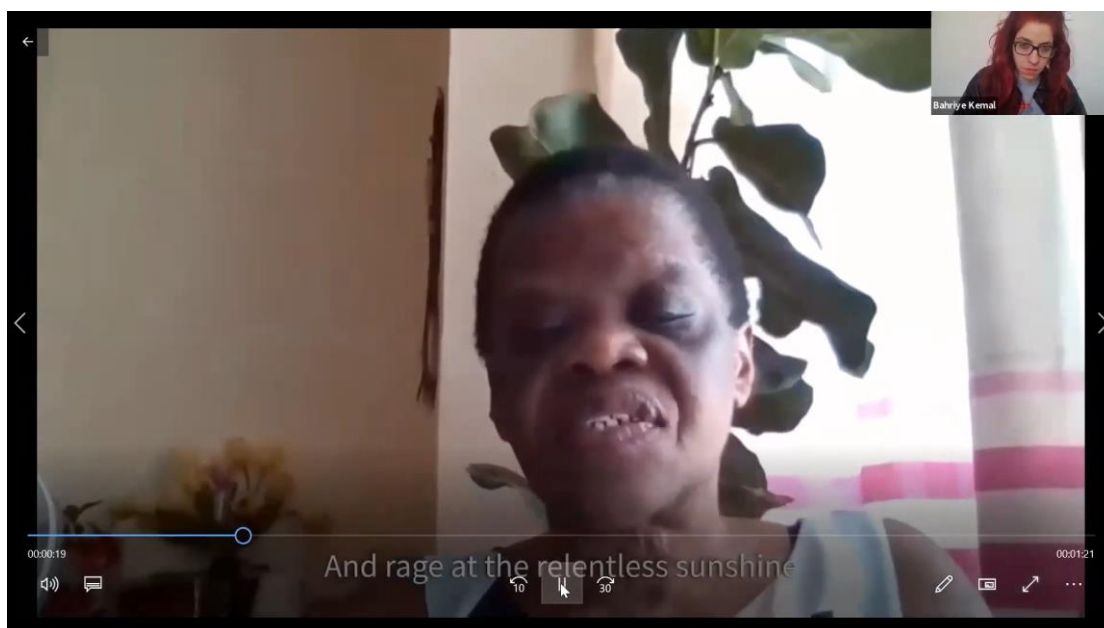


The next paper was Cornelius Katona (Medical Director of the Helen Bamber Foundation), which focused on mental health in immigration detention and contingency accommodation



The event continued with Faith Ngcobo's (Status Now 4 All) talk, focused on the topic of 'until everyone is safe, no one is safe', with a call for Indefinite Leave to Remain for All!

Faith shared her own and others' lived experiences of the struggles within the system, including numerous refusals, with people being accused of lying, even to the extent of questioning their own name. Faith shared a video of someone with lived experiences who is 65 years old.



The event ended with readings on Lived Experiences by Write to Life | Freedom From Torture, including the poem 'Why I left' by Jade Amoli-Jackson.

The event was recorded and can be watched via this youtube link [Seeking Sanctuary: Mental Health, Space, Papers in Hostile Environment | Kent Refugee Help](#)

Training

Kent Refugee Help are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC), which means we are authorized to provide legal advice and representation in UK immigration law. We have regulated advisers at level 3 (the highest level) who can represent clients up to hearings at the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and the European Court of Human Rights. On registering with the OISC, KRH also joined the well-established Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA), involved with policy work. Our legal advisers have attended mainly online zoom training events arranged by various barristers' chambers and others. One of our caseworkers completed OISC level 1, which has been kindly funded by Refugee Action. Due to Covid, she has been unable to take the exam. She will complete the exam and give level 1 advice as soon as she can.



Looking Forward...

The state of the world and hostile environment towards people seeking asylum has not changed, indeed it has worsened considerably. The Nationality and Borders Bill has recently been passed in parliament despite vigorous campaigning against it by all refugee organisations. The Bill seeks to deny sanctuary rather than offering welcome. The proposals for asylum reform focus on refusing people protection and aims to make life in the asylum system unbearable – it is a reform that will force people to live in anxiety, under the continuous threat of removal, and denied the chance to reunite with family and loved ones. It focuses on penalising and criminalising refugees, turning them into legal and illegal people. Dividing people between “illegals” who took a clandestine entry, including dangerous crossing, and “legals” who took the orderly process of resettlement directly from refugee camps under government programmes.

In spite of this overwhelming hostility towards displaced people, we continue to have hope, with many people in civil society, organisations and the general public expressing their opposition to the increasing hostility.

In 2021, Amal a puppet representing a Syrian displaced young person, arrived in the UK after walking 8000km from Gaziantep. She was welcomed by thousands of people in Folkstone, Dover and Canterbury before moving to north Kent, London and then settled in Manchester. Amal, whose name means Hope in Arabic, made us all feel hopeful that we can have concrete change. In June 2022, as part of Refugee Week with its focus on Healing, Amal will be returning from Manchester to Kent for an event entitled Together Again. Here she will be welcomed by the Migration and Movement Signature Research Theme at the University of Kent as part of the Youth Summit for young people who have lost learning as a result of the pandemic. The first day of the Summit focuses on Migration and Amal will join the young people and charities to dance a dapke with the different music that she experienced throughout her journeys. Together we will Heal through dance. Kent Refugee Help looks forward to welcoming and dancing with Amal.

Amal in Canterbury at the University of Kent in 2021



Amal in Dover in 2021



The need for our work continues to increase all the time. We are very grateful to the support of our volunteers and friends upon whom we depend for so much.

Our work in supporting refugees and migrants is more urgent than ever, and we will do our utmost to make their voices heard.

