

# SOLIDARITEE

England & Wales · Charity number 1182195

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-02-25

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

## Contact

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**Address** Space4  
113-115 Fonthill Road  
London  
N4 3HH

**Phone** 07596640596

**Email** [boardoftrustees@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:boardoftrustees@solidaritee.org.uk)

**Website** [www.solidaritee.org.uk](http://www.solidaritee.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1)TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED, HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:(A)MAKING GRANTS TO OTHER CHARITIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE LEGAL AID AND OTHER SUPPORT TO SUCH PERSONS;(B)MAKING GRANTS TO FUND THE EXPENSES OF VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SUCH PERSONS.2)TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM.

**Activities:** SolidariTee is an entirely volunteer-run charity led by students and young people, working to drive lasting, positive change in the support available for refugees and other people forced to flee persecution. To date, we have worked with more than 2000 student volunteers and provided more than £600,000 in funding to grassroots NGOs providing legal and mental health support to refugees in Greece.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Greece
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Switzerland
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£49,812	£59,305	-	-
2024-07-31	£62,447	£80,470	-	-
2023-07-31	£72,640	£119,326	-	-
2022-07-31	£86,317	£144,399	-	-
2021-07-31	£132,832	£105,568	-	-
2020-07-31	£200,453	£136,735	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dara Shirley Snead		2023-05-09
Dr Alexa Katerina Netty		2021-04-08
Isabella Emily India Ponsonby		2022-09-01
Jordan Gardner		2026-02-16
Louisa Helen Cowell		2022-09-01
Mulumbeni Phiri		2023-05-09
Nausikaa Gerladine Reimers		2023-05-09
ROBERT LEVENT DURGUT		2023-05-09
SARA INAZ POURSAFAR		2023-05-09

**SOLIDARITEE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1182195

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# Accounts

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# SOLIDARITEE

UK Registered Charity 1182195

## SOLIDARITEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25 ACADEMIC  
& FINANCIAL YEAR





# Our Year at a Glance

Our volunteer community was made up of



**200**  
volunteers  
across

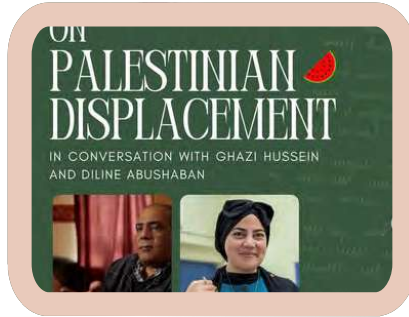
**24**  
university  
teams



## Our education and outreach events included



conferences



poetry evenings



quizzes

## and our fundraising and community-building events included



yoga



sponsored hikes



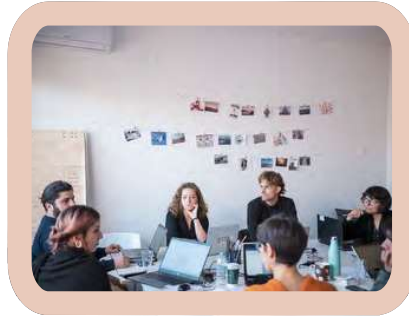
painting events

**across one united movement.**

## We supported eight partner organisations providing



legal  
information



court  
representation



mental health  
support

## Who were able to reach



people living in closed refugee camps, detention centres, and other unsafe situations

**with vital services in support of safety, peace and freedom for those who have experienced persecution.**




**Clients supported by our partners' programmes shared messages including:**

**"This knowledge expanded my brain. Before I thought that I should do just one-word answers, like 'yes' or 'no'. Now I know I should talk, and answer the questions properly. This has expanded my mind, I feel empowered and confident to tell my story tomorrow. I really appreciate it, it makes such a difference, it's really really helpful. Now I understand everything, it makes it more clear and it makes the interview seem not too much or stressful"**

**~ Client who attended a legal empowerment session with Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid**

**Thank you! I am very grateful to the lawyer. She saved my life and my child's future. I will never forget what you did for me and all the other women."**

**~ Client from Somalia, supported by Irida's legal team for her asylum application and interview, and her child custody case**





# Introduction: SolidariTee in the 2024/25 academic and financial year

Dear all,

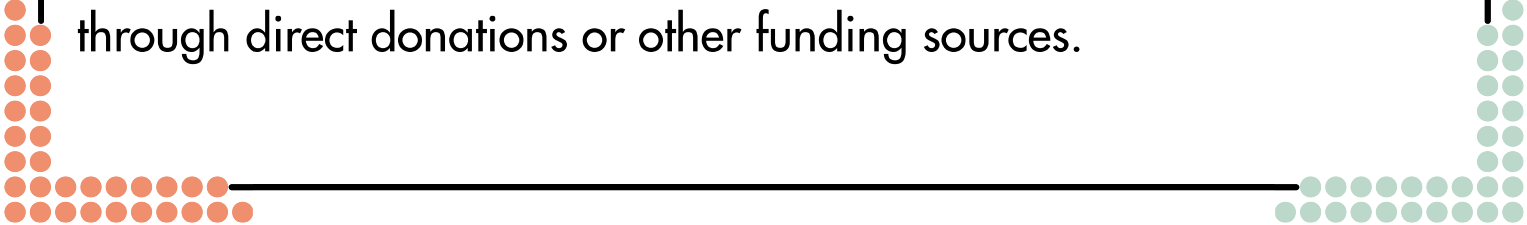
Thank you for taking the time to read SolidariTee's annual report for the 2024/25 academic and financial year. Our reports are the most in-depth method we have to communicate the details and realities of our movement with our supporters, and with others interested in learning more about our work. We hope you will find it interesting, informative and encouraging.

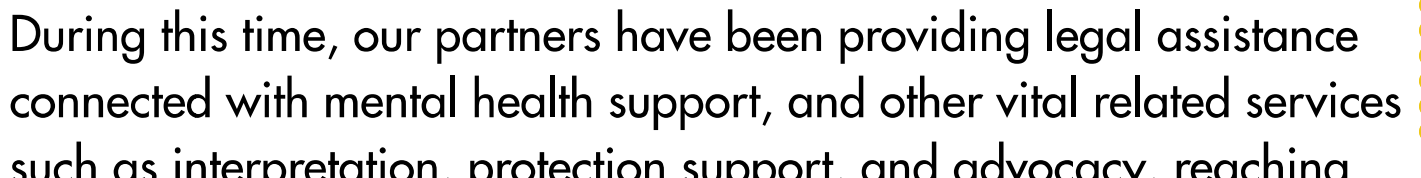
Each year, there are different key moments and defining features, as can be expected from a volunteer-run movement supporting organisations in a very complex operating environment.

For the 2025/26 academic year, the word that I feel best reflects our strategy is **perseverance**.

As we share this report, in 2026, we have two important milestones to celebrate.

Since registering as a charity in 2019, I am delighted to say that **SolidariTee has provided more than half a million pounds in funding to grassroots NGOs**. Almost all of this funding has come directly from the power of student community organising and fundraising; just a small proportion of our income is received through direct donations or other funding sources.





During this time, our partners have been providing legal assistance connected with mental health support, and other vital related services such as interpretation, protection support, and advocacy, reaching tens of thousands of people who are refugees in Greece.

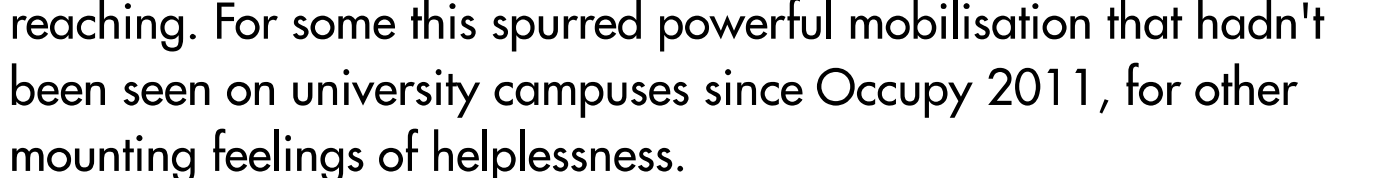
In addition, **by March of the 2025/26 academic year, we have received more than 1000 applications to join the team.** This reflects a level of interest that we haven't seen in any period since the 2020/21 academic year, marked by Covid and largely off-campus activities.

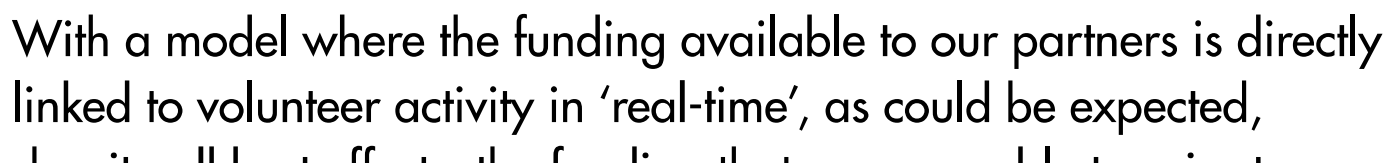


However, in the 2024/25 academic year, there were moments when such achievements seemed far off.

We spent much of this year grappling with the consequences of a **downturn in engagement with refugee issues**, as student energy and attention was directed elsewhere. Our 2024/25 volunteer community was the smallest it had been for many years. We received significantly fewer volunteer applications than we were expecting, though not for lack of effort or proactive outreach by the student leadership team. Reduced capacity resulted in fewer events and initiatives took place across the teams that were set up.

We remain conscious that today's first year uni students have grown up with **more than a decade of increasingly hostile media and political messaging about refugees.** In addition, the impacts on today's young activists of watching the international community fail to intervene in a live-streamed genocide in Palestine are wide-reaching. For some this spurred powerful mobilisation that hadn't been seen on university campuses since Occupy 2011, for other mounting feelings of helplessness.



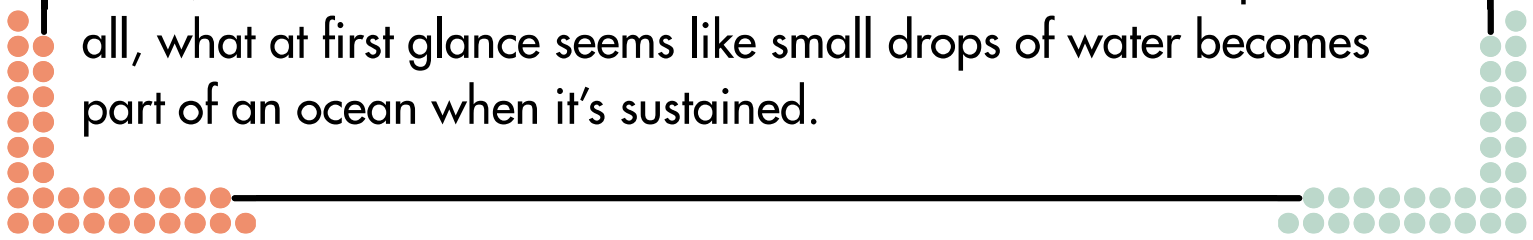


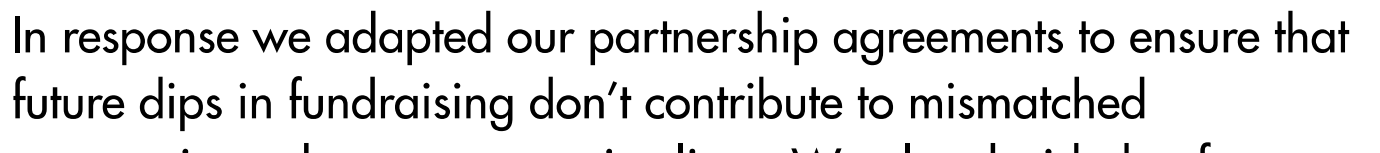
With a model where the funding available to our partners is directly linked to volunteer activity in 'real-time', as could be expected, despite all best efforts, the funding that we were able to raise to support our partner NGOs was also lower than expected. This was a particular blow in a year where **international cuts to humanitarian aid funding** were already creating ripple effects for frontline organisations supporting refugees in Greece and beyond.

We were forced to have difficult conversations with our partners about the fact that we would not be able to provide pledged funding on the original timeline. Beyond that, we explored very real questions about the future of our fundraising model, and the impact we could create in future years.

Overwhelmingly, though badly in need of funding, **our partner organisations were incredibly affirming of the value of SolidariTee's work**. They expressed that even relatively smaller amounts of funding, when provided by an organisation such as SolidariTee that enables them to use it **flexibly to support their core operations**, is incredibly valuable. They also reminded us that to be partners doesn't mean engaging only when funding is readily accessible, but believing in the value of each others' work through ebbs and flows.

Finally, they told us to **focus on the longer-term**, recognising that other sources of funding for refugees are only likely to dry up further. They reminded us that by simply existing in the years to come, we'll be able to double down on our cumulative impact. After all, what at first glance seems like small drops of water becomes part of an ocean when it's sustained.





In response we adapted our partnership agreements to ensure that future dips in fundraising don't contribute to mismatched expectations about payment timelines. We also decided to focus on communicating the why behind SolidariTee's mission as strongly as possible to new students, continuing our work with many positive achievements.

Conferences, partnerships, coalitions, and ceilidhs all contributed to our overall strategy: **support for people seeking safety at Europe's borders in the here and now, and education that supports culture change for years to come.**



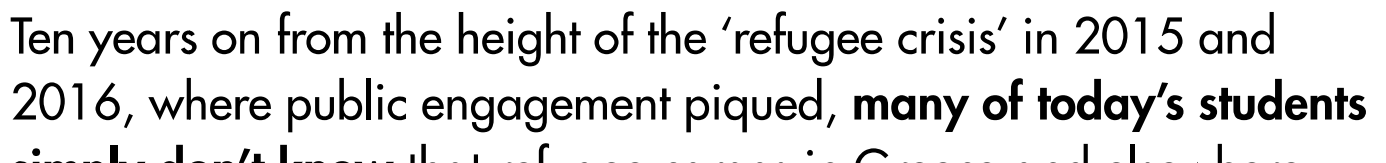
The academic year started in the immediate aftermath of chilling racist riots of summer 2024, fuelled by harmful anti-migrant, islamophobia and widespread misinformation. It ended with **weeks of anti-migrant protests in 2025**, causing unimaginable harm to people who have newly arrived to the UK in search of safety, as well as to migrant communities who have built homes and communities for decades.

In 2025, research into the UK's charity sector also found that almost **half of small charities feared closure within the next year** due to their financial situation.

Against this backdrop, people reaching Greece's refugee camps following experiences of human rights abuses and persecution in places such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Syria and Somalia continue to receive **shockingly little media attention or public understanding.**

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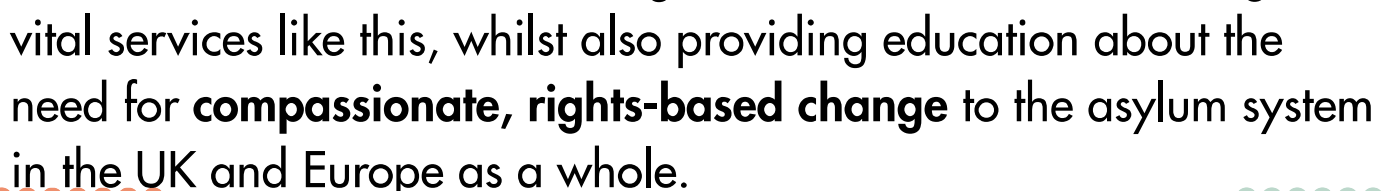




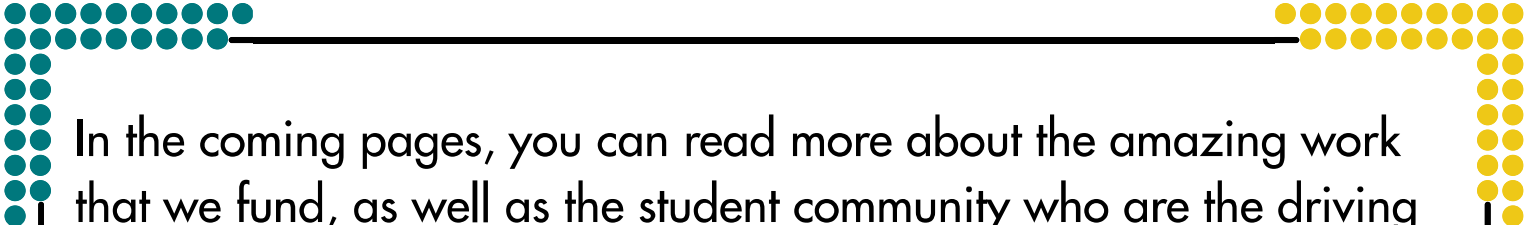
Ten years on from the height of the 'refugee crisis' in 2015 and 2016, where public engagement piqued, **many of today's students simply don't know** that refugee camps in Greece and elsewhere exist at all, let alone about the legal minefield that surrounds applications for international protection.

In April 2025, as part of a partner visit, I met with some of the people living in Lesvos' refugee camp at a legal empowerment session hosted by our partner Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid. One of these people was **Zahra\*** a woman from Afghanistan in her early 20s, who was attending an information session run by one of our partner organisations. Zahra was pregnant at the time, and yet still living in a container without any additional support from the state-run camp authorities. She expressed that she was feeling fearful about what would happen when it was time to give birth to her baby, and about life raising her child in a camp, alone with no family around her.

Within the space of a single day, our partner was able to provide her with **personalised legal advice** based on their previous research about people seeking asylum who are pregnant, and also arrange for **urgent referrals** to be made to services supporting refugee mothers. She received a combination of **expert legal guidance, mental health first aid, and support to access practical forms of support** that would lead to safety and protection for both Zahra and her baby. Without legal aid, this would have been impossible.



We continue to focus on creating a **vehicle to channel funding** for vital services like this, whilst also providing education about the need for **compassionate, rights-based change** to the asylum system in the UK and Europe as a whole.



In the coming pages, you can read more about the amazing work that we fund, as well as the student community who are the driving force behind our strategic pillars.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please don't hesitate to contact us at [comms@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:comms@solidaritee.org.uk), and we would be delighted to share more.

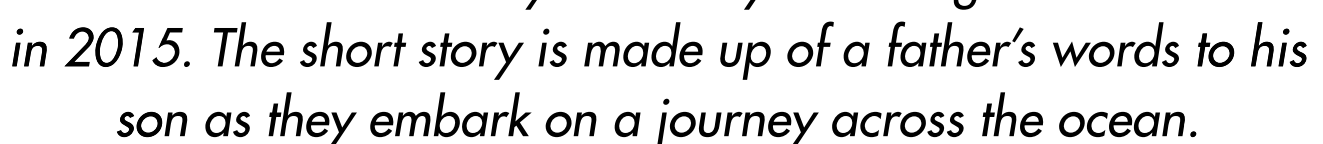
***In solidarity,***

Alexa Netty (volunteer CEO) and the SolidariTee Board of Trustees

I have heard it said we are the uninvited.  
We are the unwelcome.  
We should take our misfortune elsewhere.

But I hear your mother's voice,  
over the tide,  
and she whispers in my ear,  
'Oh, but if they saw, my darling.  
Even half of what you have.  
If only they saw.  
They would say kinder things, surely.'

*Quote from Khaled Hosseini's 'Sea Prayer', a book written after the death of three year old Syrian refugee Alain Kurdi in 2015. The short story is made up of a father's words to his son as they embark on a journey across the ocean.*



# Who we Support

In the 2024/25 academic year, we supported eight organisations who had previously been selected to receive SolidariTee funds throughout 2024, and in most cases, 2025. We recognise that multi-year, unrestricted funding is the most beneficial type of support that organisations can receive.

Unearmarked funding enables NGOs to do what they do best; to be adaptive, to listen to their communities, to react quickly, and to underpin their projects with funding for core costs such as salaries and office running expenses which are often seen as 'not fundable' by traditional donors.

These organisations work throughout Greece, and each have a specific area of focus and expertise. Some partners are particularly expert in supporting people who have been persecuted as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity; others support self-identifying women, unaccompanied children and young people, and survivors of gender-based violence. Other organisations focus specifically on people who struggle to access support from other NGOs because they don't fit into traditional vulnerability classifications.

