

**The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

**A charity registered under the Charity Commission for  
England and Wales - No 1177599**



**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 March 2025**

## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

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## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

### **Reference and Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers for the year to 31 March 2025**

#### **Trustees**

Ian Karet	Appointed 18 March 2023
James Elliot	Appointed 13 June 2023
Catherine Thome	Appointed 13 September 2023
Jocelyn Blumberg	Appointed 13 September 2023
Roma Felstein	Appointed 9 November 2023
Madeleine Foster	Appointed 1 February 2024
Jonathan Lachmann	Appointed 20 March 2024

#### **Charity registered number**

Charity Commission for England and Wales – 1177599

#### **Registered Office**

C/o NNLS  
80 East End Road  
London N3 2SY

#### **Independent Examiner**

Stephen Adler  
9 Beechwood Avenue  
London N3 3AU

#### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
Leicester  
LE87 2BB

#### **Website**

[www.nnlsdropin.org.uk](http://www.nnlsdropin.org.uk)

## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

### **Trustees' Report for the year to 31 March 2025**

The Trustees present their report as a registered Charity, together with the financial statements for the year to 31 March 2025, with comparatives for year to 31 March 2024.

The Trustees confirm that the report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements; the requirements of the Trust's governing document; and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP); applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102).

The Drop in was established in 2005 by members of The New North London Synagogue in their wish to help and give support to Asylum Seekers in Greater London.

The Drop-in registered as a separate independent charity in March 2018.

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board of trustees and professional advisers on Page 3 of the financial statements.

### **The Trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the reporting year were as follows:

Ian Karet	- Appointed 18 March 2023
Rickie Burman	- Retired 18 March 2025
James Elliot	- Appointed 13 June 2023
Catherine Thome	- Appointed 13 September 2023
Jocelyn Blumberg	- Appointed 13 September 2023
Roma Felstein	- Appointed 9 November 2023
Madeleine Foster	- Appointed 1 February 2024
Jonathan Lachmann	- Appointed 20 March 2024

### **Structure, governance, and management**

The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop-in is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that was entered on the Charity Commission for England and Wales Register of Charities on 19 March 2018, reference 1177599 and is recognised by HM Revenue and Customs, reference EW90044.

Trustees are now eligible for two three-year tenures as set out in the Charity's constitution. Four of the first Trustees appointed on 19 March 2018 in accordance with the Constitution filed with the Charity Commission and were reappointed as Trustees in March 2021. Three retired in 2024 and the fourth, Rickie Burman in 2025.



## Financial review

The Charity remains dependent on its income from donations from private individuals, trusts, and foundations, all in the UK. The net deficit after expenditures for the year was £84,024 (2024 £54,665) that has been set off against the total general reserve of £181,915 (2024 - £265,939).

The Trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves held are sufficient to maintain the level of activity, if significant changes in income streams or resources required were to take place. A new funding appeal has been started in October 2025.

## Objectives and activities

The Trustees refer to the original Constitution as submitted to the Charity Commission in March 2018 that set out the objectives and activities of the charity. These objectives continue to be to provide support to Asylum Seekers living in Greater London, and this support has increased greatly over recent years. The Charity continues to provide necessary basic support in many ways that includes the relief of financial hardship amongst those and their dependents seeking to be granted, or those refused and appealing, living (temporarily or permanently) in Greater London.

Through our support, resources, signposting and referrals, the Drop in seeks to provide much-needed assistance to help address the many challenges faced by asylum seekers. We have continued to hold our monthly Drop in sessions and following the merging in of the NLS Drop-in in April 2025, we are currently providing support to around 800-900 asylum seekers and their families in two venues. This number changes with new arrivals being registered and others either receiving 'leave to remain' or being moved on out of their hotels and hostels and away out of London. We have a committed and reliable body of volunteers, with around 100 volunteers helping each month.

Because of high client numbers and to ensure a more positive experience, we have split the client group in two and now invite them to attend on alternate months. We have maintained the overall level of support, so that each clients receives a supermarket voucher (to cover two months), as well as some travel money. In addition, our support includes hot meals and drinks and takeaway food donations, toiletries, sanitary products, underwear, socks, and during the winter, coats, hats and gloves. We also provide when available, footwear, phone SIM cards and 'baby welcome' packs for pregnant clients. Many clients are currently living in hotels and hostels without cooking facilities and are unable to prepare food that they used to eating in their home countries; some hotels provide meals that are reported to be of poor quality and there have been some cases of children being hospitalised due to malnutrition.

Asylum seekers generally live in extreme poverty as Home Office support to an adult is given on a payment card equivalent to less than 50% of general income support. However, many asylum seekers do not receive this and have no real means of support. Those living in hotels with meals provided, receive only £8.86 per person per week, while those without meals being provided receive £49.18 per person per week to cover food, clothing, travel and toiletries. Many asylum seekers are in insecure accommodation, and some are homeless, with little access to any form of support that would help them to survive. Our vouchers and the other services we offer provides critical support.

A vital part of our services are the signposting and consultations provided by our highly valued volunteer lawyers and doctors. We try to find legal aid immigration lawyers for those who do not yet have a solicitor, although this has become increasingly difficult due to the pressures on legal aid lawyers. This service is of importance in view of the increased risks asylum seekers face of being detained or repatriated. At the Drop in we have a children's play area to provide fun and constructive play for children, who may suffer from being cooped up for long periods together with their parents. We also run an online tutoring service for clients' children to aid their schoolwork.

The charity's aims continue to be to help asylum seekers and their children through the wide-ranging support and services provided by the Drop in, to further develop the range of services offered, and to continue to invite and welcome new clients. Our help alleviates some of the poverty and multiple hardships

endured by asylum seekers while going through the asylum system process; we provide support with legal advice, signposting and, where possible, access to reputable legal aid solicitors to assist with their asylum claims, so that in the longer term, they can move forward with their lives and integrate into British society.