Charity No. 1120185

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

TRUSTEES	Chris Perks Chairperson Dr Bahriye Kemal Andrew Jordan Chelcie Henry-Robertson
----------	--

CHARITY ADDRESS	PO Box 192 Whitstable Kent. CT5 1WA.
-----------------	--

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT 19 Pintail Way Herne Herne Bay Kent. CT6 7XP
----------------------	---

BANKERS	Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 49 High Street, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 2SE.
---------	--

CHARITY NUMBER	1120185
----------------	---------

CONTENTS

	1	Index
	2	Independent Examiner's Report
Page	3	Profit & Loss Account
	4	Balance Sheet
	5 & 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees report is provided seperately

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:

dated:

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

KENT REFUGEE HELP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total 2022</u>
Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objectives:-				
Grants receivable	2	0.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
Donations	3	13,332.96	0.00	13,332.96
Activities to generate funds	3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other & Reimbursements	3	1,027.76	0.00	1,027.76
Total incoming resources		<u>14,360.72</u>	<u>22,000.00</u>	<u>36,360.72</u>
 Charitable expenditure				
Employees/Sub-contracted assista	4	0.00	25,945.07	25,945.07
Activity costs	5	415.00	5,870.81	6,285.81
Management and administration	6	60.00	5,173.35	5,233.35
Total resources expended		<u>475.00</u>	<u>36,989.23</u>	<u>37,464.23</u>
 Fund balance brought forward at 1st April 2021				
		24,755.06	26,598.28	51,353.34
Transfers between Funds - Petty cash		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund balance carried forward at 31st March 2022		<u>38,640.78</u>	<u>11,609.05</u>	<u>50,249.83</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Current assets			
Debtors		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		50,034.83	51,138.34
Cash in hand (Petty Cash)		<u>215.00</u>	<u>215.00</u>
		50,249.83	51,353.34
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net current assets/liabilities		0.00	0.00
Net assets		<u><u>50,249.83</u></u>	<u><u>51,353.34</u></u>
Represented by:			
Restricted funds			
Eddie Barns Memorial Donations		794.25	743.00
ARM Trust - Prison Project		6,510.13	6,694.73
French Huguenot		329.35	645.23
ARM Trust - Emergency Coronavirus Fund		0.00	0.00
Eleanor Rathbone Trust		0.00	0.00
Kent Community Foundation - The Lawson Trust		0.00	1,696.54
YAPP		597.04	1,325.00
The Access to Justice Foundation		0.00	3,972.53
Kent Community Foundation		0.00	5,500.00
Allen Lane		3,378.28	5,970.00
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		32,425.78	19,591.31
Daughters of Jesus donation		1,000.00	5,000.00
Cotmore Trust donation		5,000.00	
Petty Cash		215.00	215.00
Total funds		<u><u>50,249.83</u></u>	<u><u>51,353.34</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:-

Dated: Jul-22

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total 2022</u>
2 Grants receivable			
YAPP	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Community Justice Fund - Access to Justice	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>22,000.00</u>	<u>22,000.00</u>
3 Other income			
Donations	7,332.96	0.00	7,332.96
Daughters of Jesus Donation	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Cotmore Trust Donation	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Eddie Barns Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising Events	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other & Re-imbursements	1,027.76	0.00	1,027.76
	<u>14,360.72</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14,360.72</u>
4 Sub-contracted assistance and Employees			
Paid to sub-contractors	0.00	25,945.07	25,945.07
Employee Gross Pay	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employer NIC Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25,945.07</u>	<u>25,945.07</u>
The average number of employees during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis was 0 (2019-20). No employees received remuneration amounting to more than £50,000 during the year. No trustee received any remuneration during the year.			
5 Activity costs			
Professional & Volunteer Travel Expenses	0.00	239.10	239.10
Professional & Volunteer Telephone Expenses	0.00	1,179.95	1,179.95
Detainee & Ex-detainee Expenses	0.00	3,712.76	3,712.76
Meetings (inc Hall Hire)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	415.00	739.00	1,154.00
	<u>415.00</u>	<u>5,870.81</u>	<u>6,285.81</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2022</u>
6 Management and administration			
Administration Costs	60.00	4,578.99	4,638.99
Insurance	0.00	279.36	279.36
Independent examiner's fee	0.00	195.00	195.00
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committee and meeting expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publicity	0.00	120.00	120.00
	<u>60.00</u>	<u>5,173.35</u>	<u>5,233.35</u>
7 Debtors			
Grants due	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Deferred income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

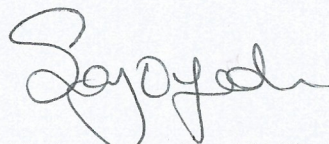
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:



Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

dated:

15 / 6 / 22

Accounts



Charity no. 1120185

Patrons:

Clio Barnard, Film Maker

Anthony Anaxagorou, Poet and Publisher

Annual Report 2020-2021



Kent Refugee Help is a small user-led charity, now in its fourteenth year. Our main focus is working with foreign national prisoners in London and Kent prison establishments. Some of our clients are in prison under immigration laws, being deemed too high-risk to be placed in a removal centre. Others may be refugees, former unaccompanied minors, EU migrants, those with long residence who came to the UK fleeing human rights violations with their parents when very young, people who are undocumented or stateless. All are trying to navigate the complex legal system they are caught up in, with very little help or advice available. Many of them are facing deportation at the end of their sentence without legal representation. We are there to listen and take forward in whatever way is appropriate for each client.

During the year 2020-2021, it was no longer safe to go to prisons because of the Covid-19 pandemic, so we continued to support FNP and people who had been released remotely. We supported people in various prisons, which included HMPs Pentonville, Elmley, Maidstone, Littlehey and Rochester. In order to continue our support during these difficult times, we applied for and secured emergency funding from the ARM Trust and Community Justice Fund. With the cooperation of the Diversity and Equalities Officer at Pentonville, we obtained a list of names of vulnerable people who we contacted by letter in order to offer support.

During the year we also received individual referrals from HMPs Wormwood Scrubs, Rochester, Elmley, Swaleside, Huntercombe, Maidstone, and Stoke Heath. There is complex ongoing work with several former detainees from the DIRC (Dover Immigration Removal centre), which closed in 2015. This work is done by the previous case worker on a voluntary basis. Men on bail, waiting for their asylum case to be resolved, are forbidden to work, must conform to reporting restrictions, and are frequently tagged. This is akin to 'prison in the community'. This situation continues. KRH believes that indefinite detention of any person for administrative purpose is discriminatory and should be challenged.