Some of our partners work inside refugee camps, whilst others focus on people trapped in detention centres or living in urban areas of Greece who are often not reached by other services.

Underpinning all of this is the vital work that many of our partners engage in, often in deeply challenging conditions, to speak out and denounce violations of international law by the Greek government, bring strategic litigation cases to the European Court of Human Rights, and produce researched reports documenting conditions for refugees at Europe's borders.

# Our Partners

## Mobile Info Team

From January - October 2025

**More than 5000**

enquiries were answered via Mobile Info Team's WhatsApp and Facebook hotlines in multiple languages, supporting more than 1000 people with bespoke information to address concerns.



**800,000**

people were reached across social media through information posts in different languages

"MIT's work is built on two core pillars: We work alongside people disadvantaged by displacement or migration in Greece to **navigate complex legal systems** by providing accessible information and tailored case support, empowering them to **assert their rights**.

We use our daily interactions with people to **advocate for systemic change** at national and EU levels, amplifying the voices of **those affected by exclusionary policies** and campaigning for a just asylum and migration system."

"Everyone deserves **a life in safety, freedom and dignity** - many are forced to flee to find this. Fenix accompanies people on a critical step of their journey with a unique form of **legal aid: holistic, trauma-informed and strength-based**.

Since our founding in 2018 we have witnessed how people who seek safety are challenged by **systems that are designed to humiliate, disempower, mistrust** and deny their rights. In this context, we see a need to move away from traditional charity and refugee aid models to models that respect each individuals' **agency, resilience, and choice-making**."

## Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid

From August 2024 - July 2025, Fenix supported...

**2000**

unique individuals through group and/or individual information sessions and legal counselling



**59**

people of marginalised gender and/or sexual identity through a holistic, in-depth programme of **legal and psychosocial support** to promote long-term wellbeing and access to rights



# Our Partners

“We believe that every displaced person fleeing persecution has:

*The right to seek asylum*

*The right to request legal and procedural guidance during the asylum procedure*

*The right to dignified living conditions*

We have made it our mission to enable displaced persons to take informed decisions in the course of their asylum procedure. To successfully carry out this mission, legal aid must be provided in a flexible, mobile and accessible way.”



“In the first and sole safe community space for women in Northern Greece, women receive the support they need to address their challenges, find solutions, and achieve long-lasting positive change.

Through casework, legal, psychological support, skill-building, and employability services, women have access to space for learning, making responsible decisions for their lives, and pursuing opportunities for personal and professional growth.”

# Our Partners



“Our work centres around a safe space in central Athens for **young people aged 16-30 years old**, which offers a range of services as well as support to access services delivered by partner organisations.

We work with young people to help them **reimagine their futures**, and take the next steps towards achieving their goals and aspirations.

We are a response to the **evolving needs of newly arrived young people** in urban Athens and a place where they can **come together as persons – not profiles** – to understand and practice both difference and unity.”

“Besides continuous and direct support, the Legal Centre works towards **collective justice and structural change** as part of local and international movements: **documenting violations of migrants’ rights and engaging in advocacy and strategic litigation** to hold the Greek government, Member States of the European Union, and European institutions to account.

In addition, we advocate for equal access to **safe and legal routes of migration** in Greece, Europe and globally.”



# Our Partners

## Defence for Children International - Greece

Across Athens and Lesvos in 2025...

397

displaced people including their children received specialised legal support, including legal counselling, preparation for asylum interviews, legal submissions, appeals, subsequent applications and family reunification procedures.



72

mothers attended empowerment and guidance sessions.

82

children participated in psychosocial and educational activities.



“Witnessing **violations of our clients’ fundamental rights on a daily basis**, our international team of human rights lawyers and advocates relies on **legal means to defend and protect the dignity and equality** of every person in need, regardless of their individual background.

We **stand with people on the move** in the fight **against undignified living conditions** on the Greek mainland and in the island camps, **against unlawful detention**, and **against illegal deportations**. A special focus of ours is legal advice in **family reunification cases** from all over the world. In addition to individual legal aid, we engage in **strategic litigation, research and advocacy.**”

“Defence for Children International – Greece (DCI-Greece) provides specialised support to displaced **children, young people and families** in Athens and Lesvos. Alongside **legal support**, DCI-Greece **implements holistic protection programmes** for children, young mothers and survivors of violence, combining **psychosocial care, casework, language learning and skills development** towards integration and self-sustainability. We aim to offer a safe space where children, young people and families on the move can **rebuild their dignity, claim their rights and develop the confidence and skills** needed to shape their future.”

## Equal Rights Beyond Borders

Across 2025...

55

children who arrived to Greece without family were provided with child-friendly accommodation.

ERBB also represented unaccompanied minors held in detention to ensure their release.

1000

people were successfully reunited in family reunification cases supported by ERBB.



More than 80

women were informed on sexual and gender based violence and the rights of survivors through information sessions

\*please note that all partners receive multiple sources of funding, and as such, achievements documented in this report cannot generally be directly attributed to any single funder



# Regional Teams

From poetry events to yoga classes, this year's student community went above and beyond in finding creative ways to connect with their wider student body about refugee issues. You can read about a few examples below.

The Bristol team ran a cake stall in collaboration with the Baking Society. Both societies got involved in making treats for students and staff members to enjoy whilst also raising vital donations to support our partner organisations. The team raised over £180 in an afternoon, and were delighted with the response to their stall!



"A Bake Sale is such a simple yet fun event that allows us to raise money for the cause and spread awareness by chatting to people who come to the event or even walk past the stall!" - Radhika Mitra, Bristol Team Lead

"The Manchester team held a sip and paint event with a fellow society named Breathe. Breathe is a society aimed at giving students spaces and events to practice mindfulness and de-stress from studies. They were looking for an opportunity to fundraise for a meaningful organisation and came across us. We decided that a collaborative event would be a perfect collaboration to promote student wellbeing and also raise awareness and fundraise for refugee rights. What we all gained was more than just the funds, it was an opportunity to connect with local students in a fun event. By providing a space for artistic expression we were told that a lot of the participants felt more connected to our cause and inspired to learn more. It was a great way to show the power of art and creativity in promoting social justices, just as the artists we support are doing every day through our t-shirts!"  
-Benjamin Self, Manchester team lead 24/25 and 2026 leadership team member





“In the 24/25 year, our Edinburgh team has channelled our passions, skills, and curiosity into organising a diverse range of events for SolidariTee. One of our personal highlights was ‘Rhythms for Refuge’, our club night, which raised over £1,600 for our partners in Greece while bringing together a fantastic group of friends and supporters. We also hosted a thought-provoking poetry reading and discussion with two Palestinian poets, whose powerful words sparked important conversations about displacement and belonging. When we weren’t busy organising these events, we also took on the 7 Hills of Edinburgh challenge as a team. Along the way, we gained invaluable experience in fundraising, deepened our understanding of the causes we support, and strengthened our sense of community. And, of course, we had a lot of fun while doing it!”

-Eva Hennell, Edinburgh Team Lead



SolidariTee’s volunteer team is structured in the form of a central team led by one or more student presidents, who coordinate between all of our regional (uni) teams and also lead core functions such as developing our social media infographics, running our annual conference, and more.



Our central team also includes dedicated ‘University Coordinators’, fellow students who offer weekly 1:1 calls with each team lead to ensure a cohesive, peer-support focused culture across the team and to respond to any challenges a team may face.





# Central Team: Outreach and Education

Our central team organises focused events and campaigns designed to benefit our entire volunteer movement, as well as to connect with a wider community of people who want to stand in solidarity with refugees. Equipping people with accurate, nuanced information about the realities of migration and displacement, and the harmful effects of the UK and Europe's hostile and deterrence-based approaches towards refugees.

## **SolidariTee Annual Conference 2025**

*Theme: The Language of Migration: from 2015 to today*

Each year, the theme and focus of our conference is decided by the student events team. This year, they expressed that they wanted to particularly focus on highlighting the role of grassroots and community based groups in making a reality of a more compassionate society.

Our annual conference 2025 brought together human rights defenders, journalists, academics, artists, lawyers, and grassroots and lived experience networks, all focused on reimagining what compassionate, people-centred approach towards supporting refugees across borders could look like.





# SolidariTee Annual Conference 2025

*Theme: The Language of Migration: from 2015 to today*

For the first time, this conference was also focused on integrating collective actions and experiences in-person throughout the event. We hosted trauma-informed yoga sessions and participants had the opportunity to write letters to political prisoners detained in Russian prisons, in many cases as a result of speaking against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Speakers included representatives from Freedom From Torture, Safe Passage's Young Leaders forum, Olivia Clark, Executive Director of Refugee Legal Support, and Gulwali Passarley, author of 'The Lightless Sky'.



<b>ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025</b>	
Saturday 5th April, 11:00 - 17:00, London	
11:00 - 11:10	Arrival & breakfast
11:10 - 11:30	Introductory keynote - Hadia Azizi
11:30 - 12:45 PANEL 1	A holistic approach to support Noor Qaiser, Yanar Alkayat, Navin Vithana, Seraye Delnissaw
12:45 - 13:15 WORKSHOP	Yoga (or postcard writing) Yanar Alkayat, Tools 4 Inner Peace
13:15 - 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 14:45 PANEL 2	Legal language of migration Olivia Clark, Martin Jones
14:45 - 15:00	Refreshments
15:00 - 16:15 PANEL 3	Media narratives and advocacy agendas Nadine Tunasi, Deluxe Mwengula, Kseniia, Abdalle Mumin
16:30 - 17:00 DISCUSSION	Closing Session Q&A with Gulwali Passarlay

**SOLIDARITEE**





# Knowledge is power: other learning events

## Partner Spotlight Events

Connecting to the work of our partner organisations is vital in building a sense of **understanding and confidence** amongst our volunteer team in being able to speak about the realities of life for people seeking asylum in Greece, and about the brutality of the asylum system itself.

Having a volunteer base in the UK, working with grassroots organisations in Greece who the majority of our team members and supporters will have never previously heard of, poses unique challenges and opportunities. It requires us to work hard to **build recognition of the importance of supporting small, frontline organisations** who are often most closely connected to the communities they support, and to focus on accountability instead of personal links.

It also provides opportunities for us to have discussions with our team about taking a **principled, values-led approach to funding** refugee assistance. Instead of giving into voluntourism or encouraging our students to 'go and see' a camp, we discuss why it's so difficult for NGOs without name recognition to access funds, and why we exist to change that. Hearing directly from team members leading partner organisations about the need for their work, and their approach to supporting refugee communities, plays a huge role in building **trust, motivation, and transparency**. In the 2024/25 academic year, we held two spotlight events: one online discussion with Mobile Info Team, Velos Youth, Equal Legal Aid and Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid, and one in-person discussion session with Defence for Children International - Greece, whose executive director was visiting the UK.

**Social & speaker event with DCI-Greece**

Saturday 22nd March, 17:00 - 18:30

SOAS, University of London

Free of charge, please register via link in bio to receive full location information

**Speakers:**

- Nanfina Tsekeri - CEO of SolidarITee's partner Defence for Children International - Greece
- Vasiliki Apatzidou - European Immigration and Asylum Law expert

Join us for an informal speaker event focused on the experiences of refugee children and their caregivers in Europe, as well as the impact of tailored legal aid and holistic support on their development and wellbeing.

There will also be a Q&A focused on careers in asylum and migration law within humanitarian and academic spaces.

SOLIDARITEE

SOLIDARITEE

Friday 29th November - 3pm to 4:30

Meet the organisations representing the future of grassroots refugee legal assistance in the Mediterranean

With speakers from our partners:

- Equal Legal Aid (ELA)
- Velos Youth
- Fenix
- Mobile Info Team

VELOS YOUTH

FEPIX

EQUAL LEGAL AID

MOBILE INFO TEAM



# Knowledge is power: our digital education efforts

Our social media infographics, mythbusters and 'back to basics' educational posts play a key role in the way we deliver on our strategic objectives to:

- provide **high-quality information** and education about lasting, compassionate solutions to support people forced to flee their homes, and specifically to;
  - **counter myths and harmful stereotypes** about refugees and migrants;
  - raise awareness of what the **'hostile environment'** is, and the importance of ending it

We see our role as providing slower, more nuanced and in-depth explorations of the global issues that contribute to persecution and human rights violations directly, or are linked to global political responses to migration.

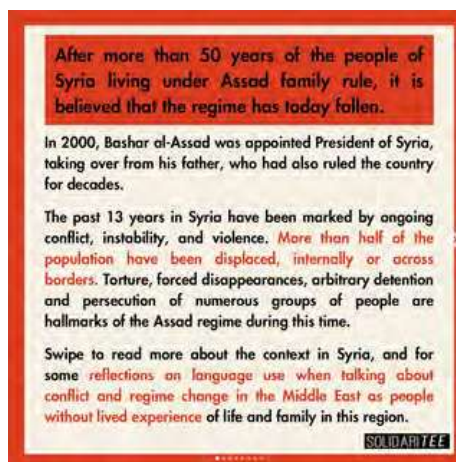
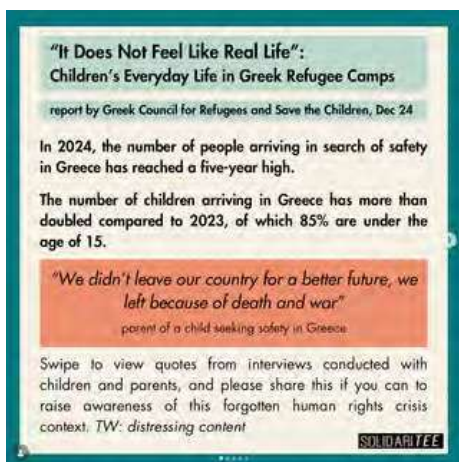


Head to [@teesofsolidarity](https://www.instagram.com/teesofsolidarity) if you'd like to view or share these directly!

# Knowledge is power: our digital education efforts

By talking about the UK asylum system, the Greek asylum system, and conflict and persecution globally, we're trying to **combat attitudes to refugees which focus solely on journeys and host countries trying to deter people from seeking safety**. Instead, we're showing that global experiences of migration and displacement are directly connected to the global conflicts and persecution that so many host countries are themselves involved in, either through harmful military intervention, or by failing to act politically.

Within this academic year, the ongoing genocide in **Palestine** was a key topic on the minds of our team, and our volunteers. In addition, we covered the UK's new '**Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill**' (sadly now **Act**), unpacking the harmful aspects of these plans.



In the 2024/25 academic year, we were able to achieve an **Instagram reach of more than 51,000**, in addition to posting content across our Facebook and LinkedIn accounts. Our individual regional teams also developed content across their own team accounts and cross-posted key infographics, further enhancing our ability to connect with new audiences. Below are some examples of content we worked on during this period.

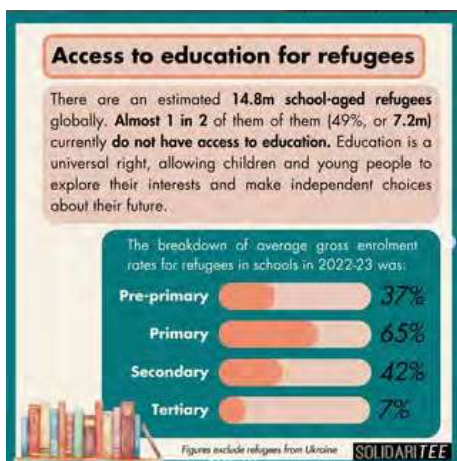
## 'What role do you think social media can play in efforts to unite young people in support of refugees and migrants?'

Social media can be an incredible resource, and provides a space where young people can learn, contribute, and connect with a wider community of people standing in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees. The unfortunate reality is that so much misinformation and disinformation circulates on social media, and digital technologies are increasingly being used to criminalise people on the move and carry out hostile border policies. In the face of this, I consider it a powerful act of resistance to use technology in a completely different way, sharing accurate information and refusing to be swept into harmful political narratives and rhetoric.

## 'What do you focus on when creating infographics and educational social media posts? What do you hope our posts will contribute to?'

When creating educational social media posts, I try to be conscious of how we can break information down in an accessible way, and invite people into meaningful and compassionate conversations, regardless of how much prior knowledge someone has on the topic. With so many horrifying things going on around the world, and countless sources of information and news, trying to stay up to date can be incredibly overwhelming. I hope that our social media pages can be a welcoming space where people can come for reliable information, and that our posts contribute to, and encourage, further dialogue in a way that fosters empathy and respect for all people. Ultimately, my hope is that people who read our posts come away feeling even a tiny bit better informed and equipped to go on and have conversations about migration and displacement with other people in their lives.

*-Beth Hughes, social media lead and Arabic & International Relations student*



**Gaza**

Gaza is in its third month of complete blockade.

This means that the Israeli authorities have refused entry of all humanitarian aid and other essential items. No food, fuel, medicine, or other vital supplies have entered Gaza since 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

At the end of April, the World Food Programme announced that it had run out of food in Gaza.

Last week, news also broke that the Israel security cabinet had approved plans to 'capture' Gaza. This indicates an extension of the extreme violations of international law, erosion of humanitarian space, and ongoing collective punishment and denial of fundamental rights that the entire population of Gaza have continued to endure.

**'It is impossible to starve children to death in self defense'**

Humanitarian Situation Update #254, UN OCHA

**In the UK - what you need to know**

This week, the Labour government released footage of raids and deportations focused on people working without the correct documentation, boasting about the increased number of raids being carried out.

This attempt to pander towards groups who focus on criminalisation of migrants in insecure situations will have dangerous consequences. Instead, we call on the UK government to focus on providing increased support to enable people to access regular immigration status. We also call on them to avoid conflating issues connected to migration. Work visas and permits are not the same issue, and are not necessarily even connected to the same people, as those forced to flee persecution via small boat crossings. Giving the incorrect impression that tackling one tackles the other only builds misguided hostility.

**Actions you could take:** read the article below, write to your MP, share a post on social media, volunteer with a local charity supporting refugees and migrants.

Lights camera, and a new law, why is the government making Deportation TV?  
Emma Solomon

Emma Solomon is Chief Executive of the Refugee Council - this article in the Guardian talks about his vision for compassionate, meaningful & trust-building reforms to the UK's asylum process.

SOLIDARITEE

# Other collaborations and initiatives

Aside from our own directly-hosted awareness-raising and fundraising events, we collaborated with other people and groups on a range of other campaigns and initiatives designed to strengthen opportunities to come together in support of refugees both within and outside the UK charity sector. These included:

## Vulnerabilities, Special Procedural Needs and the EU New Pact on Migration

### (B)OrderS Workshop: Vulnerabilities, Special Procedural Needs and the EU New Pact on Migration

When: Monday, March 24, 2025, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Where: Room GC114, Graduate Centre, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road London E1 4NS

This workshop will critically engage and discuss the concept of vulnerability and special procedural/reception needs in the context of migration and asylum. It will provide a space to analyse the changes brought about by the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, assessing the implications of these changes for vulnerable populations and applicants with special procedural/reception needs, including LGBTQ individuals, children, victims of trafficking, victims of torture, and refugees with disabilities. The speakers will discuss access to procedural guarantees for vulnerable groups, covering topics such as the adjudication of special procedural safeguards in border contexts, the challenges faced by queer asylum seekers, refugees with disabilities, and the specific concerns for children on the move. The goal is to appraise potential implementation measures, as proposed by the different Member States in light of the legislative instruments, in dialogue with practitioners and key stakeholders.

Welcome: [Professor Violeta Moreno-Lax](#) (B)OrderS Director

Opening Speech: [UK SolidariTee](#)

SolidariTee co-funded a conference hosted by the Queen Mary's University of London (B)OrderS Centre for the Legal Study of Borders, Migration and Displacement in March 2025. The event focused on how the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum would impact people with additional vulnerabilities, such as children, LGBT+ people, and survivors of torture within the asylum system. SolidariTee's co-president Tenley Fuentes Lema delivered the event's opening speech, and Nantina Tsekeri, our partner DCI-Greece's executive director, gave a keynote talk.