We are very grateful to all those who help the Drop in by making charitable donations, volunteering and cooking food for our monthly sessions. We welcome regular and new volunteers, and we are always looking for more people to make regular donations through monthly standing orders, to help meet the Drop in costs of around £24,000 a month and so ensure we can continue to provide much-needed support.

There is still great uncertainty felt by asylum seekers for many of whom have fled their home countries due to wars, severe domestic and political issues and often torture. We are very fortunate in having volunteer lawyers experienced in asylum and immigration issues who are available at Drop in sessions. We aim to make a difference to the lives of the supported asylum seekers; and to improve the physical, mental, and the general well-being of all those attending the Drop in.

In April 2023, the charity contracted the services of a coordinator to manage and organise the monthly Drop-in sessions that now requires an increasing amount of administration time. All other services carried out at the monthly Drop in sessions, as described above, are provided by the generosity of many loyal volunteers.

### **Risk Management**

The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop in Charity seeks to identify and manage risks that may occur that would have significant detrimental impact on the Charity and the asylum seekers. The Charity has put in place procedures and policy documents to utilise risk management techniques in all relevant aspects of its operations and has integrated risk management as well as all aspects of safeguarding as part of its culture. The Trustees are responsible for governance and the management of the Drop in event, and for the year to 31 March 2025 this was organised and managed by a Trustee having oversight.

The Charity continues to review its policies and procedures on an ongoing basis to identify, prioritise and assess any risk that it is subject to; and to update as appropriate to improve controls and monitor any risks that are identified. All the policies are shown on the website.

### **Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK General Accepted Accounting Practice) for small charities. The Trustees consider that as both income and assets are below the required levels as required for reporting under the Charities Act an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Commission requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and take such steps for the protection and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 5 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

I Karet  
Trustee





## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

### **Independent Examiner's Report for the year to 31 March 2025**

I report to the trustees of the Trust on the examination of the accounts of The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In for the year to 31 March 2025

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. The charity's trustees consider that as both income and assets are below the required levels as required for reporting under the Charities Act an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect that;

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Stephen Adler

Address: 9 Beechwood Avenue London N3 3AU

Date:

5 December 2025

# The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In


## Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 March 2025

		<b>Total Unrestricted Funds 2025</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted funds 2024</b>
	<b>Note</b>		
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations		134,068	148,688
Gift Aid		8,149	7,785
Deposit interest		2,721	2,829
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2</b>	<u>144,938</u>	<u>159,302</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities		228,962	213,967
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3</b>	<u>228,962</u>	<u>213,967</u>
<b>Net (deficit)</b>		(84,024)	(54,665)
<b>Reserves brought forward</b>		265,939	320,604
		<u>181,915</u>	<u>265,939</u>
<b>Funds held at bank</b>		159,440	247,037
Debtors and creditor	<b>4</b>	22,475	18,902
<b>Total Charities' Funds carried forward</b>		<u>181,915</u>	<u>265,939</u>

The Charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small charities. For the year ended 31 March 2025 the charity was not required to obtain an audit.

The financial statements and report were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on  
5 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

I Karet  
Trustee



The notes on pages 9 to 10 form part of these financial statements.



**Notes to the Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account  
for the year to 31 March 2025**

**1. Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by small Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to small charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019. Assets and liabilities are recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

**1.1 Fund accounting**

Funds are regarded as unrestricted funds which are available for use at the direction of the Trustees and only in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

**1.2 Income**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income. It is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

**1.3 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer benefit to a third party. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. There is one staff employed and associated costs incurred in the reporting year in question.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and any governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's operations, including support costs.

**1.4 Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

**1.5 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when received as payable by the Bank.

**1.6 Other debtors**

Other debtors are recognised at the amount shown and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

**1.7 Cash at Bank**

Cash at bank includes cash and deposit account with immediate access to such funds.

	<b>Total Unrestricted Funds 2025</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted funds 2024</b>
<b>2. Income received</b>		
Donations	134,068	148,688
Gift Aid	8,149	7,785
Deposit interest	2,721	2,829
<b>Total income</b>	<b>144,938</b>	<b>159,302</b>

### **3. Expenditure on:**

Charitable activities:		
Donations to asylum seekers	159,924	148,497
Drop in expenses including clothing, consumables and other direct expenses made for asylum seekers	20,641	20,817
Employee salary and employer pension costs	37,967	34,009
Security costs	4,190	4,541
Venue costs	5,580	5,443
Insurance	660	660
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>228,962</b>	<b>213,967</b>

No trustee received any remuneration, nor received any benefit in kind.

### **4. Debtors and creditors**

Gift Aid	1,941	1,734
The New North London Synagogue	1,483	1,333
Vouchers and clothing purchased, and cash drawn, all held for future drop ins sessions	20,088	20,226
Debtor	3,708	-
Creditors	(4,745)	(4,391)
	<b>22,475</b>	<b>18,902</b>

Debtor in 2025 is an amount of £3,708 that was the result of a fraud on the Charity in March 2025, and was refunded by the bank in May 2025.

### **5. Related party transactions**

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting year that require disclosure.

### **6. Post balance sheet**

In 2016, the Charity helped NLS (New London Synagogue) to set up a partner Drop in, to help with the increasing number of asylum seekers needing support. From 1st April 2025 a merger took place between the two Drop ins, that now take place on two sites in north London. The two Drop ins have always worked in collaboration, and the merger enables the two to work more closely and make the most effective use of the combined resources. The combined Drop ins now support around 800-900 asylum seekers and their families living in the London area.