This year our caseworker and volunteers became involved in providing support and campaigning against the unjust situation at the former Napier Barracks in Folkstone, which were reopened to accommodate asylum seekers. They participated in meetings between NGOs, the Home Office and the local council to discuss the situation. Together with the previous caseworker we composed and circulated a position statement against the use of this accommodation for asylum seekers. This year we organised our first online event entitled Migrant Lives Matter



We would like to thank all our funders and organisations who have helped us to continue our work. We would like to thank the speakers – Don Flynn, Aliya Yule, Arianne Shahvisi, Sandra Anderson, and our former clients – who participated in our successful zoom event.



KRH Personnel

Trustees: Bahriye Kemal, Andrew Jordan, Chris Perks, Antti de Ruano (until October 2020), Chelcie Henry-Robertson

Legal Advisers: Antti de Ruano, Fatima Kadić

Caseworkers: Kate Adams, Raga Gibreel, Pete Keenan

Admin. support: Lesley Grove of Accuracy Accounts, Caroline Gipson VA.

Website: Nick Tompsett (volunteer)

Volunteers: Hakki Aganoglu, Catherine Carpenter, Pete Keenan, Maria Ruano, Liza Seed, Rupert Bowers

Although we no longer find Sureties for bail, we acknowledge that some of our former Sureties are still in touch with and support the people they stood bail for, some of whom have to wait many years for the resolution of their case.

We continue to work with the **The Prisoners' Advice Service** and **Kent Law Clinic** and **BID (Bail for Immigration Detainees)**

Finance and Funding

Our prison works this year has been funded by the **ARM Trust, The Allen Lane Foundation, Community Justice Fund, DOJ, and the Vulnerable Persons Fund** administered through the **Kent Community Foundation**.

Donations from individuals and church groups have continued to be generous. We see this as proof of a strong public desire to see more positive action to welcome and support refugees in the UK. Donations are treated as 'unrestricted' funds, which we use for the many individual needs of our clients. Because of this money we have been able to support a former client who returned voluntarily to Jamaica. In addition to small amounts to cover emergency food, travel and phone top-ups, we have paid for gym membership, clothing and footwear. The amounts are small, but each one makes a positive contribution to the lives of our clients.



On 17 October 2020 at Napier Barracks in Folkestone 300+ people demonstrated against injustice and showed that they welcome refugees who were placed there. Together, we spoke out against the harassment the refugees were subject to by the far right.

Kent Refugee Help statement regarding Napier Barracks (Jan-March)
KRH would like to make it clear that, in our view, Napier Barracks should close. KRH does not endorse more asylum seekers being placed there. The conditions in Napier Barracks fall below the minimum standard of guaranteed rights of those detained. Notwithstanding the same, we do support the plan for a ‘drop in’ centre for the community of men held at Napier Barracks, providing it is Covid compliant.
#CloseTheBarracks

In January 2021, Kent Refugee Help wrote this statement against the conditions in the Barracks.

Casework and Volunteer Reports

This year has been a difficult and troubled one with the safety of everyone under threat of the Covid 19 virus and most particularly for us in Kent Refugee Help has been the concern for our clients, either prisoners constrained by increased lockdown in cells and lack of personal liberty or struggling in the community without recourse to public funds. The Pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of black and ethnic minority people to Covid due to poverty, deprivation and structural racism. Our awareness has been raised by the tragic deaths of people of colour, key workers on the front line who have died in service without adequate protection or recognition. The campaign to shut down Napier and Penally Barracks exposed the iniquity of a political decision to place vulnerable refugees in military sites that were neither hygienic nor Covid compliant. This shone a light on the unsafe and unacceptable conditions for all migrants forced to live precariously without support and without agency. The Government's stated intention in their *New Plan for Immigration*, March 24 2021 to criminalise asylum seekers who come by irregular routes, restrict legal options and cut support, confirms the extension of a cruel and merciless regime. NGOs, lawyers, activists and other progressive individuals and groups are gathering to contest this. Kent Refugee Help has submitted our response to the Government consultation and will be part of the resistance.

Casework Statistics

This year I have assisted 40 people from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, Congo, Eritrea, Guinea, Iran, Nigeria, Spain, Romania, Syria, Somalia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Covid Pandemic resulted in a drop in referrals as our advice surgeries and visits have been suspended. Prisoners found it difficult to contact us as the lockdown denied them the opportunity to work and fund telephone calls. Letters were often delayed or not sent through lack of postage. Those we spoke to expressed fear, anxiety and an extreme sense of isolation. They were not able to access health care quickly and had no opportunity to speak to an immigration officer.

Covid and Destitution

In May we obtained an emergency grant of £3,000 to help clients during the Pandemic. The Equalities officer at HMP Pentonville identified 39 prisoners who would benefit from payments that would allow them to call their families overseas. We additionally helped 28 individuals and families already known to us with grants for food, clothing and mobile top ups. Our clients reported that the closure of foodbanks and churches they depended upon increased deprivation. The majority were No Recourse to Public Funds, already living below the poverty line before Covid Struck. Thankfully we received a further grant and were able to make payments over Christmas and New Year, a time when crucial services shut down.

Legal Advice Project

In September Kent Refugee Help successfully applied for a grant of £20,000 from the Community Justice Fund to provide access to legal advice over a 6-month period. We have used this funding to set up an exciting new project which includes an immigration advice line staffed by two legal advisors and the option of a legal conference via video link for our clients. We have also used the money to help clients fund telephone calls. Many of the people who contact us are facing deportation without access to legal advice and representation because legal aid has been cut and there is no provision for this within the prisons. As a small charity we are not able to represent clients for deportation appeals but through the advice sessions we can help them build their case so it is easier to place them with a solicitor.