## Drag Down the Borders Collaboration

In March 2025, SolidariTee were selected to be one of the organisations supported through a Drag Down the Borders fundraising event. DDTB puts on shows full of queer joy and solidarity, showcasing incredible drag, burlesque, cabaret and DJ talent. They run fundraising nights with raffles and clothing collections, to raise money in solidarity with migrants, people seeking asylum and refugees. These funds go to people facing cruel immigration policies and to organisations resisting and dismantling these policies and borders. SolidariTee were invited to host a stall at the event alongside other grassroots refugee and migrant support charities, and our CEO Alexa gave a talk during the intermission about the impact of legal assistance in Greece.



With support from a generous long-time SolidariTee supporter, we were able to secure a £1,000 pot of match funding to participate in the Big Give Christmas challenge. This set of matched funds was then doubled by another Big Give supporter to become a total of £2,000 available to be matched by donations during a one-week period. In this time, every £1 donated by supporters would be doubled until match funding ran out. We were thrilled to exceed our goal and raise a total of over £4,000 in a single week! In addition to providing a vital boost to our partner organisations at a critical moment in the year when annual budgets are typically running thin, we were also able to connect with a number of first-time supporters of our charity, building relationships to be continued in the future.

## Big Give Christmas Challenge 2024



## University Chosen Charity Partnerships

Through a vote from the student body, we were delighted that SolidariTee was chosen as international charity of the year for the University of St Andrews Charities Campaign for the 2024/25 academic year. USACC raised a phenomenal £81,000 through student-body fundraising during the year, divided between three chosen charities. We received these funds in the subsequent academic year. We were also chosen to be the charity partner for the University of Edinburgh Fashion Society, raising over £2,000 in a single event. Thank you to everyone who made these partnerships possible!



## Leysin American School Summer Programme

SolidariTee's CEO Alexa Netty was invited back to deliver two workshops at the Leysin American School's Summer in Switzerland programme in June 2025. Connecting with students from all across the globe aged 9-16, the sessions focused on building empathy with refugees and people seeking safety, exploring the concept of human rights, and understanding what it means to be accountable to people in crisis in an age-appropriate way. One of the sessions involved students working in groups to design a flood-resistant shelter for an imaginary community who had been displaced from their homes, and involved mock interviews with community members to gather information about the needs and priorities of different members of the village. This opened the door to discussions about gender considerations, power dynamics, budgetary constraints and sustainability in humanitarian response efforts. We linked this back to issues affecting refugees and other displaced people, and also provided opportunities to build communication and advocacy skills through projects designing t-shirt stalls and charity 'elevator pitches' connected to different audiences. Alongside these sessions, the funds raised from bespoke LAS x SolidariTee summer camp t-shirts helps to make the provision of legal and mental health support for people on the move in Greece possible.

Thank you the LAS team for inviting us to be part of the 'magic mountain' - we are very grateful to have this opportunity to connect with young changemakers!



WELCOME TO THE  
**Rights in Exile Platform**

## Rights in Exile: SolidariTee legal researcher cohort

Following the closure of AMERA International, one of SolidariTee's previous partner organisations, their Rights in Exile platform was transitioned to being hosted by Swiss charity AsyLex. Rights in Exile is a global resource hub working to promote and strengthen access to justice and legal protection of refugees worldwide, which includes an online database searchable by country with information about the legal processes relating to migration and asylum, as well as a directory of legal organisations that could be approached for support. To support the transition and ensure adequate capacity to maintain the site in its first year of being hosted under a new organisation, SolidariTee managed a cohort of volunteer legal researchers, primarily composed of graduate and previous student volunteers looking for a way to stay connected with the movement.

**"During our collaboration with the AsyLex team on the Rights in Exile platform, our SolidariTee volunteer cohort has worked on over 50 legal information pages which support both people seeking asylum and the legal practitioners helping them to understand the legal context and assistance available in countries around the world. This has been not only a fantastic opportunity for our graduate volunteers to keep contributing to the SolidariTee mission once they've left campus, but also a brilliant way for the wider sector to benefit from our volunteers' commitment to supporting those forced to flee their homes and knowledge of asylum principles. Most importantly, it's created another route for our movement to provide direct support to people seeking safety - our volunteers have been very proud to see their work on the platform ready for people to use as they begin rebuilding their lives."** - Jess Molyneux, Rights in Exile x SolidariTee Coordinator

# Where We Rise

## A Call to Fund Bold, Frontline Solidarity



In the summer of 2025, SolidariTee participated in the Where We Rise movement, the initial idea of fellow refugee support charity Collective Aid.

In an era of funding cuts, with many of the smallest organisations we work alongside in Greece and beyond being forced to scale back their operations or close their doors entirely, the idea was simple; to work together to call for increased attention and support for people on the move with one strong voice, amplifying each others' messaging as opposed to competing for funding.

SolidariTee played a leading role in the central coordination unit throughout the period that the movement was active.

Together, participating organisations all agreed that we felt closer together as a sector, and knew more about the work of each others' organisations. We raised a modest amount of funding for each organisation once divided by 30, and also created opportunities for people already engaged in supporting people affected by displacement to connect with other organisations doing similar work through cross-posting, organisation spotlights, and Instagram live discussions.

From the UK to Greece, and from the Balkan region to Calais, all of our organisations are needed, and need each other, to achieve our vision. We are grateful to all who participated!

WHERE WE RISE

We are a coalition of 30 civil society organisations standing together in support of people who are forced to move in vulnerable situations.

Your donation will help grassroots organisations across Europe to continue standing against hostile borders and rights violations, providing vital services to people on the move. Funds raised through this campaign could support essential infrastructure, such as mobile aid, volunteer coordination, advocacy, and emergency response at Europe's borders.

Donate today to make solidarity unstoppable.

[www.collectiveaidngo.org/where-we-rise](http://www.collectiveaidngo.org/where-we-rise)

United, proud, defiant, abundant



WHERE WE RISE



# SolidariTee x Velos Youth

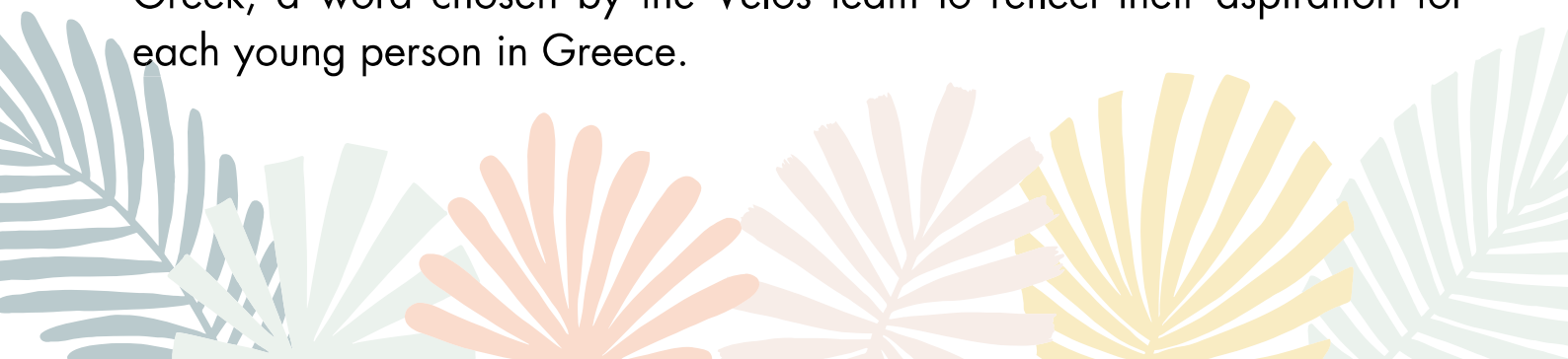
## *Freedom t-shirt collection*

At the start of the academic year, we connected with our partner Velos Youth, who support young people who are refugees or otherwise new to Greece aged 16-30 in Athens. What followed was a t-shirt designing workshop involving a number of the young people who make up Velos' community, who were invited to create designs that represented a story or message that they would want to tell young people and other supporters in the UK. We have long believed in the power of our t-shirts as conversation sparks, and an awareness-raising and empathy-building tool in their own right, so this felt like an important next step in keeping the values behind the t-shirts at the heart of their purpose.

At the end of 2024, we were delighted to launch our Freedom t-shirt collection, featuring a design produced during the workshop by a young person named Abdul Basir Salarzai.

Abdul was 18 at the time, and had arrived in Greece having left Afghanistan as a young unaccompanied teenager. In addition to having received SolidariTee-funded legal support, Abdul also participates in the other activities, community-building spaces, and educational classes on offer at Velos. For his design, he drew birds flying over the mountains of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. He describes this as the last mental picture that he has of the country he grew up in before he left.

Abdul expressed that he felt good about having the opportunity to do something that would help Velos, and the other partners who would receive SolidariTee funds, as opposed to being the one who is helped on this occasion. The t-shirts carry the word 'Freedom', or ελευθερία in Greek, a word chosen by the Velos team to reflect their aspiration for each young person in Greece.





Images: original artwork by Abdul, Freedom t-shirts, and photos from the Velos Youth center





# Looking Ahead

## strengthening our team and ways of working

Pillar four of our strategy focuses on **'resilient & organisationally sustainable ways of working'**. By working with student volunteers, we have a naturally high turnover of team members each academic year, which needs careful consideration to ensure that institutional knowledge and lessons learned can be retained year-on-year.

We also want to make sure that **our reach and ability to create impact aren't excessively tied to the capacity of a small number of individual volunteers**. This is because overreliance on specific roles without any backup poses risks for the organisation, and for the mental wellbeing of the student leadership team. It's also important to us because our value system is based around the multiplier effect of **collective** impact, and we wanted to create opportunities to build on this at all levels of the team.

As such, during the 2024/25 academic year, we expanded the number of positions available on a core 'student leadership team', along with creating new opportunities for people who were not current students to join the team. In doing so, we are demonstrating to young activists that individualism and burnout are not prerequisites for working in this space.





# Meet some of our student leaders

## Hannah Fuchs, 24/25 shop manager and 2025/26 Secretary

### Can you tell us about yourself, and what roles you have been involved with on the team?

I'm a final year medic and this year's Secretary (and if I'm not busy with either you'll probably find me baking cinnamon buns, going for a run, or knitting another pair of socks). I first heard about SolidariTee when the team at my uni had a stall. I then joined the team, initially as a general member focusing mostly on spreading the word (and tees) far and wide. Because I loved the tees so much and what they stand for, I then joined the central team as the Online Shop and Logistics Manager, working behind the scenes to keep the posting team running, and to provide all of our teams with t-shirts! For my final year of university, I applied to join the Student Leadership team as the Secretary!

### What made you want to take on the secretary role on the leadership team?

As much as I love the t-shirts and stock spreadsheets, I really wanted to get involved more directly in the fabulous work that our Regional Teams do. In my previous role, some of my favourite aspects were working with all our team leads, so I wanted this to be the focus of my role. As admin is something I'm good at (and I genuinely love making spreadsheets) the Secretary role seemed like the perfect fit, and it really has been! I've been able to work with all parts of the Central Team and all our Regional Teams, providing so much variety and I have learned so much this year! One of the main things I've focused on this year is to establish lots of resources and structures for the Central Team to help everything run smoothly for this year and future years to come.

### You are also SolidariTee's student wellbeing focal point. Can you tell us more about that and what it means to you?

We live through difficult times, and for myself and many of our volunteers SolidariTee is a space to find community and support. I think it's helpful to have someone with an open ear to reach out to when things get especially difficult. I also think it's important to cultivate a team culture of mutual support and respect, and to support our team leads to create inclusive spaces, and I see that as part of my role's responsibility too. "Welfare" roles can be a bit tokenistic, and I won't be recommending a welfare walk to deal with structural inequalities (although of course movement and green spaces have many benefits), so we focus instead on practical guidance, especially to our volunteers in leadership roles (for example during induction), creating a culture where everyone is welcome to speak their mind and bring their ideas and worries to the table, information and skills sharing (for example a recent newsletter on preventing burn out) as well as having a mental health first aid trained focal person who can be contacted by anyone in the team.





## Eva Hennell, 2024/25 Edinburgh Team Lead and 2025/26 Student President

“ I first came across SolidariTee when I returned to Edinburgh after spending a couple of years abroad. I was looking for a greater sense of community on campus, but I wanted to do something to address some of the injustices faced by people forced to flee their homes; and supporting access to legal aid felt like a really important part of that.

One of the highlights of being team lead in Edinburgh was a poetry night my team organised, where Edinburgh-based Palestinian poets came to share their work. It really reminded my team and me how events like these can bring people together in solidarity and conversation.

As president this year, I'm really looking forward to helping more young people come together to learn about the injustices affecting refugees, build the confidence to speak about these issues, and find the same sense of community through SolidariTee that I did.

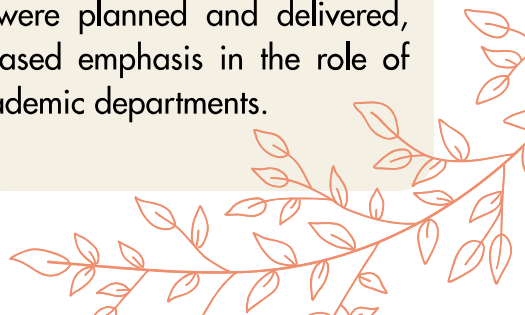
At a time when the climate around refugees and migrants can feel increasingly hostile - in the UK and beyond - it's easy to feel powerless. And that's exactly why it's so important that SolidariTee continues to reach students in 2026 and beyond.

**As I see it, SolidariTee gives young people a way to learn, to connect with others who care about these issues, and to show that compassion and solidarity still have a place on our campuses.**



Image: Eva (left) alongside Networks Coordinator Bex (right)

“ One of the most important roles we added to the team during this period was the role of Networks Coordinator, currently held by Rebecca (Bex) Kerr. Designed to be a role held by someone who is not a current student, this role exists to help coordinate the volunteer community as a whole, support the student president in decision-making, and help to deliver on our wider mission to promote education and engagement with refugee issues beyond student-run events themselves. As part of this, comprehensive induction sessions over the summer were planned and delivered, alongside an increased emphasis in the role of connecting with academic departments.



# Risks, Reserves and Recruitment

## Risk Identification and Management

The SolidariTee trustees have developed a risk register which identifies key operational, governance, financial and contextual risks facing the charity. With anti-migrant protests and an increasingly constrained environment for peaceful protest in the UK, we continue to monitor the risks that individual team members associated with the charity could face as a result of public-facing events and campaigns. Other risks that are relevant to SolidariTee specifically include the risks of an unmanaged loss of key personnel and associated institutional memory, which we work to continuously reduce by investment in volunteer mental health and wellbeing, documentation of key processes and lessons learnt, and an organisational culture that celebrates new ideas year-on-year as opposed to relying solely on repeating past ways of doing things.

We also recognise the challenges, both for us and for our partners, that a constrained fundraising environment will continue to bring. We communicate extensively with our partner organisations, and our new model means that we transfer funds raised as we have them, without a pre-pledged timescale. Whilst this has some downsides in terms of partners' ability to plan how to use these funds, it avoids the key risks that are associated with inability to deliver on particular timescales, and means that SolidariTee's funds can do what is perhaps the most vital job of replenishing an organisation's core funds, as a complement to their other fundraising efforts. By keeping our own overhead costs low, we are also able to remain agile, and continue to operate in a way that can expand and contract according to the environment at the time.

Finally, at the end of the 2024/25 academic year, we placed a renewed focus on attracting new volunteers and gaining student attention, which has proven very successful as discussed in the introductory section of this report.

## Reserves Policy

In line with our wider operating model, which includes a lack of paid staff or office space, and the environment we find ourselves in following a period of reduced fundraising scale within our own operations, and where the need for SolidariTee funding is greater now than ever, our policy is to send funds to our partners as directly as possible, only retaining those funds necessary to ensure our own continuity.

As such, our policy is to maintain at least three months' reserves for our core operations, which generally translates to at least £600. In future, we will consider whether building our reserves more substantially would help us to achieve our goals.

## Trustee Recruitment Policy

No new trustees were brought onto the SolidariTee board of trustees in the 2024/5 academic year. Trustees are selected to join the board with a focus on ensuring a diversity of skills and lived experiences, ranging from personal and family experience of migration in challenging situations through to knowledge of student activism, and of working for grassroots legal aid organisations.

Trustees receive comprehensive onboarding and are kept up to date on the charity's activities through meetings which occur quarterly at a minimum. They are involved in setting policy relating to safeguarding and risk management, in addition to ensuring that our focus remains on delivering against our 2024-26 strategy.



## Thank you

The trustees would like to extend their thanks to the community of inspiring, dedicated volunteers who kept conversations regarding a reimaged asylum system alive despite every pressure to the contrary this year.

In particular, we would like to thank student co-presidents Tenley Fuentes Lema and Hannah Rand, and social media lead Beth Huges, for your dedication, courage, and creativity in bringing SolidariTee's mission to life. You have been a joy to work with and your fresh ideas, clarity of principles, and commitment to making what others said could not be done possible is nothing short of inspiring. We wish you every good thing for your futures, and remain grateful to you and to the entire SolidariTee community for your efforts.

# Our Theory of Change

Theory of Change

SOLIDARITEE

All those forced to flee their homes across borders are treated with dignity, respect and compassion. Refugees seeking safety in Europe have access to holistic, trauma-informed support services including access to legal assistance.

Young people across the UK display solidarity with refugees and continually advocate against the hostile environment in the UK and Europe, contributing to public pressure and policy change in favour of a more compassionate, welcoming society towards refugees.

Long-term vision

Refugees in Greece have greater availability of, and access to, trauma-informed legal aid and mental health support services, which is of an increasingly high quality.

Students and young people are empowered with accurate information about refugees, and with improved opportunities to develop skills relevant to activism, charity & humanitarian work that supports refugees and migrants.

There are greater connections and increased opportunities for idea-sharing and capacity-building across the refugee support and legal aid space in the UK, Greece and beyond.

Humanitarian actors in Greece are better equipped and supported to respond to shocks, continually improve their services, and maintain safe, quality programming

Tangible Changes

Partnership with NGOs providing legal aid and mental health support to refugees by:

channelling high-quality, flexible funding to grassroots NGOs

providing capacity-strengthening, coordination & governance support

Student fundraising & events

Volunteer training & capacity building

Conferences, outreach & social media

Activities

## Strategy 2024-26

### Strategy 2024 - 2026

SOLIDARITEE

#### Pillar 1: Trauma-informed legal aid

We will continue to increase and improve the provision of **legal aid, with mental health support**, for refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants in vulnerable situations in Greece. We will support legal aid actors in Greece, the UK and beyond to strengthen their **capacity to adopt trauma-informed approaches**.

#### Pillar 2: Outreach, Education & Convening

We will provide **high-quality information and education** about lasting, compassionate solutions to support people forced to flee their homes. Specifically, we will:

- counter myths and harmful stereotypes about refugees and migrants
- raise awareness of what the 'hostile environment' is, and the importance of ending it
- raise awareness of the importance of increasing the availability of **safe routes and holistic support** for refugees
- where appropriate, convene other actors in support of these efforts, and contribute to other **collaborative advocacy efforts**

#### Pillar 3: Platforming Young Activists

We will empower **young people with skills and positive experiences of volunteering and charity work**, and equip them with the tools to continue to advocate for refugee rights. We will continue to **create a vehicle** through SolidariTeE through which young people can **contribute to tangible, lasting change** for refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations.

#### Pillar 4: Resilient & organisationally sustainable ways of working

We will enhance and maintain ways of working that ensure that we can **continue to deliver impact** throughout the strategic period and beyond, remaining stable amongst a changing context and regular volunteer turnover.

A detailed version of our strategy document is available on our website for those who would like to read more about how we deliver on each pillar.

# SolidariTee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of SolidariTee

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025, which are set out on pages 37 to 39.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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.

## 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:

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  .....

Name: Rachel Cooper FCA

Date: 28/04/26 .....