Catherine Carpenter, an experienced volunteer and former longstanding member of the Kent Law Clinic has produced a leaflet which is a guide to completing the complex application form to appeal. This is an essential tool for people without legal representation as claimants have only 14 days to respond and late appeals are not automatically accepted. We plan to launch this when we can resume surgeries in prisons and circulate through Equalities and Offender management teams in prisons. HMPs Pentonville and Maidstone have been helpful in distributing publicity for the advice service within the wings and we are building up a base for referrals again. In other prisons it has been harder to reach people. The lack of legal advice for migrants in prison was ruled “discriminatory” by the High Court (2021) EWHC 418. The charity Bail for Immigration Detainees intervened in this case which ruled that the obstacles faced by immigration detainees to accessing immigration advice breached their Article 14 Human Rights. Kent Refugee Help believes that foreign national prisoners should receive comprehensive immigration advice at the beginning of their sentence and this should be provided under legal aid.

Clients have also sought legal advice on a wide variety of issues including housing, unlawful detention claims, criminal appeals, medical negligence, care and disability rights, assaults, and family matters such as contesting divorce and contact with children. We have made referrals accordingly. The Law firm Bhatia Best made two successful challenges to prolonged delays by the Home Office in providing accommodation. One client had been left with a refugee host family for a year without any move on address in sight. The other was held in prison under immigration powers for 18 months despite bail being granted and the Home Office agreeing in writing to provide a bail address. This has affected his mental health and now released, he is seeking compensation.

We have recently encountered asylum seekers in prison who have been prosecuted and convicted as traffickers for crossing the channel in small boats. The criminalization of asylum seekers proposed in the New Plan for Immigration already exists but is now being stepped up.

The diversity of these often-desperate requests reflects the high level of need within prison and after release for foreign nationals struggling with the effects of poverty and racism in a hostile environment.

Campaigning

Detention Forum

Catherine Carpenter, Pete Keenan and I have been attending meetings of the Detention Forum, a coalition of NGOs, including people with lived experience, who are campaigning to end immigration detention. Catherine and I have joined others in working on a paper calling for rights for foreign national prisoners and an end to the double punishment of deportation. We are grateful to the Director Jonathon Ellis for his hard work in facilitating this work and so highlighting the demonization and unjust treatment of FNPS.



Osime must stay!

In this spirit I contacted Joan Martin, the mother of Osime Brown who faces deportation to Jamaica, a country he left when he was 4 years old. Osime is severely autistic and relies absolutely on his family. He has no one in Jamaica and his mother who is campaigning to stop the deportation is clear he will not survive. Osime was convicted under the discredited Joint Enterprise scheme which has resulted in many unjust convictions of young black men. In prison he acquired a heart problem due to the drugs he was forced to take. He was released on immigration bail to his parents last year. I invited Joan to speak at a meeting in Kent and featured the campaign petition which has attracted over 400,000 signatures on our Facebook page. An immigration Judge has ruled that the Home Office must review their decision to deport Osime. A victory for Osime will help to shift the current negative perception of foreign national prisoners and achieve justice for everyone. Please sign the petition at <https://www.facebook.com/freeosimebrown/>

Shut down Napier Barracks!

The Detention Forum has also supported the important campaign to close down Napier and Penally Barracks. Our representative is Peter Keenan who has attended meetings with Kent County Council and the Home Office. In February 2021, 200 residents at Napier Barracks went on hunger strike in freezing weather in protest at their appalling conditions which defied Covid compliance. I sought a meeting with our MP Rosie Duffield and briefed her so she could ask a question in Parliament. Ms Duffield also press released a letter to the Home Secretary Priti Patel demanding that Napier Barracks should be closed with immediate effect and asylum seekers housed within their communities. I also made contact with Folkestone



Trades Council with the result that a local councillor successfully called for a Council inquiry into the use of Napier Barracks which was classified seven years ago in an independent report as not fit for purpose.

Status Now

The majority of our clients are without secure immigration status because a criminal conviction has resulted in their leave being revoked or they are an asylum seeker waiting for a response to their claim. Kent Refugee Help therefore supports the campaigning work of Status Now 4 All, which calls for indefinite leave to remain for everyone in during the Covid Pandemic because until “Everyone is safe, no one is safe” I attended their recent Summit and consequently invited Fay Ngcobo, a migrant activist herself, to speak at the AGM.

Conclusion

I extend my solidarity and respect to our clients who struggle for justice in an unjust environment that thrives on the suppression of the rights of minorities and the vulnerable. If this were not so Kent Refugee Help would not exist but while we are still needed it is a pleasure to stand with you and support your demands for legal rights, human rights and a better world for all.

Kate Adams, Caseworker

.....

Legal Project Report

Since November 2019, Kent Refugee Help has been regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide legal advice and representation in immigration law. This began mainly with one-off advice to individual prisoners. It has expanded to full representation of a small number of clients (20 so far) and a regular telephone advice on two half-days per week since January 2021, mainly used by prisoners to call for one-off advice as well as more long-term support. While the phone advice line has been slightly slow to pick up, it has enabled prisoner to speak direct to our legal advisers. This is helpful considering that it is not possible to telephone a prisoner and legal visits in person have not been happening since the pandemic. In addition to this, we have arranged legal visits through video conferencing that last 1-2 hours at a time, which has enabled us to discuss legal issues better than over the phone. These initial discussions with our legal advisers have made it easier to refer prisoners for full legal representation with mainly legally aided solicitors. It remains that there is little coordinated provision of legal aid in prisons for immigration matters, unlike immigration detention centres with legal aid advice surgeries with potential for full representation. KRH has been seeking to fill this void. We have found that even one-off advice seems to be of considerable help to prisoners who seem to have little other access to even that limited advice which helps them to be better informed and to better consider their options. KRH remains a member of ILPA (Immigration Law Practitioners Association) with an interest and perspective on wider issues of policy affecting this area. We now have two legal advisers who work regularly on the advice line and a small number of individual clients.