Welbeck  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

# SolidariTee

Registered Charity No:1182195

## Receipts and payments accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2025

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
<b>Receipts</b>				
General donations and student events income	30,962	-	30,962	38,047
Donations from subsidiary	9,850	-	9,850	24,400
Grant income	9,000	1,800	10,800	-
			-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	49,812	1,800	51,612	62,447
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>				
Loan to SolidariTee - bridging support for partners	12,000	-	12,000	-
	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	12,000	-	12,000	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	61,812	1,800	63,612	62,447
<b>Payments</b>				
Grants paid to NGOs	54,017	1300	55,317	69,763
Charitable Activities - Event Costs	2,357	500	2,857	2,951
Professional Development: Therapeutic Legal Assistance	-	-	-	4,314
Other Fundraising costs	790	-	790	1,008
Independent Examiner's Fee	450	-	450	450
Administrative Expenses	1,506	-	1,506	1,804
Insurance	185	-	185	180
	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	59,305	1,800	61,105	80,470
<b>Asset and investment purchases</b>				
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	59,305	1,800	61,105	80,470
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	2,507	-	2,507	18,023
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	633	-	633	18,656
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	3,139	-	3,139	633

### Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	3,139	-
	-	-
<i>Total cash funds</i>	3,139	-

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
	£	£
<b>Amounts owing to the charity and other monetary assets</b>		
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Grants awarded, payable when funds available and on satisfactory performance of grantees - see grants note	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

Signed by on trustee on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

Alexa Netty VetMB

Date of approval

31/03/2026

# SolidariTee

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 July 2024

## 1 Grant making

	2025	2024
	£	£
Funding paid during the year to partner NGOs		
Mobile info Team (Stichting Mushkila Kabira)	12,459	9,957
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid	4,984	19,914
Velos Youth	4,984	9,962
Irida Women's Center	4,984	9,962
Equal Rights Beyond Borders	7,974	-
Legal Centre Lesvos	9,967	-
Equal Legal Aid	9,967	-
Defence for Children International - Greece	-	9,967
AMERA International	-	10,000
Total	<u>55,317</u>	<u>69,763</u>

Note: all partners received funding according to different payment timelines, and these figures do not reflect total amounts pledged under previous grant agreements in either financial year.

## 2 Related party transactions

### Trustee expenses

Trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £555 (2024: £400)

### Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

# SolidariTee

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 July 2025

The narrative report on pages 1 to 36 along with the formal details below form the trustees' annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025. This year the trustees have adopted the Receipts and Payments Accounts format for the presentation of the charity's affairs as they believe this is more appropriate for the size and nature of operations. The numbers for the prior year have therefore been restated to be consistent with this presentation.

## Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

### Name

Alexa Netty  
Isabella Ponsonby  
Louisa Cowell  
Robert Durgut  
Mulumbeni Phiri  
Sara Poursafar  
Nausikaa Reimers  
Dara Snead  
Jordan Gardner (appointed 16 Feb 2026)  
Sarah Davidson (resigned 31 Dec 2024)  
Maya Kerbellec (resigned 31 Dec 2024)  
Rebecca Young (resigned 31 Dec 2024)

Charity number 1182195 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address Bankers  
SPACE4 The Co-Operative Bank Plc  
113 Fonthill Road PO Box 250  
N4 3HH Skelmerdale  
WN8 6WT

### Independent examiner

Rachel Cooper FCA  
Welbeck  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

### Structure, governance and management

Solidaritee is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1182195, its members are its trustees. Its governing document is a constitution registered 25th February 2019, and amended 1 Aug 2021.

### Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed for a term of two or three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the existing trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

### Public benefit statement


In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education and human rights, and relief of poverty. This is achieved through our awareness raising activities here in the UK, as well as our work to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid. In doing so, our work ensures that refugees are able to access their rights and are prevented from falling into destitution and poverty after receiving unjust rejections on their asylum claims or receiving inadequate mental health support following the persecution and trauma that a great many asylum seekers have faced. It also ensures that the public are informed about refugee issues in the UK and worldwide.

### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

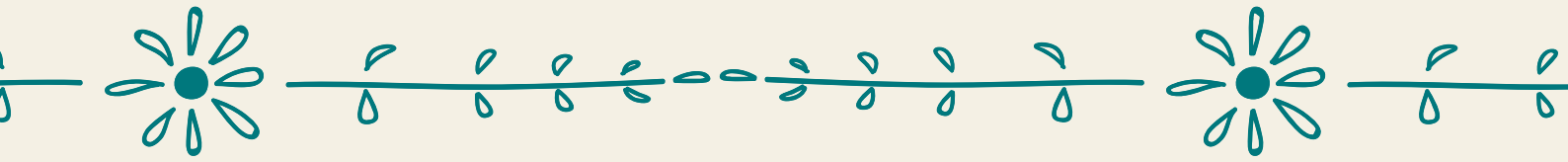
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

31/03/2026

Approved by the board of trustees on .....

Signed:  ..... (Trustee)

Name: Alexa Netty VetMB .....

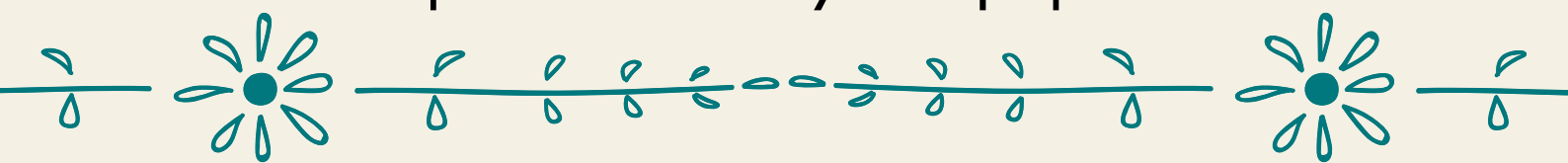


**Thank you for taking the time to  
read about our work.**



**To learn more or make a  
donation, please visit  
[www.solidaritee.org.uk](http://www.solidaritee.org.uk)**

printed on recycled paper



**SOLIDARITEE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1182195

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# Accounts

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SOLIDARITEE

# ANNUAL REPORT

*2023-24 academic and financial year*



SolidariTee is a UK Registered Charity 1182195  
[www.solidaritee.org.uk](http://www.solidaritee.org.uk)



# “Youth is not a phase; it's a revolution waiting to happen.”

**SolidariTee is a UK-registered charity led entirely by volunteers** who are students, young people, and those who support youth activism.

We play a crucial role in enabling our **grassroots NGO partners in Greece** to sustain and improve the provision of **legal and mental health support to the tens of thousands of refugees** and other people seeking safety from persecution because of who they are or what they believe.

The achievements and stories of positive change you will read about on the following pages all come from SolidariTee partners, whose programmes our funding plays a vital role in supporting. However, because NGOs typically receive funding from more than one source, and because we **encourage flexible funding approaches**, it is not possible to say that certain clients were specifically supported with SolidariTee funds.

Nonetheless, we can be sure that SolidariTee funds have enabled our partners to support people including many of featured in this report, and many more, to **access their right to live in peace and safety**.

# 2023-24: our year in numbers

**230**

volunteers

**24**

universities

**1**

movement

**£115,000**

2022-23 grant  
cycle completed

**£185,000**

2024-25 grant  
cycle commenced

**40**

NGO professionals trained in  
therapeutic legal assistance

**3200**

people supported with  
trauma-informed legal aid

*Note: figures which demonstrate how many people are supported with legal assistance relate to aggregated data across partners who received SolidariTee funding during the financial year, and reflect the total number of clients supported. Please note that SolidairTee partners use multiple sources of funding, including SolidariTee support, to reach their clients.*

*Dear reader,*

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report. If this year has taught us anything, it is that issues of migration and asylum in Europe and the UK are intrinsically connected to global humanitarian crises and conflicts globally, and to the actions and inactions of our own political leaders.

At the time of writing this in November 2024, almost the entire population of **Gaza** is displaced, often times multiple times over, with families fleeing bombardment being able to bring only the clothes they can carry, or nothing at all, with the UN declaring 'reasonable grounds' that Israel is committing genocide, a declaration that is often only confirmed years or decades after the fact. In **Afghanistan**, women are banned from being heard in public. In **Sudan**, over 8 million people are displaced inside the country, with a further 3 million people displaced across borders since the start of April 2023, making it the world's largest displacement crisis. In **Lebanon**, more than 1.2 million people are displaced, hundreds of thousands of whom have fled to **Syria**, which itself faces decimated infrastructure and persecution of many groups following 13 years of conflict.

In Greece, our partners support people who have been forced to flee impossible situations in all of these countries and many more. Refugees seeking safety in Europe today continue to face life-threatening journeys and an enormous risk of border violence before even reaching Greece, after which time tens of thousands of people are forced to live in refugee camps across extremes of temperatures, often lacking provisions by the Greek state for even basic necessities such as blankets or places to wash their clothes.

All of this means that the role of NGOs and civil society in Greece is more important now than ever. **In 2023, more than 41,000** people reached Greece in search of safety. By November **2024, more than 50,000** people had made these same deadly journeys. Almost every single one of these people will be forced to undergo the complex legal process of seeking asylum, and **they will receive no legal information or mental health support** from the Greek state. For this reason, we continue to focus our work here.

At the same time, **funding and attention for issues related to migration and displacement has taken a drastic downturn.** Donor support for refugee assistance in Greece, the UK, and Europe has drastically reduced, and month after month, organisations that have until now provided a lifeline for refugee communities across Greece are forced to close due to a lack of funding.

What this means is that **each of the partners SolidariTee exists to support** is facing an enormously constrained funding environment, at the same time as the needs amongst people who have fled torture, exploitation, and other forms of persecution are increasing. Where SolidariTee's funding might have previously been a small proportion of what enables the organisations we support to carry out their work, for many, **we are becoming a more and more crucial piece of the complex puzzle** for grassroots organisations.

This comes at a time where we ourselves are having to **work harder and harder to combat anti-refugee noise and misinformation**, as the racist riots of the summer across the UK, fuelled by misinformation about refugees, have demonstrated.

Our own **student volunteer community is also enormously fatigued**, horrified by what they are witnessing in Gaza and the surrounding region, drained by continual dismissal and penalisation by university leadership for those speaking out, and afraid for the future for migrants and refugees in the UK and Europe.

**The student and youth community globally has shown enormous integrity and bravery** over the past year in calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and calling for an immediate divestment from arms sales. If history - from Civil Rights to the Vietnam War - has taught us anything, it's that **when students speak out, political leaders would do well to listen**.

For all these reasons, the work of SolidariTee essential in 2024, 2025 and beyond. We **urgently need to support our partners to sustain and scale up their work**, and to demonstrate, by uniting the student community, that **dignified, compassionate solutions to support refugees and other migrants are not only possible, but demanded** from our governments as a priority.

We also need to continue demonstrating to each successive community of new students, and to society as a whole, that **there is an antidote to feelings of powerlessness and injustice - collective action and grassroots community-led initiatives**.

We hope you will find this report an uplifting, informative, and tangible presentation of what we can, and will continue to do, to move towards **a world in which all those who have no choice but to begin all over again have access to the legal, mental health, and other fundamental services** they need to rebuild their lives and realise their aspirations.

*Yours,*

Alexa Netty (volunteer CEO) & the SolidariTee Board of Trustees and Volunteer Community

# Legal aid: client impact stories

**Mariama\*** was 17 years old when she first came to into contact with our partners Velos Youth.

At the time, Mariama was pregnant, having survived gender-based violence and an incredibly difficult journey to reach Greece. Velos were able to react quickly to refer her urgently to a shelter for minors, but as is often the case, **once Mariama turned 18, she returned to Velos** as one of the very few organisations that could continue to offer her support.

Following extensive legal counselling and support, including the registration of her new baby as an addition to her asylum claim and guidance on how to navigate finding employment in Greece, we are delighted that **Mariama has started a new job and is raising her baby in safety, expressing optimism about her future.**

**Ibrahim\*** is a young queer man from Sierra Leone, and a survivor of child prostitution, who was in urgent need of medication and healthcare.

Our partners Equal Legal Aid secured a **legal victory at the European Court of Human Rights** after Ibrahim's first appeal was rejected, leaving him without housing, food and healthcare.

Though the legal team had filed a request for this decision to be annulled (cancelled), the decision is still pending to this day.

Recognising Ibrahim's urgent need for both medical and legal assistance, ELA lodged a request to the ECHR. After many exchanges between the European Court and the Athens Administrative Court, **Ibrahim finally received his asylum card back, meaning he has another chance to access his rights** under the legal procedure, as well as cash, housing and health assistance.

# Legal aid: client impact stories

**Abdul\***, a queer man received a rejection on his asylum application, despite having faced torture and extreme violence based on his marginalised sexual orientation. Our partners at Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid supported him in preparing for his asylum interview. Abdul initially received a rejection - his story was **deemed 'not credible' by the asylum authorities** on the basis that he 'explained his story too clearly and with too little emotion'. The Fenix team **recognised that Abdul was neurodivergent**, and his way of expressing his emotions in a logical way is very common among people with autism. They arranged for him to have an attestation from a **psychologist and provided a legal submission** highlighting the injustice of this subjective 'credibility' assessment. As a result, **Abdul has now received international protection.**



“  
Everything would be difficult without Fenix guidance. It will be like a person who is standing in front of a crossroad and doesn't know which way to go”

**Above:** quote from an anonymous client of Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid.

**Left:** image of the state-run refugee camp on the island of Lesbos. People may stay in these containers for weeks, months or longer, with almost no protection from Greece's extremes of temperatures



# OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

**Image description:** Liverpool Team, Autumn term 2023, all wearing SolidariTee t-shirts. Our shirts are designed by artists who themselves have lived experience of displacement, and are a key vehicle through which we raise funds, as well as demonstrating a visual stand of solidarity with refugees, and helping to spark authentic conversations.

# Q&A with Adam, 23-24 Team Lead

## Of the events you ran during the year, which was your favourite and why?

We saved the best until last: one of our classic Pub Quizzes, but hosted by the one and only, Sandi Toksvig!

She was electric, interacting with the crowd, casually dropping nuggets of wisdom and delivering, sharp, witty remarks. Sandi's performance undeniably put my previous attempts at quiz hosting to shame.

Moreover, she passionately supported SolidariTee, delivering an inspiring talk on the significance of student movements and, more specifically, raising awareness about the refugee crisis – putting into perspective the importance of what we've achieved throughout the year.



## What difference has being part of SolidariTee made to your uni experience?

SolidariTee offered me more than just a break from work, but one that was purposeful, raising awareness and funds for an incredibly important cause. The work that we accomplished throughout the year has allowed me to reflect on my time at university as something meaningful and worthwhile. Furthermore, along the way I met some amazing and inspiring people with a shared vision, some of which I hope to remain friends with for life.



## What difference has being part of SolidariTee made to your uni experience?

One event that will stick in my mind is SolidariTee Sumo! It had just the right amount of chaos and we succeeded in raising awareness among a new group of students, which is always a perk. With a broken wrist at the time –lucky or not–I was excused from participating, but observing was enjoyable enough for me.

# Our Team

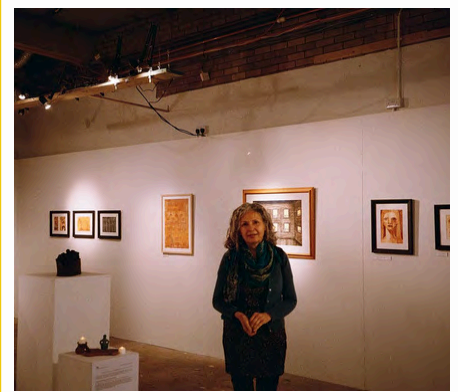
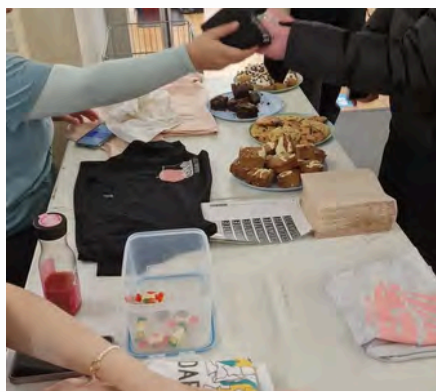
In the 23-24 academic year, SolidariTee had more than 230 student volunteers based at 24 universities.

Our student team is divided into **regional teams**, typically based within a given university, and a **central team** which coordinates between all regional teams, organises our annual conference, and produces infographics and news posts for our main social media accounts.

A typical student starting university in September 2023 would have been **just 10 years old when the 'refugee crisis' of 2015 made the headlines** in UK and European news. That's why, whereas previously many of our volunteers would join the team reactively, having read or heard about the appalling conditions with refugee camps, **the way we connect with volunteers today needs to be much more proactive and intentional**. With every passing year, our focus has shifted progressively towards raising awareness amongst young people about what it really means to be a refugee, why people reach Greece specifically, and **what can be done to support those seeking safety**.

We also focus on providing **information that helps form connections** between the drivers of conflict and displacement, and subsequent international treatment of refugees, with **other intersecting forms of oppression** such as racism, homophobia, misogyny, religious discrimination, legacies of colonialism, and the climate crisis.

In turn, **all of our student teams strike a balance** between fundraising, which can often be more lighthearted, such as with quizzes or cake sales, to **support refugee assistance**, whilst also focusing on events and campaigns to **educate those around them**.



**Image descriptions:** events held in the 23-24 academic year. L-R: pottery-making event, cake & tee stall, student-run art gallery featuring artists with lived experience of migration

# Regional Team Events

take a look at some of the brilliant events organised by our student teams.....



**SolidariTee Manchester organised a 'philanthro-beats' club night, raising £800!**

**Our Edinburgh team organised a thrift 'sale', with donations supporting our partners' work**



**SolidariTee Oxford's events included a jewellery-making workshop, a panel talk bringing together local refugee support groups, a quiz night, and an art gallery**

*We remain incredibly grateful to the countless societies who have collaborated with us, artists and performers who have shared their talents with us, and to each and every person who has supported us by coming along to one of these events. It is you who help us to connect with new audiences, support one another, and truly achieve our aims.*

# Annual Conference 2024

The theme of our annual conference 2024 was **'broadening the inclusion of displaced people'**. The aim was to focus on understanding the factors that combine to exclude certain groups of people from being part of conversations around what the future of migration policies and support systems should be, and how we can dismantle these exclusionary factors to support real change.

The event **brought together more than 50 people**, including those leading UK charities supporting refugees, SolidariTee volunteers current and past, academics. Importantly, the sessions placed a focus on learning from and with speakers and participants who had lived experience of migration and seeking asylum.



“ It was a pleasure to participate at your conference and see the passion of young people about the refugee cause. It truly makes my heart happy. I did have a great time connecting with like-minded individuals and learning about the incredible work they are doing. ”

“ It was so energising to be part of the discussion and in a room full of people who share a collective vision for change. Well done convening the conference! ”

Quotes from 2024 conference speakers - we are enormously grateful to all those who joined us at this and other events as speakers, and deeply appreciate you sharing your expertise and wisdom with us.

# Other awareness-raising events and initiatives



In November 2023, we hosted a **'fireside chat' with two of our partner organisations:** Nantina Tsekeri, the director of DCI-Greece, who was in London for an advocacy event, and Lucy Walton, working at the time with AMERA International.

Having the opportunity for our volunteer community to connect with our NGO partners in person was enormously well received.

In December, this was followed up with an **online 'partner spotlight' event**, building on the success and interest in hearing about the work we support from those closest to it. We were joined by Sadhbh O'Malley from Mobile Info Team, and Maaïke Vledder, Country Manager at Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid.

Two days to go until our partner spotlight!

Discussion topics will cover

- Trauma-informed representation
- Provision of accessible information
- The relationship between advocacy and research

In conversation with...

**Sadbh O'Malley**  
Fundraising and Finance Manager  
Mobile Info Team

**Maaïke Vledder**  
Country Manager  
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid

Thursday 7th December  
17:30 - 18:30 GMT, on Zoom

SOLIDARITEE



In February 2024, we also hosted a half-day **conference in-person in Edinburgh**, focusing on understanding, and overcoming, some of the prejudices and hierarchies that people on the move are frequently categorised into.

# Social media & digital outreach

We continued to focus on sharing engaging, accessible content that unpacks media headlines and news events connected to refugees and forcible displacement. We shared this content with more than 16,500 follower accounts across Instagram and Facebook.

The purpose of our infographics and mythbusters is to provide those who engage with our content with information that supports them to **share up to date information that counters myths and harmful stereotypes**, whilst also communicating the difference that their support continues to make. To that end, our content is **generally more in-depth and long-form** than some other accounts may be, as we work to avoid 'shouting into the echo chamber' by repeating statements that our supporters already agree with. This has been particularly important around the election period, and in relation to the UK's Rwanda plan - which has fortunately since been scrapped.

Compared to the previous year, our content interactions on Instagram have doubled, which is a good proxy indicator of sharing **relevant content that resonates with our supporters**. Below are some of the posts we shared:

**COUNTRY PROFILE**  
**Somalia**  
Somalia currently hosts over **3.8 million** internally displaced persons.  
**700,000** Somali refugees and asylum seekers are hosted by neighbouring countries.  
Swipe to learn more about forced displacement into, out of, and within Somalia.  
CN: s\*xual violence  
UNHCR, 2023

**SOLIDARITEE**  
**Unpacking Quotes**  
**Enemies [are] deliberately driving people to our shores to try to destabilise our society**  
Quote from Rishi Sunak speaking at an event led by the Italian PM.  
The Guardian, 2023  
**The Observer**  
**Sunak accused of toxic rhetoric after warning of 'overwhelming' migration to Europe**  
Prime minister makes controversial remarks at Rome conference organised by Giorgia Meloni's party

**EU Pact on Migration and Asylum**  
Protecting rights or evading responsibility?  
"This agreement will set back European asylum law for decades to come. Its likely outcome is a surge in suffering on every step of a person's journey to seek asylum in the EU."  
Director of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office, Eva Geddie  
**SOLIDARITEE**

**What is life like in asylum hotels?**  
**50,000** asylum seekers are currently being housed in around **400** hotels across the UK.  
When food is provided, a **weekly allowance of £9.58** is given to cover all travel, hygiene, clothes and phones. If food is not provided, asylum seekers receive an allowance of £47.39 per week.  
Hotel

**SOLIDARITEE**  
In 2023, the most common countries of origin for people reaching Greece by sea in search of safety were:  
**Syria**  
**Afghanistan**  
**State of Palestine**  
**Somalia**  
People making steady Mediterranean sea crossings from these regions made up 73% of the total number of recorded arrivals. Despite this, narratives about 'bogus' or 'illegitimate' asylum seekers are still a major part of the anti-refugee rhetoric perpetuated by European leaders. There is overwhelming evidence that when someone says they are a refugee, they really are.

**MYTH BUSTER**  
**'Refugees & migrants drain the NHS'**  
British Medical Association, 2023  
Despite this, there is no evidence that refugees and asylum seekers use a disproportionate share of NHS resources, and migrants in the UK and elsewhere in Europe **tend to use fewer services** than native populations.



# OUR NGO PARTNERS

*image: photo taken in 2024 inside Mavrovouni camp, the government-run refugee camp on Lesbos, Greece. Up to 8 people may live in one 'Isobox' container, during both winter and summer. Several of our partners work inside and nearby to this camp.*

# Our partnership & funding strategy

Within this financial year, **SolidariTee had two active grant cycles** - we completed a £115,000 2022-23 funding programme, and launched a new £185,000 2024-25 programme. Across these two cycles, the total amount of funding we transferred in the year in 23-24 (£70,000) was slightly higher than in the previous financial year (£65,000 transferred in 22-23). We open new grant cycles at the end of the previous funding period, with each cycle spanning more than 12 months to provide greater predictability.

We have also made an **intentional shift** away from solely focusing on grant-giving, and moving much more **towards a partnership approach** that sees SolidariTee contributing to the delivery of a legal aid and mental health support programme across Greece.

This means that we have worked hard to **play a greater role in supporting coordination efforts and capacity strengthening**, in addition to providing the vital funding that enables programmes to run. This includes the professional development opportunities that SolidariTee has hosted (see subsequent pages), as well as ad-hoc training and coordination meetings organised where necessary. Increasingly, we find ourselves called upon to provide **1:1 support with safeguarding, policy-writing, monitoring & evaluation, and guidance on fundraising and communications strategies**, where this is valuable to a given partner organisation.

Many funders supporting legal and mental health programmes in Greece are more traditional 'donors' or foundations run by people who are not necessarily experts in migration and asylum, or in humanitarian response. By contrast, larger funders, and major institutional donors, don't always have the capacity or focus on providing tailored support to small NGOs. This is where SolidariTee stands out. Leveraging our leadership teams' **experience working in the humanitarian and third sector, and combining this with our grassroots ethos**, has meant that we are able to fill this vital accountability gap and contribute to a meaningful support structures that harness the power of grassroots action.

# Our partnership & funding strategy (ctd)

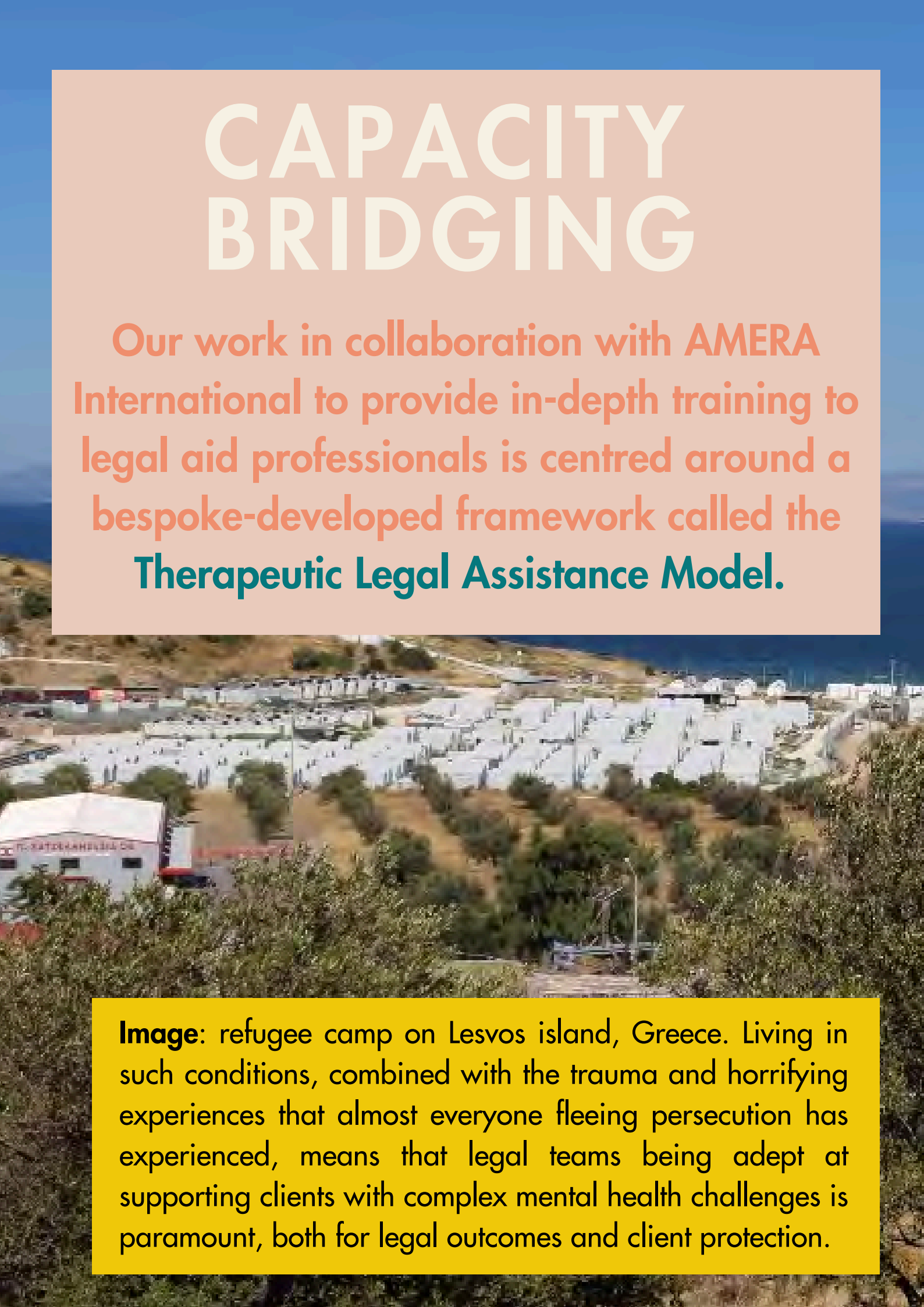
In order to facilitate meaningful partnership, and to provide the predictability needed for very small and medium-sized NGOs to be able to plan and carry out their work, we realised that it was also very important to **move towards multi-year agreements with partners**. For this reason, our current funding agreements almost exclusively span two full years, whereas this previously used to be 12-18 calendar months.

This is **in contrast to many other funders within the space, some of whom require re-applications for funding renewals every six months, or even every three months**. This can be incredibly stressful for staff at organisations, who do not know how long their position will be funded for, and can contribute to an enormous burden within organisations, who are constantly pausing and restarting operations. Given that SolidariTee is a very small funder, and frequently only contributing a relatively small (though targeted and impactful) portion of an organisations' annual budget, it is particularly important that we are **mindful of the application burden on smaller organisations** without dedicated staff.

Our aspiration is to be able to **support our partners with increasing amounts of funding that cover a greater proportion** of their annual budgets, and which enable them to **scale up their work to meet increasing demand**. At the same time, all of our partners are aware that their funding comes from a group of volunteer students and young people, and recognise that **our partnership is one that lasts, rather than a one-time cash injection**. As such, though we sign agreements that have indicative payment timelines with each partner, all the NGOs we work with understand that funding may arrive on a slightly fluctuating timeline according to student fundraising. We discuss cashflow and fundraising progress regularly with all partners, and step in with prioritised instalments if necessary to support organisational resilience.

# CAPACITY BRIDGING

Our work in collaboration with AMERA International to provide in-depth training to legal aid professionals is centred around a bespoke-developed framework called the **Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model.**

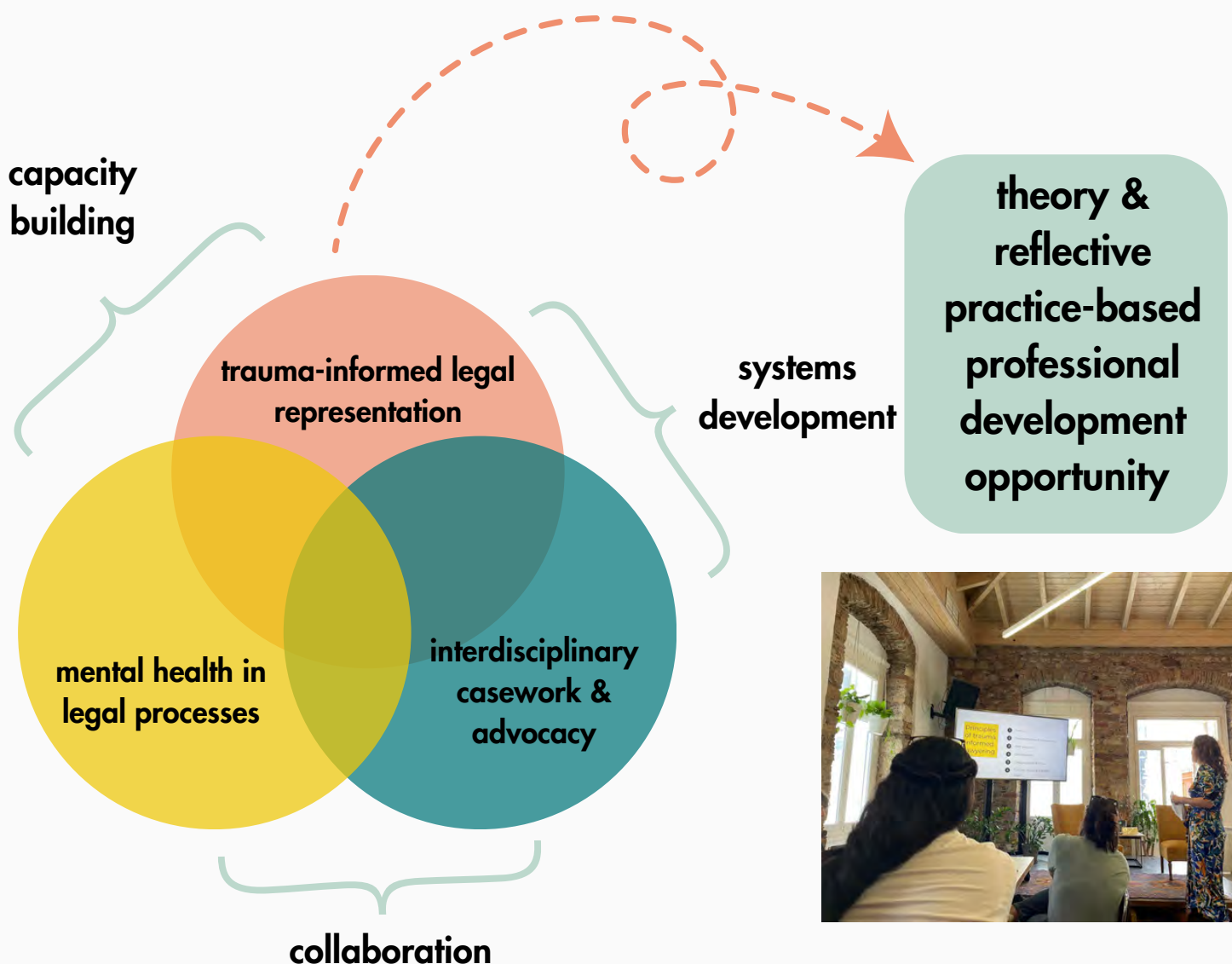


**Image:** refugee camp on Lesvos island, Greece. Living in such conditions, combined with the trauma and horrifying experiences that almost everyone fleeing persecution has experienced, means that legal teams being adept at supporting clients with complex mental health challenges is paramount, both for legal outcomes and client protection.

# What is the Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model, and what difference does it make?

At SolidariTee, a key part of our strategy and vision for change lies in bridging the gap between legal assistance and mental health support for refugees and asylum seekers.

In addition to providing funding to organisations pursuing this approach, one of the most important things we can do is to contribute to the knowledge, evidence, and standards of support our clients need and deserve by facilitating professional development. The TLAM provides a framework through which both theory and practice come together, fostering opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing amongst legal professionals, whilst also offering expert external perspectives and resources.



# Professional Development & Capacity Strengthening

## Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model



I found the discussion around reflective practice in the context of the legal profession very valuable and something I would like to apply more to my work. Additionally, I found the input concerning the relation between mental health workers and legal practitioners empowering in particular with regards to the way a lawyer can integrate psychosocial research and reports in their legal work, but also regarding the dynamics between colleagues.

*-June 2024 participant (image: legal aid NGO professionals attending TLAM programme in June 2024)*

Building on the successes of the Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model pilot programme in 2023, **SolidariTee has shifted our strategy in 2024 to include a greater focus on strengthening the capacity of organisations providing legal aid to refugees.** In doing so, we are stepping up to fill the gap in access to high-quality professional development opportunities for those working in grassroots organisations providing refugee assistance.

We are equipping legal teams with the knowledge and confidence to **better support clients who have experienced trauma**, as well as to strengthen their legal strategies and improve outcomes by including in-depth, evidence-based **information about mental health considerations within legal submissions** themselves.

Additionally, we are **strengthening the resilience of teams** working in enormously challenging contexts, by supporting them to talk about, and address, the impacts of **second-hand trauma**, and of witnessing injustices so continually.

**Between 2022 and 2024, SolidariTee funded AMERA International**, led by Sabine Larribeau, to develop and pilot the Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model. This **first cohort took the form of a 9-month online programme**, with a final one-day workshop in December 2023 that was enormously well received.

In 2024, AMERA International ceased independent operations, handing over its three programmes to other organisations. **SolidariTee now manages the resources** connected to the TLAM programme, and in June 2024, worked with Sabine Larribeau to deliver a **3-day intensive version of the programme in Athens, Greece.**

So far, more than 40 refugee legal aid professionals have been trained on this model, and we intend to expand its use to reach wider audiences in 2025. We are also supporting the handover and management of another of AMERA's programmes, a legal database called the **Rights in Exile platform**, which is hosted by Swiss-based organisation AsyLex.

# TLAM capacity-bridging - key achievements

“  
The team of facilitators was really strong and lovely. It has been a pleasure learning from all of you. You are a great combination of qualities and knowledge, which made the training an incredible valuable experience. All of you ensured making a safe learning environment. Keep up the good work! Thanks a lot! Hope our paths will cross another time in the future. *-June 2024 participant*

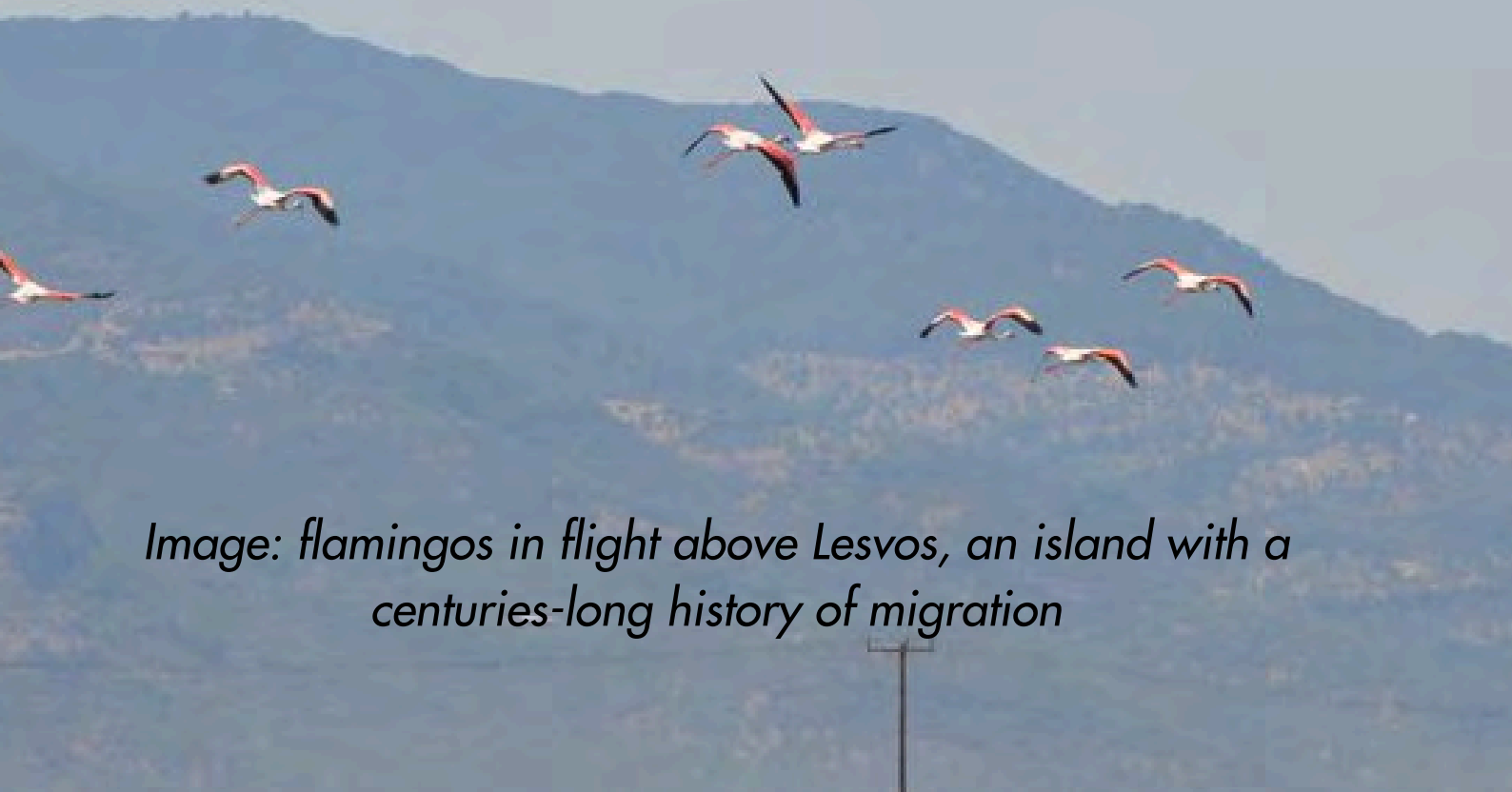
The group of facilitators for both the 2023 and 2024 cohorts intentionally brought together legal and mental health practitioners with experience working in Greece and in other refugee contexts globally. With lead facilitation by Sabine Larribeau, guest facilitators for the 2024 programme included **Erofilis Dagkalidou**, a psychologist working in Greece with experience supporting both humanitarian workers and refugee clients, **Ibrahim Abou Senna**, a lawyer with experience managing interdisciplinary legal teams supporting refugees in Egypt, and **Nikos Giannakis**, psychologist and academic working at Babel, one of Greece's leading mental health support services for refugees and migrants.