Antti de Ruano, Legal Advisor

.....

Prison Casework, Former Client, and Napier Barracks

This year I have worked with clients from different parts of the world who are experiencing various health struggles. Here are some examples:

1. M, Algeria, had outstanding asylum case. Client released from HMP Maidstone and currently at IRC Brook house. Client speaks very poor English.
2. Z, Albania, suffers from bipolar disorder. He has children and a British wife in the UK struggling with Huntington disease. He is desperate to stay in touch with his family. His efforts to be transferred to an open prison didn't work. We were not able to see him on our latest visit due to a lockdown, where they were all confined to their cells, unable to have a visitor, no outside recreation, church, library, school, or work. People like him will be very vulnerable at this time and a phone call or a letter could serve as a lifeline but his name was on the list.
3. W, China, very isolated and has various health issues, he is having cancer treatment. He keeps in touch with his elderly mother in China by phone. We support him by writing letters, provide him with Chinese literature, and money for phone top-ups.
4. Ra, Algerian suffers with bipolar and has difficulty accessing medicine. We couldn't find him a rep. but sorted his medicine with the help of IMO officer.
5. AA, Nigeria. He has a hard-working mother and siblings in the UK and lost his father, which has traumatised him. He became distanced from his mother while targeted by drug gangs at school. He has a good attitude and seems able with little assistance to pursue his appeal. He is in education in prison and seems to be positive. We assisted him to keep in touch with the court and his solicitor, money for phone calls to keep in touch with his family and support links.
6. D, mother passed away while whilst he was in prison and I referred him to counselling and bereavement support at his request.
7. S, India, suffers from depression, he is isolated from his family, and does not have friends. Our intention is to support him during his recovery and check his welfare.
8. G, Bangladesh. He suffers from severe mental health issues so should be released. BID is on his case. He will benefit from a welfare check.
9. Unaccompanied minor, poor English and cannot read and write. A prison caseworker referred him to us because he feels isolated and unwell and could benefit from visits. I have not visited him yet due to Coronavirus regulations but wrote to the prison to see if they will allow video or regular phone calls.

Most of our clients at HMP Pentonville were transferred to other prisons and it was difficult to maintain communication with them. We had a list of clients who benefited from support, however, 90% of letters we sent out in February and March were returned because the person had been transferred.

Update Sandra Anderson's Experience

As part of the Migrant Lives Matter event in 2020, Sandra shared her experiences of being caught between the Windrush scandal where her husband was forced to leave the UK. Here we share her story with an update:

Sandra is a Jamaican and came to the UK on a sponsored visa. Her husband, a KRH client, was deported in 2020, and as a consequence Sandra and her daughter lost their appeal rights to remain in the UK. During this period Sandra and her daughter worked as key workers and they contracted Covid 19. At the time we tried to assist them to get legal support but there

was no route for them to remain. In light of the struggles Sandra and her daughter wanted to leave the UK. This decision was very traumatising for the family, especially the daughter who was struggling with mental health issues.

Out of work because of Covid and not entitled to public support because of their immigration circumstances, they were struggling and deeply distressed.

KRH tried their best to support Sandra and her daughter during this stressful time, where we handled communication with Home Office, their landlords, and gave them money for food. The Home Office paid for their tickets to return to Jamaica, but did not take into account any of the other costs. They needed to pay local transport to the airport as well as the cost for Covid test/certificate required to enter Jamaica. KRH provided emotional and financial support to help them find their way back to Jamaica. we paid what was not provided by the government to ease their journey, and we continued to offer them support once they returned to Jamaica. We tried our best to create a less hostile environment that would ease the isolation, exclusion and total suffering that they were subjected to.

We supported them to start a small business in Jamaica.

Here I include the last message received from Sandra on 4 April 2021.

We're ok Raga. I'm here working hard, trying to let this little business work. Really putting myself out there. On weekends I do much but slow during the week, only do work if I get definite orders. The past 2 wkend and upcoming one no work because we're on no movement covid lockdown, so everyone has to stay home. Just hoping the cases stop going up so the lockdowns get less. Cause weekends is when I get sales. But I'm continuing to trust God's timing and process, while giving thanks for small mercies. And also, for putting good people in my corner.

Support for Residents of Napier Barracks

KRH has provided assistance and support for the community of vulnerable men held at the Napier Barracks in Folkstone, which has been completed over the phone during lockdown and via a drop-in session every Wednesday, providing it is Covid compliant. The charities Samphire, Care 4 Calais, KRAN and Jesuit Refugee Service are involved in the drop-in, where they provide transportation access for charities to attend, provide support with arts and therapeutics activities, help to access legal support, and health assistance. Given it is Ramadan, the number of people attending the session is low therefore I provide support over the phone and only go to the drop-in if, necessary.

I provide support with interpreting, referrals, and support them to access legal help and communicate with their solicitors. Four of the young people I supported were under 18 and their age had been disputed by the Home Office. Another person I supported attempted suicide numerous times, and is now released to a hotel in London. I have also visited the barracks to provide support and assist with clothing distribution.

Vulnerability is a central issue, and by this, I mean survivors of horrific torture who struggle to prove their case because of lack of papers and language barriers. Currently, there are over 50 pre-action letters made by public solicitors to transfer the vulnerable people elsewhere, many of which are cases of people who have been battered, tortured and with severe mental health issues. The mental health cases are less likely to succeed unless evidence is compelling.

On the 1st May one of the people admitted to the barracks was confirmed Covid positive, which means that the site is very high-risk and may lead to uncontrollable outbreak as before.

Below is a case I recently raised with regard to welfare of a young person who is struggling. He was transferred to a hotel in London and is very confused. When it comes to cases based on trafficked young people, it is very difficult for them to access evidence to prove their age and get appropriate support.