**Feedback following the June in-person programme showed that the majority of participants reported:**

- feeling more able to understand and use **reflective practice** in their work
- a greater **understanding of different mental health conditions** and their effects
- increased **ability to reflect on the impact of the work they do on themselves, clients, and the outcomes of legal cases**, and understand how these are connected
- being better able to reflect on the **broader cultural and systemic context** of the work they do
- **feeling less alone in the challenges**, experiences or feelings that they experience about the work they do

# OUR CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS

Supported from 2022 (or before!) to 2025



*Image: flamingos in flight above Lesvos, an island with a centuries-long history of migration*



# Defence for Children International - Greece

DCI-Greece focus on **supporting parents**, particularly mothers, who themselves have often survived extreme forms of gender-based violence and abuse, and **children and young people**, both accompanied by family members and those who have arrived in Greece alone.

Women who are refugees, particularly those who experience rejections on their asylum applications due to a lack of legal information and guidance, find themselves at **highly increased risk of exploitation and abuse**. DCI-Greece's work focuses on going at each clients' own pace, and **focusing on the best interests of the child in legal claims**. This aspect - the safety of a child were they and their parents to be removed to a country where they could face persecution - is often not considered thoroughly in asylum claims without expert legal representation.

Shockingly, **over 90%** of the children who've visited the center over the past 18 months have had **no access to formal education before DCI-Greece's interventions**, highlighting the importance of a child rights-based approach to migration and asylum policies.

“**A pressing issue across the country is the high number of rejected asylum claims, which is often a result of insufficient legal support and weak identification mechanisms for victims of exploitation or violence. Many individuals, including mothers and children, find themselves in precarious situations—lacking even basic necessities like milk, clothing, and shelter.** - DCI-Greece leadership team

**From Jan - Oct 2024,  
DCI-Greece supported:**

**231**

*people through legal and holistic case management, including*

**72**

*single mothers  
(often themselves very young),  
with their children*

**109**

*people through targeted legal information sessions*

**12**

*early career professionals trained through the DCI-Greece summer school 'Refugee Law in Theory and Practice'*

**47**

*mothers and children participated in mental wellbeing sessions*

# Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid



**“I’m really relieved I spoke to you, otherwise my head would have exploded from thinking!”**

*Client from Syria who attended a legal empowerment session in 2024*

**From Jan - July  
2024, Fenix reached:**

**1187**

*people through legal  
empowerment sessions*

**46**

*people with bespoke,  
in-depth legal  
representation*

**335**

*people working with  
other NGOs with  
Fenix-led training on  
issues relevant to  
supporting refugee  
clients*

Fenix were one of SolidariTee’s **first ever partners**. They provide legal representation of a diverse range of clients in Athens. Additionally, in response to growing needs amongst people seeking international protection in Greece, in 2023 Fenix launched their **legal empowerment programme** on the island of Lesbos, enabling them to reach a far larger number of people than they would otherwise.

This programme involves **operating directly inside the refugee camp in Lesbos**, providing a powerful opportunity to connect with the most marginalised people who might not otherwise be able to access a legal office. It also enables those who were unaware that there was such a thing as NGO-provided legal aid, or those who have just arrived to the camp and have legal procedures starting immediately to access rapid, personalised information and support.

Fenix continue to specialise in supporting clients who are seeking international protection due to persecution as a result of their sexual or gender identity, as well as people who have survived torture, gender-based violence, and those who have complex mental health and medical challenges.

*Image description: a Fenix legal officer uses a visual graphic to explain the procedures that asylum seekers who have passed through Turkey will have to undertake in order for their claim to be considered*

# Irida Women's Center



**“From the bottom of my heart, thank you! The Lawyer helped me very much. She is an excellent professional with a keen eye on detail. She treated me with kindness and respect and this is something I will never forget”.**

A. is a 38 year-old community member from Syria, who is a recognised refugee. She was supported by Irida to undertake the legal custody of her minor son and issue their travel documents.

As their name suggests, the Irida Women's Center focus on supporting self-identifying women of all nationalities who are experiencing poverty, crisis, or abuse. With initial support by SolidariTee to diversify their programming, Irida are one of the rare, and incredibly valuable legal organisations who also have in-house mental health professionals. This enables clients initially seeking legal counselling to also access structured psychological support should they so wish, and vice versa. From January - June 2024, the team delivered:



**445**

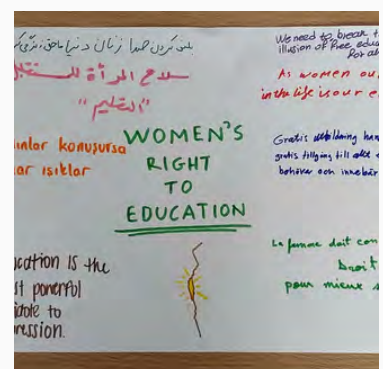
legal counselling  
sessions across  
82 cases

**136**

1:1 psychosocial  
support sessions,  
supporting 33  
women

**14**

group wellbeing  
sessions,  
reaching 61  
women



**“Participating in open psychosocial group sessions is incredibly comforting for me; it releases my stress and helps me better cope with my emotions.”**

K. is a 70-year old community member from Morocco, and one of the Centre's oldest community members. She has been supported by Irida since 2018 during her enormous difficulties navigating the asylum system in Greece. She has applied 4 times in total, receiving rejections, even upon appeal, each time. She has been living in Greece for almost a decade without documents. At the same time, she suffers from multiple health issues while she is getting older.

**Image descriptions:** gardening session, and workshop focused on education, both held at Irida

# Mobile Info Team



MOBILE  
INFO TEAM

**From Jan - June  
2024, MIT reached:**

**4900**

*queries answered  
across message  
hotlines in 6 languages*

**45**

*group information  
sessions held,  
including in hard-to-  
reach refugee camp  
settings, supporting*

**257**

*people with in-person  
legal information*

**50**

*people with legal  
representation across  
28 complex cases*

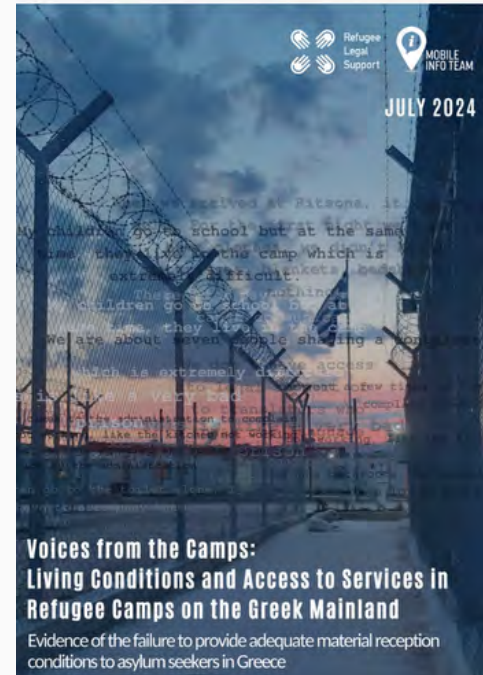
**500,000**

*post reach across  
social media info posts*

Mobile Info Team are also one of SolidariTee's **longest-standing partners**. In addition to their highly impressive reach, supporting people all across Greece and beyond through the provision of tailored information and responses to questions shared via WhatsApp and message hotlines, MIT are widely recognised for their **crucial position within the advocacy landscape** in Greece.

MIT **regularly collaborate** with a range of other NGOs, research groups, and other legal organisations, publishing regular reports and joint statements.

Recent topics covered have included a statement on the **mental health of people detained** under the hostile immigration environment, a joint submission to the **United Nations Human Rights Council** on provisions for supporting survivors of torture, and a **report on conditions in mainland camps**.



**Voices from the Camps:  
Living Conditions and Access to Services in  
Refugee Camps on the Greek Mainland**

Evidence of the failure to provide adequate material reception conditions to asylum seekers in Greece

Above: front cover of the 'Voices from the Camps' report co-authored by Mobile Info Team and Refugee Legal Support, which sheds light on some of the shocking lack of service provision and appalling facilities within many of the 30+ camps and detention centres used to house refugees in Northern Greece.

Shockingly, over 70% of respondents reported that they did not have their basic health care needs met by medical teams operating inside camps, highlighting the importance of research such as this in order to document violations and catalyse advocacy efforts.

# Velos Youth



# VELOS YOUTH

At Velos, our commitment to supporting young refugees extends beyond a one-time consultation or service. We recognize that the legal needs of our beneficiaries are multifaceted and ongoing. Each individual who comes to us receives comprehensive support that spans various stages of the asylum process and beyond. From initial interview preparation to assistance with legal documentation after a decision is issued, our services are designed to provide continuous support.

Velos Youth provide vital support services to young people who are refugees or otherwise new to Greece. In the first six months of 2024, 25% of the people seeking international protection in Greece were minors. Another 55% of people were young people between the ages of 18 - 30, thousands of whom are teenagers and young adults who have been forced to seek safety in Greece alone, or who have already become parents themselves.

By providing a safe space within the centre where young people can eat together, take language classes, receive legal advice and access training and information related to employability, relationships and mental health, Velos work to equip young people to take agency over their lives, and avoid the risks of exploitation and poverty that too many young refugees face.

In Greek, Velos means 'arrow', and this really reflects what the organisation is all about - supporting young people to claim their OWN goals, hopes, and aspirations, in their own way.

From Jan - June

2024, Velos reached:

**62**

*young people with in-depth legal advice, information, and representation across*

**151**

*1:1 sessions, often hosting several consultations with the same young person to ensure that they are fully informed and able to participate in decision-making and claim their rights*

**100%**

*of young people supported to receive or renew their ID card successfully completed the process, essential in avoiding arrest and detention, an accessing work and housing*

# OUR NEW & RENEWED PARTNERSHIPS

Supported in 2024 and 2025

**Within our application cycles for new partners launched at the end of 2023, we were delighted to be able to continue to support the five partners featured on the previous pages, who had also received support from us in the prior grant cycle. In addition, we were pleased to reconnect with two other organisations, Equal Legal Aid and Legal Centre Lesbos, who we had supported in prior years, and to work for the first time with Equal Rights Beyond Borders.**

*Image description: painting of mountains that formed the basis of our 'Dream' tee design*

# Equal Legal Aid



**Equal Legal Aid (ELA)** are a relatively younger organisation, having been formed in 2020, with an impressive reach in **legal aid provision across Northern Greece, a highly underserved region** with many camps located in extremely remote locations. We supported ELA earlier in their journey, and are delighted to be working together again in 2024 and 2025.

In addition to legal representation and information provision, ELA also focus strongly on creating compelling, **accessible awareness-raising and advocacy outputs**. In 2024, they co-produced a series of 11 video interviews with real clients called **'Lost in a Legal Maze'**, which is available on YouTube and across social media channels. These interviews showcase the **bureaucracy, absurdity and downright cruelty of so many administrative decisions** affecting refugees; people shot by authorities at the Greek-Turkish borders and still not provided with support, siblings who have the same story but receive different decisions, and young people unable to attend school or college for years on end due to being caught in a legal catch 22.



Above: screenshot from the YouTube playlist 'Lost in a Legal Maze'

**From Jan - July 2024,  
ELA supported:**

**584**

*people with legal assistance  
across a range of procedures*

**they also conducted:**

**40**

*legal clinics in hard-to-  
reach camps in Northern  
Greece with almost no  
other legal aid provision,  
conducting*

**571**

*legal consultations, including vital  
information provision, interview  
preparation and guidance on  
'admissibility' procedures*

**11**

*joint letters joint denouncing  
violations of the rights of people  
on the move co-signed*

# Equal Rights Beyond Borders

**EQUAL  
RIGHTS**  
*Beyond Borders*

**From Jan - July  
2024, ERBB reached:**

**800**

*people (estimated)  
through legal support  
across 580 cases*

**including**

**80**

*detention cases, where  
the client was released  
in 95% of cases*

**50**

*sexual and gender-  
based violence cases*

**293**

*asylum cases, where  
more than 70% have  
received a positive  
outcome so far*

We are very pleased to be collaborating with Equal Rights Beyond Borders for the first time. ERBB provide legal assistance and representation in **Athens, as well as the islands of Chios and Kos**. People arriving to both of these islands have **extremely limited options**, not only in terms of receiving legal assistance, but also in terms of other fundamental support services such as medical and mental healthcare, and access to safe living conditions.

ERBB also focus on supporting **clients in detention**, and represent clients who are held in pre-removal detention facilities. This is an important part of legal aid in asylum and migration settings that is often not considered - sometimes applying for asylum is not the only hurdle that people on the move will face in Greece, and many find themselves **detained for administrative reasons that are no fault of their own**.

Additionally, Equal Rights Beyond Borders continue to grow their support and expertise in working with clients, often women, who are survivors of **sexual and gender-based violence**. In many cases, people who have experienced this type of abuse also have complex physical and mental health needs, which can be almost impossible to access without support from a lawyer.

The final pillar of ERBB's work focuses on **strategic litigation, in particular in regard to suitable living conditions**. During the reporting period, they brought eight cases in front of the European Court of Human Rights, and continue to produce reports regarding conditions in Kos and elsewhere.



Having supported Legal Centre Lesvos prior to 2023, we are very pleased to again be partnering with them. In addition to supporting people through the asylum procedure itself, LCL also support migrants who have been **wrongly criminalised through political scapegoating**.

In particular, they also **advocate and litigate against illegal collective expulsions or 'pushbacks'** committed in the Aegean Sea by the Greek authorities.

## Case study: Pylos 9 - a landmark case for survivors or border violence

In June 2023, one of the most deadly shipwrecks in the Mediterranean over the past decade took place near the Greek town of Pylos, killing more than 600 people. Evidence rapidly emerged of the **Greek coastguard's own actions and inactions causing this**, including dangerously towing the boat and failing to react quickly to earlier calls for rescue.

Following the shipwreck, from which there were only 104 survivors, the Greek authorities **immediately arrested 9** of the survivors of the shipwreck. **They were accused of:**

- **unauthorised entry to Greece**
- **facilitating illegal entry (smuggling) of foreigners into Greece**
- **membership of a criminal organisation**
- **causing a shipwreck**

It was quickly found by legal defence teams that there was **no legal basis for the charges, and no credible evidence for them**. This highlights the arbitrary nature of criminal charges against migrants as a scapegoat for Greek and EU failures to protect lives.

**'I do not know why I am here. I went from the sea to prison'** - Pylos 9 member

After **almost a year in pre-trial detention** with numerous delays within the Greek court system, in May 2024 the 9 defendants were finally acquitted by the Greek State of smuggling and illegal entry. The Greek state also declared itself incompetent to adjudicate the accusations of membership of a criminal organisation and causing the Pylos shipwreck.

This result is thanks to the **tireless efforts of legal aid defense teams, including lawyers at Legal Centre Lesvos**. However, the story doesn't end here - deemed a 'flight risk' due to a lack of documentation, all 9 were **immediately returned to administrative detention, despite having claimed asylum whilst in prison**. After further efforts of legal aid agencies, all 9 people have **now been released**.

**From Jan - June 2024, LCL reached:**

**281** *people with legal assistance, including*

**147** *individual legal consultations*

**554** *newly arrived asylum seekers to access the asylum procedure, ensuring illegal pushbacks are avoided*

# SolidariTee Funding Overview

During the 23-24 academic year, **we completed our previous £115,000 grant cycle** by transferring all remaining funding, and then **launched a new, two-year grant cycle of £185,000**. Because different partners have different agreed timelines for funds to be transferred, and because this varies slightly according to SolidariTee's own income-generation timeline, some partners did not begin to receive funds until after the end of this year.

Organisation Name	Received funding in 2023-24 financial year?	Partners in 2024-25 financial year?
<b>AMERA International</b>	YES	AMERA have ceased independent operations, but SolidariTee hosts and manages resources associated with the SolidariTee-funded programme: <b>Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model</b>
<b>Defence for Children International - Greece</b>	YES	YES
<b>Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid</b>	YES	YES
<b>Equal Legal Aid</b>	No - but have been supported in previous years	YES
<b>Equal Rights Beyond Borders</b>	No - new partner	YES
<b>Irida Women's Center</b>	YES	YES
<b>Legal Centre Lesbos</b>	No - but have been supported in previous years	YES
<b>Mobile Information Team</b>	YES	YES
<b>Velos Youth</b>	YES	YES

# Other Collaborations

In July, Defence for Children International - Greece hosted a summer school covering the topic '**Refugee Law in Theory and Practice**'. This 5-day intensive course was aimed at young professionals and students focused on a career in humanitarian response, legal aid, or working in policy and advocacy connected to migration and displacement. We were very pleased that almost half of programme participants were either current SolidariTee volunteers or had heard about the programme via SolidariTee. To us, this demonstrated our role in providing routes for **those exploring future career avenues** to access meaningful opportunities for learning and development, and fostering **knowledge exchange between grassroots NGO leaders and emerging professionals**.

The sessions brought together expert speakers including representatives from **UNHCR, Médecins Sans Frontières** (Doctors Without Borders), and those working within the community centre **Parea Lesvos**, one of the only places within walking distance from Lesvos' refugee camp where people living in the camp can access services such as laundry, hot meals, and legal information. The DCI-Greece team also provided **in-depth technical training** around the **legal process** of seeking asylum, and around the **structural barriers** that people, especially children and parents, face within it. Alexa (volunteer CEO) was also invited to speak about how to incorporate **accountability to affected** people, and to understand more about how **subjective assessments of credibility** by asylum authorities impact our clients.



In June, Alexa was invited to Switzerland to speak at the **Leysin American School's Summer Programme** known as ICE (Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship). Bringing together students from across the globe aged 9-16, the programme focuses on **building skills** needed for careers that make a positive difference. The SolidariTee-focused sessions focused on understanding what accountability to affected people means in practice, and on exploring the **ethical dilemmas** that certain models of fundraising can bring.

**Image descriptions (top to bottom):** Summer Academy students walking to a seminar in Parea Lesvos, a community centre where people living in Lesvos' refugee camp can access basic services, with the camp visible in the distance (1), photos from Summer Academy Sessions (2&3), view of the village of Leysin, Switzerland (4)

# Looking Ahead

## *Reflections on our future strategy & team*

In the 2024-25 academic year, we launched our **new 2024-26 strategy**. It focuses on **supporting our NGO partners**, and the wider sector as a whole, through a variety of means **in parallel to our funding streams**, including training opportunities and support with coordination.

We also seek to **be bold in our approach to raising awareness of issues affecting refugees**, and in highlighting the link between global humanitarian crises and people seeking safety in Greece, the UK and elsewhere.

Given the increasing need for our work, a key pillar of our strategy also relates to **organisational resilience**, in particular given the nature of our volunteer community leading to a high turnover at the end of each academic year.

To that end, in addition to our volunteer CEO Alexa, we are delighted that fellow board trustee and former SolidariTee student volunteer Izzy Ponsonby has also taken on the role of **volunteer operations manager**. This new role will support the setup and coordination of regional and central teams in the 2024-25 academic year, and work with the CEO to support and provide **leadership coaching and guidance** to our student presidents and university team leads.



Alexa has been leading SolidariTee for the past five years, since she was a full-time student. She currently works in humanitarian programme quality & accountability, and is studying part-time for a Masters in Global Health.



Izzy started volunteering with SolidariTee in 2021 as an Events Coordinator for the Newcastle team, and then was Director of Outreach from 2022 to 2023. She was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2023 and currently works as a judicial clerk in the Court of Appeal.

SolidariTee currently has a board of 11 trustees, consisting of 5 people who volunteered with SolidariTee as students, and six 'independent' trustees bringing experience working at refugee support NGOs, and in other charitable organisations. Our board includes those with lived and family experience of forced migration, and meets at least quarterly, though frequently more often.

# Student Presidents 24-25

*Tenley Fuentes Lema and Hannah Rand*

## **Tenley Fuentes Lema**

*Tenley volunteered with SolidariTee in the 23-24 academic year on the SolidariTee York team, and subsequently joined the Central Team to be part of the organising committee for our 2024 annual conference.*

**What did you enjoy most about organising and participating in the annual conference, and why do you think SolidariTee's conferences are important?**



Helping out in the organisation of the annual conference was the highlight of the last year I've had with SolidariTee. It exemplified one of the best SolidariTee values - community. As students, it may at times feel as though we are part of many communities with few overlapping. SolidariTee, for me, has been one which is there regardless of other factors, and by participating in the conference I felt welcomed and supported. Being empowered to take on responsibility in organising the conference improved my personal confidence and public speaking skills, for which I am very grateful. The sense of community which is highlighted by the conference and opportunity for personal development which then contributes back to further activism is why I believe SolidariTee's annual conference is so vital.

**What is your favourite tee design, and why?**

My favourite tee design is the 'Dream' collection. As with all our tees, every aspect of the design has meaning behind it and with the Dream tee specifically I love the symbolism of the mountains and how they are a reminder that dreams can also be a form of defiance and resistance. A further reason I love this particular tee, outside of the design, is the fact that it was the first tee I bought. Throughout my first year at SolidariTee my friends and flatmates bought this tee so that we all had matching ones! This also symbolises to me the impact of the tees as I witnessed them spread across campus.

**What are you most looking forward to doing in your president role?**

I am most looking forward to building and developing a sense of community within SolidariTee. I would love to continue to build cross-regional team connections which I truly believe lead to more effective activism. In an increasingly hostile environment it can be difficult to feel as though our actions are having a tangible impact. I hope that by fostering SolidariTee's community each volunteer is aware that we are there to support them and that their actions have a positive impact.

# Student Presidents 24-25

Tenley Fuentes Lema and Hannah Rand



## Hannah Rand

*Hannah was the team lead for SolidariTee Liverpool in the 23-24 academic year, bringing experience leading the organisation of creative fundraisers and developing engaging social media content to raise the profile of our work.*

### **What skills or positive experiences did you gain from being a team lead with SolidariTee?**

In terms of skills I learnt, I think organising other people was the biggest one. It's fairly easy to organise yourself but coordinating multiple people with different schedules can be quite challenging. Learning how to motivate myself and others was another. I think my most positive experience was doing the team photoshoots. It was really nice to get to know people at different stages in their uni life and all have a good laugh while taking photos in the cold weather.

### **What was your favourite event or initiative that you were part of with the Liverpool team, and why?**

My favourite event was the bake stall because it was so successful. It also started conversations on campus within other societies and the wider community. I think the best initiative was creating an on-campus presence for Soli when there wasn't one initially amongst newer students. Starting the conversation on refugee rights was as rewarding as any event was, if not more so.

### **What are you excited to do as president this year?**

What I'm excited to do as president is support other teams in achieving their goals and also create a campus platform for people with lived experiences, whether that be students or just members of the public. I also want to allow teams to be creative and have fun with fundraising on the regional level but also carry that sense of community throughout solidaritee, on the central team.

# Risk Analysis & Mitigation

*An insight into how we review the risks associated with our work*

Risk Type	Description of Impact	Mitigation Measures
<b>Operational</b>	SolidariTee lacks the organisational capacity to deliver on our mission	Robust volunteer development plan in place, expertise amongst trustees and leadership team provides continuity, strategy and workplan for 2024-26 developed and implemented, organisational knowledge documented and retained
<b>Financial</b>	Inability to provide adequate funding to NGO partners	Clarity through signed agreements with partners about expected funding, clear communication regarding payment timelines, diversified fundraising efforts through t-shirts, events, donations and partnerships
<b>Governance</b>	Failure to implement key governance protocols results in harm to the charity	Review of risk register following any key developments, quarterly review of policies and procedures, proactive and timely reporting submissions to ensure all charity compliance requirements met
<b>Reputational</b>	Adverse event affecting SolidariTee or partners harms trust in our work	Robust due diligence prior to signing agreements with partners, regular reporting from partners with required disclosures regarding serious incidents, ongoing proactive support to partners regarding safeguarding, ethical social media training offered to all volunteers, mechanisms for secure and transparent income channels for student donations
<b>External</b>	SolidariTee's mission is no longer relevant or supported amongst the public and student community  OR  Dramatic change in operating environment means partners struggle to deliver programmes	To a certain extent, a lack of awareness and political will around supporting displaced people in the Mediterranean and UK is exactly why we exist. We are expert in raising awareness and in uniting young people in support of fundamental rights for all, and continue to adapt our communications and volunteer engagement strategies to ensure that we remain relevant and engaging.  We also maintain ongoing communication with partners and ongoing monitoring of the context in Greece, supporting them to adapt their programmes should access constraints change. We are able to remain agile should programme needs and opportunities change

# Accounts & Reserves

*Because our grant timelines don't correspond to our financial years, 'mapping' our grant cycles onto our annual accounts doesn't always show the complete picture of our partnership approach, and our financial achievements and obligations. As such, the information on page 32, and on this page, should be reviewed in conjunction with our annual accounts set out on pages 40-44 to provide a more detailed overview. As a board, we track our financial and grant-giving progress carefully, as well as reviewing reporting on our partners' achievements which is submitted twice yearly at a minimum.*

*We have successfully completed all previous grant cycles since SolidariTee was set up as a charity, and are confident that we will also successfully transfer all funding within this grant cycle. At the time of publishing this report (December 2024), we have transferred over £35,000 in funding under our active grant agreements.*

## **Account Preparation**

Unlike in previous years, this year we are presenting our accounts as receipts and payments accounts, using cash accounting as opposed to accruals accounting. What this means is that income received during the year, and grant payments made during the year are reflected, but money owed to SolidariTee, and funds awarded at the end of the year are not shown directly in the accounts. Details of grants awarded and paid are shown in a note on page xx. The previous year's figures have been adjusted to reflect this basis of accounting and are therefore different from those in last year's annual report. All organisations featured in pages 22-30 will continue to receive funds from SolidariTee in the subsequent financial year.

SolidariTee has a subsidiary trading company, which trades in our custom-made SolidariTee t-shirts, and donates profits to the charity. These monies 'owed' to the charity are also not reflected in the accounts.

With extremely low overheads, relatively predictable timing for student fundraising-driven income (even if amounts themselves are not predictable), and partnership agreements that allow for fluctuation in precise timings of grant payments if necessary, our priority is to transfer as much funding as possible to NGOs, especially given the deteriorating context for the people they support.

# Accounts & Reserves

## Reserves Policy

Previously, our policy was to hold at all times either £30,000, or 3 months worth of future grant instalments as free reserves. In practice, we found that this ran contra to our principles, and to the needs of our partners, given that our non-negotiable operating costs are really limited to essentials such as insurance, web hosting, and accountancy fees, totalling just a few hundred each year.

As such, our reserves policy is now to hold at least three months of **core costs** (i.e. excluding grants or event costs), totalling approximately £500. At the end of the 23-24 financial year, our reserves were £600, though we received more than £6000 in income during of the first month of the subsequent financial year. Our trading company account held more than £5000, the majority of which could be transferred immediately if required.

As such, though our longer-term strategy will focus on increasing our reserves in order to be able to react more quickly with our funding to changes in needs and context, we have chosen to base our reserves policy around our current core costs. Instead, the trustees review available cash, and cashflow forecasts at least quarterly against grant payment timelines, with our priority being to deliver on the overall programme portfolio, making timely adjustments if needed.



*Image description: SolidariTee 'team day' to welcome new volunteers for the 2024-25 academic year*

# **SolidariTee**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 July 2024**

The narrative report on pages xx to xx along with the formal details below form the trustees' annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

#### **Name**

Alexa Netty  
Sarah Davidson  
Rebecca Young  
Isabella Ponsonby  
Louisa Cowell  
Robert Durgut  
Maya Kerbellec  
Mulumbeni Phiri  
Sara Poursafar  
Nausikaa Reimers  
Dara Snead

#### **Charity number**

1182195

Registered in England and Wales

#### **Registered and principal address**

16 Lache Lane  
Chester  
CH4 7LR

#### **Bankers**

The Co-Operative Bank Plc  
PO Box 250  
Skelmerdale  
WN8 6WT

#### **Independent examiner**

Rachel Cooper FCA

#### **Welbeck**

29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

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

SolidariTee is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1182195, its members are its trustees. Its governing document is a constitution registered 25th February 2019, and amended 1 Aug 2021.

#### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the existing trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

**Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education and human rights, and relief of poverty. This is achieved through our awareness raising activities here in the UK, as well as our work to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid. In doing so, our work ensures that refugees are able to access their rights and are prevented from falling into destitution and poverty after receiving unjust rejections on their asylum claims or receiving inadequate mental health support following the persecution and trauma that a great many asylum seekers have faced. It also ensures that the public are informed about refugee issues in the UK and worldwide.

**Financial review**

**Reserves policy**

Our reserves policy is set out in more detail on page 38 of this report. Our spending this year was £80,470 and our income was £62,447. This is accounted for by differences in grant payment schedules that do not align to the financial year, and to a relatively large amount of cash funds at the start of the financial year (£18,000). Our reserve level at the end of the year (£600), covers our essential core costs for three months if required, and we received more than £6000 in income in the first month of the subsequent financial year.

**Going Concern**

The trustees have deemed SolidariTee to be a going concern for the financial year 2024/25. With no paid staff or office space, with comparatively very low reserves compared to larger charities, we are able to sustain core operations for several months, and at the time of publishing this report (December 2024), we have successfully commenced a new academic year of fundraising and provided over £35,000 to date within our current grant cycle.

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board of trustees on



Signed: ..... (Trustee)

Name: ...Dr Alexa Netty VetMB.....

**SolidariTee**  
**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of SolidariTee**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024, which are set out on pages 40 to 44.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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.

**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:

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  .....

Name: Rachel Cooper FCA

Date: 30/12/24 .....

**Welbeck**  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST



# SolidariTee

## Notes to the accounts continued

### for the year ended 31 July 2024

#### 1 Grant making

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Total funding pledged under active grant agreements</b>		
Defence for Children International - Greece	25,000	15,000
Equal Legal Aid	25,000	-
Equal Rights Beyond Borders	10,000	-
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid	25,000	20,000
Irida Centre	25,000	15,000
Legal Centre Lesbos	25,000	-
Mobile Info Team	25,000	15,000
Velos Youth	25,000	15,000
AMERA International	-	15,000
Congolese Community of Greece	-	10,000
Asylum Seekers Information Services Team	-	10,000
Total	185,000	115,000
Grants payable in the year	20,000	64,752
Provisions at 31 July 2023	50,000	-
Grants paid during the year	(69,763)	(64,752)
Exchange differences	(237)	(248)
Provisions at 31 July 2024	165,000	50,000
Expected to be paid		
Within one year	95,000	50,000
After more than one year	75,000	-

Provisions for grants at 31 July 2024 are expected to be paid on achievement of satisfactory performance by grantees, and raising of funds by Solidaritee. A break clause is written into all grants in the event that monies are not available at the time of expected donation.

#### 2 Related party transactions

##### Trustee expenses

Trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £400 (2023:£nil)

##### Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

All those forced to flee their homes across borders are treated with dignity, respect and compassion. Refugees seeking safety in Europe have access to holistic, trauma-informed support services including access to legal assistance.

Young people across the UK display solidarity with refugees and continually advocate against the hostile environment in the UK and Europe, contributing to public pressure and policy change in favour of a more compassionate, welcoming society towards refugees.

**Long-term vision**

Refugees in Greece have greater availability of, and access to, trauma-informed legal-aid and mental health support services, which is of an increasingly high quality.

Students and young people are empowered with accurate information about refugees, and with improved opportunities to develop skills relevant to activism, charity & humanitarian work that supports refugees and migrants.

There are greater connections and increased opportunities for idea-sharing and capacity-building across the refugee support and legal aid space in the UK, Greece and beyond.

Humanitarian actors in Greece are better equipped and supported to respond to shocks, continually improve their services, and maintain safe, quality programming

**Tangible Changes**

Partnership with NGOs providing legal aid and mental health support to refugees by:

- channelling high-quality, flexible funding to grassroots NGOs
- providing capacity-strengthening, coordination & governance support

Student fundraising & events

Volunteer training & capacity building

Conferences, outreach & social media

**Activities**



## Pillar 1: Trauma-informed legal aid

We will continue to increase and improve the provision of **legal aid, with mental health support**, for refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants in vulnerable situations in Greece. We will support legal aid actors in Greece, the UK and beyond to strengthen their **capacity to adopt trauma-informed approaches**.



## Pillar 2: Outreach, Education & Convening

We will provide **high-quality information and education** about lasting, compassionate solutions to support people forced to flee their homes. Specifically, we will:

- **counter myths and harmful stereotypes** about refugees and migrants
- raise awareness of what the **'hostile environment'** is, and the importance of ending it
- raise awareness of the importance of increasing the availability of **safe routes and holistic support** for refugees
- where appropriate, convene other actors in support of these efforts, and contribute to other **collaborative advocacy efforts**



## Pillar 3: Platforming Young Activists

We will empower **young people with skills and positive experiences of volunteering and charity work**, and equip them with the tools to continue to advocate for refugee rights. We will continue to **create a vehicle** through SolidariTee through which young people can **contribute to tangible, lasting change** for refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations.



## Pillar 4: Resilient & organisationally sustainable ways of working

We will enhance and maintain ways of working that ensure that we can **continue to deliver impact** throughout the strategic period and beyond, remaining stable amongst a changing context and regular volunteer turnover.

# Pillar 1: trauma-informed legal aid

We will continue to increase and improve the provision of legal aid, with mental health support, for refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants in vulnerable situations in Greece. We will support legal aid actors in Greece, the UK and beyond to strengthen their capacity to adopt trauma-informed approaches.

We will do this by.....

Providing flexible, high-quality grant funding that supports best practices across legal aid and mental health and psychosocial (MHPSS) programming, and contributes to organisational resilience

Providing training, capacity building and advocacy to improve and facilitate the adoption of trauma-informed approaches to refugee support

Using our position as a funder to contribute to positive change by continuing to advocate for coordinated, complementary support services, respond to safeguarding concerns quickly and appropriately, and support interagency collaboration

# Pillar 2: outreach, education & convening

We will provide high-quality information and education about lasting, compassionate solutions to support people forced to flee their homes. Specifically, we will:

- counter myths and harmful stereotypes about refugees and migrants
- raise awareness of what the 'hostile environment' is, and the importance of ending it , and the importance of ending it
- raise awareness of the importance of increasing the availability of safe routes and holistic support for refugees
- where appropriate, convene other actors in support of these efforts, and contribute to other collaborative advocacy efforts

We will do this by.....

Ensuring volunteers are provided with ongoing, relevant, and engaging information about refugees and forced displacement that they can share within and across the student body and the communities that they are a part of

Hosting high quality conferences and other events aimed at sparking conversations and sharing information about the challenges experienced by refugees and asylum seekers, and the work being done to change this, bringing together a diverse array of groups and individuals working on, and with lived experience of, support services for refugees

Developing and building our online brand and following to reach a wider audience with high quality, digestible information about the diversity of refugee experiences, and practical ways to contribute to a world in which refugees are treated with dignity

# Pillar 3: platforming young activists

We will empower young people with skills and positive experiences of volunteering and charity work, and equip them with the tools to continue to advocate for refugee rights. We will continue to create a vehicle through SolidariTee through which young people can contribute to tangible, lasting change for refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations.

We will do this by.....

Ensuring volunteers are supported and encouraged to take ownership of their own goals within fundraising and advocacy spaces, through values-led leadership structures equipped with adequate capacity

Remaining relevant and impactful within the student community by speaking out boldly in the face of anti-refugee rhetoric in line with our guiding principles, and demonstrating considered, collaborative leadership and ethics across communications & programmes relating to refugees and displaced people

Communicate the success and impact of our work clearly, ensuring clear brand and mission understanding, and proactively communicating the interconnected nature of our programming in Greece and advocacy in the UK within the wider political and global humanitarian landscape

# Pillar 4: resilient and organisationally sustainable ways of working

Pillar 4: We will develop and maintain sustainable ways of working to ensure that we can continue to deliver impact throughout the strategic period and beyond.

We will do this by.....

Developing innovative approaches to retaining knowledge and building on successes year-on-year amidst academic year and volunteer turnover

Diversifying the ways in which we raise funds and connect with supporters

Delivering on ambitious targets whilst managing risk and wellbeing, ensuring a memorable and enjoyable volunteer experience alongside enabling each volunteer to contribute to tangible, meaningful change



*image: young person at SolidariTee partner Velos Youth*

# Thank You

We remain incredibly grateful to all our current and past supporters, as well as to all of those organisations and groups collaborating with us in the coming academic year. Mostly, we extend our enormous admiration and gratitude to each and every student volunteer who has made the choice to stand up for what they believe in, even when this is at odds with the rhetoric that many have grown up hearing all their lives.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please don't hesitate to email [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk), or visit our website to learn more.

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

 [@teesofsolidarity](https://www.instagram.com/teesofsolidarity)

 [SolidariTee](https://www.facebook.com/SolidariTee)

 [SolidariTeeUK](https://twitter.com/SolidariTeeUK)

**SOLIDARITEE**



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

**SOLIDARITEE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1182195

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report 2022-23



*Hard copies are printed on recycled paper. We are committed to ensuring accessibility within all of our operations, and online versions can be shared in plain or large-text format for those would benefit from this.*

## Key Figures

*In the 2022 - 2023 academic year*

# £115,000

**committed in funding for trauma-informed legal aid and mental health support services**

# 270

**student volunteers equipped with knowledge and skills to advocate for refugee rights**



# 93,000

**accounts reached with infographics and educational content across Instagram and Facebook**

## Our Partners

*Between January and July 2023, here are just some of the achievements of our partner organisations....*

# 750

people were supported with legal support and case management relating to themselves or an immediate family member

# 2500

people received support via online chat and hotline channels, answering key queries from people who may otherwise have no access to a lawyer

# 126

people received 1:1 support from a psychologist, helping them to process their experiences, cope with the symptoms of PTSD and other mental health conditions, and navigate their legal process

# 800

people attended group legal information sessions, informing them of their rights and what will be required of them within the asylum process



## Who We Are: Mission, Vision and Values

SolidariTee is a charity led by students and young people, all of whom are currently volunteers, working to make **lasting, dignified change in the way refugees and other forcibly displaced people are treated in the UK and Europe.**

Our vision is a world in which **every person forced to flee their home because of who they are or what they believe has access to their fundamental legal and human rights,** and is able to receive the necessary support to rebuild their life, family and community in peace and safety.

Our mission is to further a **lasting, compassionate solution to the 'refugee crisis' in Europe by enhancing the provision of holistic, accessible services for those navigating the asylum system.** We do this in two ways: (1) by working with grassroots NGO partners in Greece to provide trauma-informed legal aid and mental health support, and (2) by equipping students with the tools, knowledge and confidence to dismantle the hostile environment and stand up for refugee rights.

With increasingly **hostile environments and borders, and no state-provided legal aid,** our work is perhaps more important now than ever, with thousands of people forced to live in overcrowded camps, held in detention centres, or sleeping in the open. We are the **only funder in the region specifically focused on trauma-informed legal aid, and on bridging the gap between legal aid and mental health support,** and have seen incredible impacts from the implementation of our trauma-informed strategy for refugees and asylum seekers suffering from the effects of PTSD and other conditions.