KRH responded to an immediate welfare concern for a minor who left their placement/residence on Tuesday 20th of April, after 10pm. He was supported by both other charities in Folkestone. Raga spoke to the young person over the phone and arranged with other charities to see him at a drop-in centre in Folkestone on Wednesday 21st morning. Raga assisted with the efforts to return him safely back to his placement, which was deemed a priority at the time as a looked after child by Kent. We followed this up with a welfare check visit this week. My biggest concerns for the young person, is he is more likely to run away again. His worries might not be real but, they are so factual to him.

Welfare concerns for unaccompanied asylum-seeking child

Personal Details:

Name: DoB: Centre: Nationality: Phone:

Health: No physical health issues or sickness – concerns of PTSD issues.

Community Care Solicitor – Immigration solicitor - Social worker -

M is a minor who struggles with the heavy burden of survivor's guilt. I also suspect there might be other underlying health issues such as PTSD. But not sure if there is mental health support in place. He told us that he struggles to sleep and finds it very hard to concentrate. He is also feeling a loss of interest to do things such as education, seems to be affected by seeing other friends from the placement moving on while he is stuck with the age assessment. Lack of contact with his family made things worse. I spoke to M on three occasions only and acted as interpreter when his social worker arrived to collect him. I recognised that he was a bit distressed on the first day and was not able to process things easily, so I had to break up the conversation many times to help. About his escape, I understood he was trying to go to Dover and was confused when he found himself suddenly in an area surrounded by woods. He was unable to figure out his way or direction to the port. He contacted a friend who thankfully made others aware of the situation. M discloses to us on Tuesday 27th that, he is not happy at his residence and things are not improving. We did what we could to reassure him and also, shared our concerns with the management at the centre. Attached also, a draft with details of my conversation with him on Tuesday, 27th of April. I have shared my concerns with staff at placement and copied all concerns here.

Raga Gibreel, Caseworker

Report on Napier Barracks

I have been involved in the negotiation of the political and ethical minefield created by the Government's decision to use condemned former army barracks, in the housing of registered Asylum seekers, from the very earliest days of that decision.

Despite our perception of this being a highly objectionable move and despite the Covid situation, we saw that we might be able to take a legal mentoring project into the barracks. This would be similar to that we had historically done in collaboration with Samphire in the Dover IRC. We saw a potential 'silver lining', in that Asylum seekers normally dispersed around the country, isolated from supportive bodies such as ourselves, could be assisted much more effectively from one locale.

Thus Indre (Samphire) and I (KRH) began to attend SESPM (South East Council Strategic Migration Partnership) Meetings, amiable gatherings involving: KCC reps, Clear Springs, H.O., Migrant Help (Napier Gov. Manag.) and a few other NGO's. We tried to set up/negotiate our respective lines of help within the barracks complex. I introduced Care4Calais to these meetings, as they were really active immediately with residents. Indre and I needed face to face, or zoom type interviewing situations (covid and/or practical/tech), so were not so directly engaged to the same extent initially.

Whilst these collaborative moves were in play and both Raga and myself had visited Napier in different contexts, it became clear that Raga had been exposed to a contact involving another volunteer, who subsequently was proved Covid positive. She was forced to isolate as a result. This incident, radically impacted my thinking and the nature of the situation that had been created apparently callously by Government – a veritable Petri dish for the growth and dispersion of Covid amongst not only the refugees in the camp, but the rest of the community potentially.

I raised this matter strongly in an SESPM meeting – some 6 weeks before the major Covid outbreak and subsequent protest at the camp – and the same kindly benign response came from those responsible for the management of the camp. It became increasingly obvious to me that by continuing to play along with the SESPM, we risked giving validation to what had been an iniquitous breach of human rights for all the refugees sent to the camp; in direct violation of the Pandemic social distancing rules policed so strongly at the time for nearly everyone else in the UK, except for those compulsorily detained.

The iconic aspects of the Barracks media imagery and its interpretation from an electoral perspective hostile to Asylum seekers, had become virtually undeniable by this stage.

In consultation KRH at this point took the decision to distance ourselves from the SESPM meetings. This move in relation to the legal mentoring support we planned to deliver to Napier residents was bolstered by the establishment of the 'Drop-in Centre'; independent of the Napier compound, in a Church building within walking distance and once established via leafletting etc, it would be able to operate independently of H.O. Napier systems. The mentoring KRH role, alongside Indre/Samphire, has now been taken up by Raga, both of whom have supported some Napier residents – and will be shared between them on Indre's return within the Drop-In.

Whilst some other NGO's have adopted the same stance as KRH in relation to the SESPM and focussed in recent months on campaigning against the human rights aspects of the

Barracks; others like the brilliant Care4Calais continue liaising with them, as they have established roles within Napier and have assisted several of those who have been positively represented by some of our best legal reps, in achieving successful J.R. challenges, in relation to their placements in camps like Napier.

A Judicial Review trial based upon the challenges of 6 anonymised Napier residents, relating to the suitability of the camp was allowed to go forward by the Home Secretary; it was heard on the 14/15th April and is currently awaiting judgement.

On the court's ruling and in light of the Government's subsequent actions, we will see how far the UK can still be said to be in compliance with both UK and International Human rights legislation, regarding refugees and asylum seekers seeking sanctuary in the UK - let alone its spirit.

Pete Keenan, Case worker

Events



**Migrant Lives Matter:
Health Struggles Experienced During the Pandemic
Annual General Meeting Agenda
Saturday 18 July 2020**



Business (11:30-11:50)

Speakers: (11:50-13:00)

Migrant Workers & Kent Refugee Help (Kate Adams, Raga Gibreel, Bahriye Kemal), 'Our Lived Experiences of Working, Windrush Scandal, Hostile Environment, and Testing Covid-19 Positive'

Don Flynn, 'Migrant Rights, Race Relations and the Hostile Environment'

Aliya Yule, 'Patients Not Passports: End The Hostile Environment in the NHS'

Arianne Shahvisi, 'Decolonising the NHS'

Celebrating 13 years of working with detainees and ex-detainees
www.kentrefugeehelp.org.uk | info@kentrefugeehelp.org.uk

In 2020, Bahriye Kemal organised and chaired an event entitled *Migrant Lives Matter*, where migrant workers, charity workers, experts and campaigners spoke on the complex health struggles experienced during the pandemic.

The online event considered the ways Covid-19 has affected migrant lives, focusing on health in relation to a range of issues that include: migrant workers as keyworkers in the high-risk frontline of the caring field, yet defined as low-paid 'unskilled' worker; nurses and care workers subject to Windrush scandal and Hostile Environment; worker rights, race relations and the Hostile Environment; NHS, ethics, austerity, xenophobia; medical and mental health of Covid-19 survivors; Art and Disability in the time of Covid 19

These and other issues were considered through a range of perspectives, which included migrant workers, charity workers, experts, academics, campaigners, activists, artists, poets, and more.

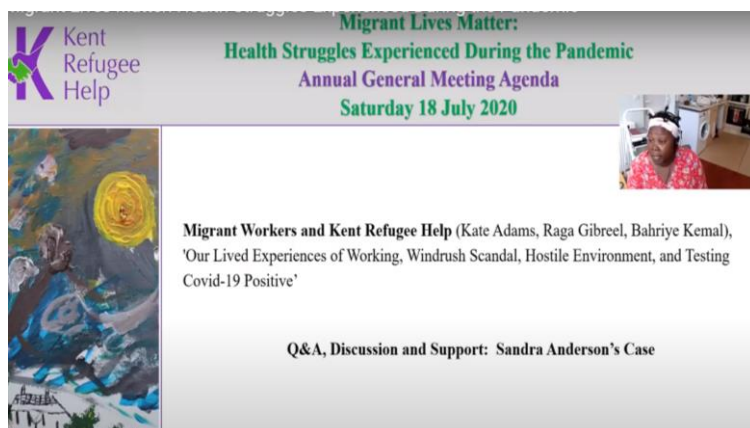
The event kicked off with a session entitled 'Our Lived Experiences of Working, Windrush Hostile Environment, and Testing Covid-19 Positive', which was a three part discussion between Kent Refugee Help – caseworker Raga Gibreel and Kate Adams, and trustee Bahriye Kemal – and former clients.



Part one began with the presentation of a powerful project by former client and artist Leroy Letts and Kate Adams, which focused on Art and its relationship to disability in time of Covid. This was in conjunction with "Outside In". "Outside In" is a catalyst for change. Founded in 2006, it is now an established national charity that aims to provide a platform for artists who face significant barriers to the art world due to health, disability, social circumstance, or isolation. "Outside In" supported Leroy and gave him a website. He was also their Artist of the Month in August 2020.

<https://outsidein.org.uk/galleries/leroy-letts/>

<https://outsidein.org.uk/news/artist-of-the-month/artist-of-the-month-leroy-letts/>



In part two Raga interviewed Sandra Anderson, who shared her experiences of working as a healthcare worker, how she contracted Covid-19 Positive, and how she got caught up in the Windrush scandal with her husband being forcefully deported to Jamaica. Struggling in total destitution with her daughter, Sandra asked us

for help; her wish was to leave the UK and return to Jamaica. In response we discussed ways to help her and collected donations so she could return to her husband in Jamaica.

This section ended with our former client who is now a care worker, sharing his experiences of living and working for NHS during the pandemic.

The event continued with three excellent presentations



The first presentation was by Aliya Yule, the Healthcare for All Migrant Organiser at Migrants Organise, who delivered an illuminating paper on Patients Not Passports: "End The Hostile Environment in the NHS"



The next paper was by Don Flynn who has been active in the field of migrants' rights, both in the UK, Europe and in global networks, for many years. Don delivered an excellent paper on 'Migrant Rights, Race Relations and the Hostile Environment' with practical steps on how to campaign for rights.



The final paper was by Arianne Shahvisi, a Kurdish-British writer and academic philosopher who is Senior Lecturer in Ethics at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, where she conducts research across a range of topics in applied philosophy, with current projects focussed on reproductive justice, migration and borders, and global health ethics. Arianne delivered an outstanding paper entitled 'Decolonising the NHS', which focused on colonialism in modern NHS, nationalism, neo-colonial resource extraction, charging migrants, and migrant health in the pandemic

The event was recorded and can be watched via this youtube link [Migrant Lives Matter: Health Struggles Experienced During the Pandemic - YouTube](#)

Training

Kent Refugee Help are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC), which means we are authorized to provide legal advice and representation in UK immigration law. We have regulated advisers at level 3 (the highest level) who can represent clients up to hearings at the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and the European Court of Human Rights. On registering with the OISC, KRH also joined the well-established Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA), involved with policy work. Our legal advisers have attended mainly online zoom training events arranged by various barristers' chambers and others. One of our caseworkers completed OISC level 1, which has been kindly funded by Refugee Action. Due to Covid, she has unable to take the exam. She will complete the exam and give level 1 advice as soon as she can.

Looking Forward...

Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, the state of the world and hostile environment towards people seeking asylum has not changed, indeed it has worsened considerably. The “New Plan for Immigration”rep is inhumane. It seeks to deny sanctuary rather than offering welcome. The proposals for asylum reform focus on refusing people protection and aims to make life in the asylum system unbearable – it is a reform that will force people to live in anxiety, under the continuous threat of removal, and denied the chance to reunite with family and loved ones. It focuses on penalising and criminalising refugees, turning them into legal and illegal people. Dividing people between “illegals” who took a clandestine entry, including dangerous crossing, and “legals” who took the orderly process of resettlement directly from refugee camps under government programmes.



The need for our work continues to increase all the time. We are very grateful to the support of our volunteers and friends upon whom we depend for so much.

Our work in supporting refugees and migrants is more urgent than ever, and we will do our utmost to make their voices heard.

Charity No. 1120185

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

KENT REFUGEE HELP
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

TRUSTEES	Chris Perks Dr Bahriye Kemal Andrew Jordan Chelcie Henry-Robertson	Chairperson
----------	---	-------------

CHARITY ADDRESS	PO Box 192 Whitstable Kent. CT5 1WA.
-----------------	--

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT 19 Pintail Way Herne Herne Bay Kent. CT6 7XP
----------------------	---

BANKERS	Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 49 High Street, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 2SE.
---------	--

CHARITY NUMBER	1120185
----------------	---------

CONTENTS

	1	Index
	2	Independent Examiner's Report
Page	3	Profit & Loss Account
	4	Balance Sheet
	5 & 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Trustees report is provided seperately

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:

dated:

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP

KENT REFUGEE HELP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total 2021</u>
Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objectives:-				
Grants receivable	2	0.00	39,500.00	39,500.00
Donations	3	11,206.07	0.00	11,206.07
Activities to generate funds	3		0.00	0.00
Other & Reimbursements	3	1,314.54	0.00	1,314.54
Total incoming resources		<u>12,520.61</u>	<u>39,500.00</u>	<u>52,020.61</u>
 Charitable expenditure				
Employees/Sub-contracted assist	4	0.00	13,206.26	13,206.26
Activity costs	5	662.93	6,652.14	7,315.07
Management and administration	6	1,117.60	4,126.51	5,244.11
Total resources expended		<u>1,780.53</u>	<u>23,984.91</u>	<u>25,765.44</u>
 Fund balance brought forward at 1st April 2020				
		14,014.98	11,083.19	25,098.17
Transfers between Funds - Petty cash		0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund balance carried forward at 31st March 2021		<u>24,755.06</u>	<u>26,598.28</u>	<u>51,353.34</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Current assets			
Debtors		0.00	0.00
Cash at bank		0.00	24,883.17
Cash in hand (Petty Cash)		<u>215.00</u>	<u>215.00</u>
		215.00	25,098.17
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net current assets/liabilities		0.00	0.00
Net assets		<u><u>215.00</u></u>	<u><u>25,098.17</u></u>
Represented by:			
Restricted funds			
Eddie Barns Memorial Donations		743.00	843.00
ARM Trust - Prison Project		6,694.73	9,306.58
French Huguenot		645.23	933.61
ARM Trust - Emergency Coronavirus Fund		0.00	0.00
Eleanor Rathbone Trust		0.00	0.00
Kent Community Foundation - The Lawson Trust		1,696.54	0.00
YAPP		1,325.00	0.00
The Access to Justice Foundation		3,972.53	0.00
Kent Community Foundation		5,500.00	0.00
Allen Lane		5,970.00	0.00
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		19,591.31	13,799.98
Daughters of Jesus donation		5,000.00	
Petty Cash		215.00	215.00
Total funds		<u><u>51,353.34</u></u>	<u><u>25,098.17</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:-

Dated: Jul-21

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2021</u>
2 Grants receivable			
ARM Trust Emergency Coronavirus	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Kent Community Foundation Emergency Coronavirus	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
YAPP	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Community Justice Fund - Access to Justice	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Allen Lane Foundation	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Community Justice Fund - Access to Justice	0.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>39,500.00</u>	<u>39,500.00</u>
3 Other income			
Donations	11,206.07	0.00	11,206.07
Eddie Barns Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Raising Events	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other & Re-imbursements	1,314.54	0.00	1,314.54
	<u>12,520.61</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>12,520.61</u>
4 Sub-contracted assistance and Employees			
Paid to sub-contractors	0.00	13,206.26	13,206.26
Employee Gross Pay	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employer NIC Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13,206.26</u>	<u>13,206.26</u>
The average number of employees during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis was 0 (2019-20).			
No employees received remuneration amounting to more than £50,000 during the year.			
No trustee received any remuneration during the year.			
5 Activity costs			
Professional & Volunteer Travel Expenses	0.00	18.00	18.00
Professional & Volunteer Telephone Expenses	81.68	861.16	942.84
Detainee & Ex-detainee Expenses	581.25	4,407.98	4,989.23
Meetings (inc Hall Hire)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	0.00	675.00	675.00
Volunteer Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	690.00	690.00
	<u>662.93</u>	<u>6,652.14</u>	<u>7,315.07</u>

KENT REFUGEE HELP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2021</u>
6 Management and administration			
Administration Costs	892.98	3,303.13	4,196.11
Insurance	93.12	423.83	516.95
Independent examiner's fee	125.00	0.00	125.00
Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committee and meeting expenses	6.50	0.00	6.50
Publicity	0.00	399.55	399.55
	<u>1,117.60</u>	<u>4,126.51</u>	<u>5,244.11</u>
7 Debtors			
Grants due	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Deferred income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
Kent Refugee Help**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act. To follow the procedures laid down by the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

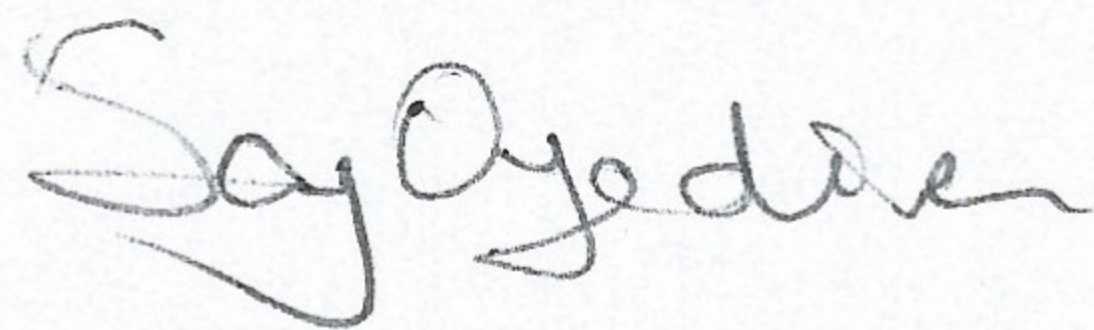
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charity Act; have not been met or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

signed:



dated:

8/6/2021

Ms Sarah Oyediran MAAT
19 Pintail Way
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent. CT6 7XP