We currently have **more than 200 volunteers across over 20 universities,** who host conferences, podcasts, and carry out other awareness-raising and advocacy activities within their local and student communities. They also fundraise to support our local partners in Greece, through a combination of events and through the sale of our custom-made t-shirts designed by artists who are themselves refugees.

We hope you enjoy reading this report, and welcome any questions or feedback that you may have.





## Dear all,

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report, covering the 2022-23 academic year. More than eight years on from 2015, the year that the 'refugee crisis' in Europe reached its height of media attention and charitable support, people are often surprised that SolidariTee still exists. Partly, they are surprised that there is still a need for our work, but many times onlookers also question how we have succeeded in achieving our objectives for so many years, in the face of dwindling media attention and, with each passing year, a younger generation of students who may not even really remember the news headlines of that year.

What many people don't realise is that the necessity for legal aid never had all that much to do with the number of arrivals, nor with media attention. In 2023 alone, at least 48,000 people reached Greece in search of safety, most of whom will find themselves in refugee camps, detention centres, or sleeping on the streets. With the handful of legal aid and mental health NGOs that exist, it is already impossible to provide the support needed to prevent unjust deportations, abuse, and detention for even half of these people, never mind when international border mechanisms and conflict escalations lead to even larger numbers of people who make it to Greece in search of safety. The humanitarian context is so underfunded in Greece that the need for grassroots NGO services has never gone away, and we are one of, if not the only funder specifically supporting trauma-informed legal aid designed to be holistic, dignified and empowering.

Still with no paid staff, and having been able to provide £115,000 in grant funding over 12 months (Dec 22 - Nov 23), the only good answer to the other question people ask, as to how we have continued to deliver on our aims, was shared with me by a previous student director in the form of a movie quote on the next page. Ultimately, no generation of young people ever has really cared about what the voices of authority think is impossible.

*\*due to pushbacks and obstacles to registering an asylum application, the real number is likely far higher*

Unlike other charities with a campus presence, whose operations and cashflow don't live and die by their student chapters, our student teams make up SolidariTee's bread and butter. Whilst that can make things hard at times - we're all young, at very transient life stages, and figuring things out as we go - there is a unique grit, determination, and sense of energy found within a community of young volunteers and activists. Though the student spaces we operate in are often somewhat more privileged, this driving force for change is replicated all over the world by other young organisers and change-makers, often working in much more difficult conditions than us, and we draw inspiration and motivation from them constantly.

So, when the political landscape has become ever more hostile towards refugees, survivors of trafficking, and others forced to leave everything behind, and the public's attention is pulled to other crises, we have stayed. Together, we have provided life-altering support to people in a context that almost no-one outside of the Greek humanitarian landscape is talking about.

We remain eternally grateful to all of our supporters, volunteers and community members, and hope that the following pages will give you a sense of our work and our impact. In particular, a huge thank you to Louisa Cowell & Beth Molyneux, student presidents in the 22-23 academic year, without whom none of SolidariTee's work would have been possible.

Thanks for reading,



**Alexa Netty, CEO**



*Alexa has volunteered with SolidariTee since 2019, and works full-time in a humanitarian programme quality and accountability role. She holds degrees in psychology, neuroscience & behaviour, and in veterinary medicine, and has specific expertise in trauma-informed humanitarian response.*

“

*“According to all known laws of aviation, there is no way a bee should be able to fly. It's wings are too small to get its fat little body off the ground.*

*The bee, of course, flies anyway, because bees don't care what humans think is impossible.”*

*-Narrator, The Bee Movie*”

## From our communities

”

Thank you for helping me to solve this problem. Now, I will be **able to reunite with my children** and bring them to live with me, here, in Greece. **There is nothing more important for me at the moment.**



“

Finally, I was empowered and strong to report the incident to the police and denounce my husband for his violent behavior against me. **I am grateful to the lawyers for their patience and help (...)**

Legal aid doesn't exist in a vacuum; families, children and the lasting effects of previous experiences often profoundly affect a person's experience of seeking safety in Greece.

Both of these quotes and image come from the Irida Women's Centre, one of our 2023 grant partners. Irida operate a community centre in Northern Greece, specifically supporting self-identifying women over the age of 18. The centre is near to approximately 30 refugee camps in remote areas, as well as a large refugee population living in urban areas.

They operate a child-safe space within their centre, and work with clients who frequently deal with legal and protection issues such as domestic violence and child custody disputes.

## Q&A with our student leaders

### Q: why do you think it's important to volunteer (if you can) whilst at uni?

"Obviously as students, we're often balancing lots of things and it can feel hard to find the time to fit in volunteering. But we also have to remember that we're in a really privileged position globally to be able to take 3-4 years to study something we love, and make memories and friends at the same time."

The great thing about SolidariTee is that it's designed to work around a student schedule, so it's best suited to making an impact in the time you have available. For me, it was the perfect way to mobilise the privilege I had as a student to actually make a difference, and at the same time it contributed to much to my overall uni experience, bringing me into contact with so many amazing people and allowing me to build so many new skills."

### Q: what skills did you build or develop whilst volunteering with Soli?

"SolidariTee exposed me to the internal workings of an international charity, from finance to comms to strategy and education. It gave me a chance to manage projects, create content, build organisational strategy, and organise events. On the 'softer' side of things, it honed my communication skills, made me multi-task like a pro, and educated me about the refugee context in Greece, and the value of legal and psychosocial aid."

### Q: what makes SolidariTee unique?

**The people:** SolidariTee attracts such a wonderful group of hard-working, principled, passionate people who it's a joy to work with.

**The mechanism:** you're contributing directly to change in a very sustainable way.

**The flexibility:** you can make your work with SolidariTee what you like, you get out of it what you put in and it's designed to fit around your uni workload and other commitments."



*The answers to this Q&A were shared by Beth Molyneux, who was student vice-president during the 22-23 academic year, and previously team lead for Oxford. Having graduated from her Masters, she now works at an international humanitarian NGO.*

# Our approach to grant funding

In Autumn 2022, we launched applications for SolidariTee grant funding. We set up a designated grant committee comprised of both trustees and independent reviewers, and selected 8 organisations to receive grant funding out of 27 applicants.

During this grant cycle, we made a shift from focusing solely on legal aid, to seeking specifically to **bridge the gap between legal aid and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**. As such, we were particularly interested in working with partners throughout 2023 who are taking trauma-informed approaches to providing legal aid, and who were including or collaborating with dedicated mental health services to provide more holistic support to their clients. You can read more about this in our 2023 grant information pack\*.

**Trauma informed approaches** take into account the impact that trauma may have had on the way a person experiences the world, and the challenges they may be facing, long after the trauma itself has happened. It is generally grounded in a strengths-based approach, which emphasises **the resilience and individuality** of the person being supported, and which recognises the brain's responses to trauma as being the best responses to cope and survive with unimaginable pain and suffering, as opposed to being dysfunctional or 'bad' coping mechanisms.

Not everyone who is forced to flee persecution shows symptoms of post-traumatic stress (PTSD), but almost everyone has experienced horrific and **overwhelmingly frightening events**, either in the country from which they fled, or on the deadly journeys in search of safety, where abuse and violence are commonplace.

\*available on the 'apply for a grant' page of our website

Shockingly, a 2022 study **found that almost two thirds (64%)** of Syrian refugees in Greece who participated in the research were diagnosed with PTSD, a condition that frequently brings intense fear, flashbacks, disrupted sleep, and re-activation of their traumatic memories in any situation where the context is similar to the one where the trauma occurred.

Unfortunately, the asylum process, in Greece and in other countries, is woefully ill-equipped to support people who have experienced trauma, despite this often being integral to an asylum seekers' experience.

A person who has a panic attack, cries, or can't bring themselves to share the microscopic level of detail required about what happened to them with a stranger in their interview is likely to receive a rejection within their asylum application, for an **'inconsistent' or 'not credible' story**.

A person who is seeking asylum on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity, and who has been forced to conceal this due to risks to their life, is equally likely to receive a rejection if their internalised shame or fear of retribution lead them not to be able to share details about their life and partners.

And unfortunately, a person who is one of the lucky few in Greece who is able to access legal aid from an NGO may still be at risk of re-traumatisation, since the process involves **recounting the persecution** a person has fled in detailed chronological order to allow the legal team to support them in gathering evidence and presenting their story in a way that will be permitted by the asylum authorities.

For all of these reasons, and in particular through consultation and innovation amongst many of our grassroots partners, it became clear that the legal-mental health barrier was one that needed to be bridged.

*Source: Theofanidis, D., Karavasileiadou, S., & Almegewly, W. H. (2022). Post-traumatic stress disorder among Syrian refugees in Greece. *Frontiers in psychiatry*, 13, 911642.*

# Who we supported

Having focused our funding strategy on organisations who could move the needle in the humanitarian legal & protection landscape towards a more trauma informed approach, we chose organisations who complemented each other in terms of service provision, geographic coverage, and target population.

Some of our 2023 partners were most expert in supporting asylum seeking children and parents; others supported primarily young men and boys aged 16-25, a group often vilified and denied services. Still others focused on supporting women, or people of diverse sexual and gender identities, whilst a final partner, AMERA International, ran a training programme focussed on 'trauma-informed lawyering' to raise collective capacity and knowledge base across the whole legal space.

In total, £115,000 was disbursed within the grant cycle. Due to the differing timing of each organisations' programme, funding was received at different times, and 6-monthly progress reports are in turn received at different times. This means that the actual impact that our partners were able to create was far higher than fits neatly into our annual report period, but we have provided key statistics from within this time period to give a detailed sense of the scale of their work.

We really hope you enjoy reading more about the real-world difference that each organisation has made, and are happy to answer any questions that readers may have.

Whilst our funding has, in most cases, been used to cover the salary of a lawyer, psychologist or caseworker, we do not generally 'restrict' income for a specific use, and all of our partners receive funding from multiple sources. As such, we don't try to make claims that directly attribute the support that any client/s receive to SolidariTee specifically, but instead focus on the totality of what is made possible.

# Our 2023 Partners

*Read on for a detailed update per partner....*

Organisation Name	Period covered by SolidariTee funding	Region of Greece	Type of service provided	Type of client supported
<b>AMERA International</b>	Jan - Dec 2023		AMERA hosted a 9 month training programme called the Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model, focused on building the capacity of asylum lawyers to support people who have experienced complex trauma.	
<b>Congolese Community of Greece</b>	Jan - Oct 2023	Athens	SolidariTee supported CCGreece to employ a social worker, supporting clients with administrative challenges relating to asylum registration, application or renewal of documents, and training and support relating to the importance of mental health	People living in refugee camps near Athens or urban housing, including families and people seeking employment
<b>DCI Greece</b>	Jan - Jun 2023	Athens & Lesbos	DCI Greece provide holistic case management, which can include 1:1 or group mental health sessions alongside legal representation and support at all stages of the process	Children (both unaccompanied and accompanied) and families, in particular survivors or those at risk of FGM, trafficking and torture
<b>Fenix</b>	Jan- Dec 2023	Athens & Lesbos	Fenix provide holistic legal aid, incorporating a mixed team of lawyers, psychologists and social workers, alongside a dedicated advocacy team	Clients with additional vulnerabilities, in particular children wrongly classified as adults, people seeking asylum on the basis of their sexual or gender identity, people with disabilities or complex medical conditions, and survivors of torture and modern-day slavery
<b>Irida Women's Center</b>	Jan- Dec 2023	Thessaloniki (Northern Mainland)	Irida facilitate a safe community space where women receive 1:1 legal aid, inclusive of court representation, and mental health support. The center operates a Child's Safe Space for young children, enabling mothers to have private time and space to have their legal appointments and focus on their wellbeing.	Self-identifying women, including single mothers with infants, refugee women experiencing domestic violence in Greece, and mothers experiencing barriers to custody of their children
<b>Mobile Info Team</b>	Jan- Dec 2023	Thessaloniki (Northern Mainland)	MIT focus on communication with displaced communities, reaching tens of thousands of people through social media and hotlines, as well as providing legal case support for high-risk individuals	Clients who have experienced multiple unjust rejections, who are at risk of detention or deportation, and who are undocumented due to system failures
<b>Velos Youth</b>	Jan 2023 - Feb 2024	Athens	Velos also operate a safe space for teenagers and young people who have fled, often without their families, and provide tailored legal support and advice relating to the asylum system as well as employment & transition to adulthood support	Young people aged 16-25 years old, often who have been left without support for years

*SolidariTee began distributing funding under this grant cycle in December 2022. By the end of this reporting period in July 2023, SolidariTee had provided £65,000 of the total funding pledged, which rose to £115,000 by November 2023.*

*During the reporting period, SolidariTee also provided funding to A.Ss.I.S.T., bringing our total number of partners supported to 8. This partnership ended earlier than the others, and as such there is no reporting to share specific to this period.*



# AMERA International

SolidariTee were delighted to work with AMERA as our training partner in 2023. AMERA designed and delivered a **9-month training programme** focused on 'trauma-informed lawyering' which was closely aligned to SolidariTee's response strategy. The programme aimed to **build the knowledge and capacity of legal professionals** and organisations in supporting people who have experienced trauma or who have **mental health needs within a legal setting**.

The course was based upon a framework known as the Therapeutic Legal Assistance Model that the AMERA team extensively researched and developed in-house, with the delivery of the 2023 course in partnership with SolidariTee being the **first time globally** that the programme had been offered.

The programme featured sessions covering topics including:

- legal submissions addressing mental health
- psychological effects and legal consequences
- case management and coordination
- representing survivors of torture
- vicarious (second hand) trauma
- accessible legal services for refugees with mental health needs


The training ran from April to November 2023, and consisted of 16 sessions. The **entire course was free of charge and fully funded** by SolidariTee, with 24 participants being accepted onto the programme. Participants worked at legal NGOs across the Greek islands and mainland, and consisted mostly of Greek lawyers.


This was the first time that SolidariTee had engaged in more **innovative funding approaches** designed to provide opportunities for **legal and humanitarian professionals to learn from and with each other** within a structured programme delivered by expert facilitators.


Our objective was to create lasting impact which **raises the standard of legal representation for clients across the entirety of Greece**, whilst also supporting the legal NGO community to build their own professional skills within an incredibly difficult operating context.

At the mid-point review and progress report in July 2023, **100%** of attendees who gave feedback reported a positive impact on their confidence and on the quality of their representation.

At the end-of-course evaluation and workshop attended in-person by the CEO's of both AMERA and SolidariTee, participants reported three key impacts:

 **The way that they thought about the impacts of trauma and mental health**, both on their clients and their corresponding legal claims, had changed substantially

 **Participants had been positively impacted by the sense of community** - many people spoke about the sense of validation and support that came from having a place to share thoughts, learn and debrief on cases in an environment outside of legal working groups.

 **Participants were significantly more aware of the impact of their work on their own mental health, and vice versa.** This was reported as an extremely important realisation for many, within a context and profession where one's own mental health as a responder is less discussed and humanitarian worker burnout can still be a taboo topic.

SolidariTee is working to build on these learnings within our future strategy, and would like to extend our thanks to all those who attended.



# Congolese Community of Greece



CCG are an organisation led and run by and for migrants and refugees of all backgrounds, but particularly those of Congolese heritage, focusing on supporting cultural inclusion and helping people to integrate into Greek society and feel welcome.

The organisation was established in 1991 and originally served to bring together all Congolese people living in Greece, including students, people new to the country, and those who were born in Greece. In 2014 & 15, when the number of people arriving in Greece in search of safety and to seek asylum rose dramatically, CCG pivoted their work to focus particularly on supporting refugees. In addition to providing cultural and social opportunities for children and families, the organisation also provides employability advice, and is part of wider advocacy efforts within refugee and migrant-led fora.

**In 2023, SolidariTee funded CCG to employ a social worker.** In addition to promoting and raising awareness about mental health, stress management, and coping strategies, the team's social worker was also able to support people in dealing with bureaucratic and administrative issues affecting their ability to live safely in Greece. **In the first 6 months of the project, CCG's social worker was able to hold over 690 consultations.**

CCG has supported people of a range of nationalities, including people from Congo and DRC, Cameroon, Iran and Ukraine. In many cultures, mental health is often a taboo subject, so the benefit of mental health promotion is widespread. **In addition, the CCG team continually emphasise the agency and competence of each individual,** expressing the fact that, with support, many people are able to navigate many of the administrative requirements of appointment registrations, taxes, and securing accommodation by themselves.



# Defence for Children International - Greece

**DCI-Greece focus specifically on supporting children on the move, both accompanied and unaccompanied, and parents with children.**

With a Greek lawyer, children's rights expert, and psychologist all part of the DCI-Greece team, the team is able to provide holistic case management comprising of both legal representation and mental health support in-house.

Unfortunately, many women seeking asylum who have newly arrived in Greece have experienced sexual violence, either in the country from which they fled, on their journey, or in Greece itself, where a lack of accommodation, cash support or the right to work force people into the hands of traffickers and predators. Many such incidents lead to pregnancy, requiring an **additional level of in-depth psychological support** to equip people to navigate the experiences that they have endured and prepare for their next steps.

Other parents have fled and made arduous journeys with children, and still other children and young people have been forced to flee alone, with family members unable to leave with them, or indeed being part of the societal persecution that they are forced to flee. Whilst unaccompanied children often do receive more protection from the state, DCI-Greece advocates strongly for the best interests of the child to be considered in cases where children are accompanied. **Oftentimes, children are regarded as an afterthought by asylum services within their parents' legal processes**, with devastating consequences for children who might be subject to FGM or other forms of violence were they to be deported with their families.

**Between January - June, FDCI - Greece were able to provide holistic case support to 527 individuals across 263 cases. were able to provide holistic case support to 527 individuals across 263 cases.** DCI-Greece also conduct extensive advocacy with their team of Youth Ambassadors, at the national and European level.



# Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid

As one of the very first organisations SolidariTee ever supported, the influence our two organisations have had on each other has been reciprocal. **As some of the pioneers of holistic legal aid grounded in humanitarian principles within this context**, Fenix also have a dedicated advocacy strand, and conduct research, publish reports, and engage in strategic litigation at the national and international level.

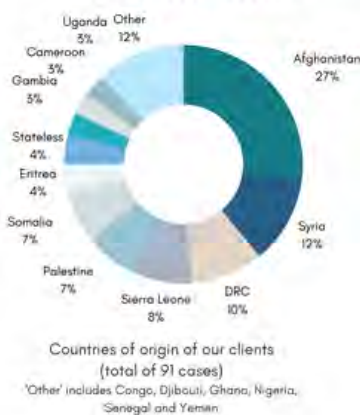
**Fenix focus on clients who have additional vulnerabilities, and have developed significant expertise in supporting people of diverse sexual orientation and/or gender identity.** With a person's identity being very difficult to 'prove' to an asylum service, claims based on persecution as a result of sexuality or gender identity often require expert, tailored support. With good reason, many clients may be very afraid to talk about their identity or experiences, so integrated support from protection and mental health colleagues is key.

**During 2023, Fenix published a report, 'Waiting to Be Heard'**, discussing the psychosocial ramifications of Greece and the EU's hostile asylum procedures, including testimonies from affected community members, contributing compelling additions to the body of research and evidence supporting trauma-informed migration policies.



## OUR CLIENTS

### NATIONALITIES



### VULNERABILITIES



Above: Mavrovouni refugee camp, Lesvos (left), data about clients supported, January-June 2023 (right)



# Irida Women's Center



**Irida run a community centre focused on protection and empowerment, open to all self-identifying women over the age of 18.** They are based in Northern Greece, where there are many refugee and asylum seeking women living in urban areas as well as in far-flung camps with very little access to service provision.

In addition to offering integrated protection support and a range of skill building and livelihoods-focused classes, **Irida also offer a child-friendly space** within their centre. This is crucial in enabling women to be able to meet with their lawyer and discuss sensitive issues with their full focus, and without exposing their children to histories that they are too young to understand.

**The Irida centre supports women with a variety of legal issues;** seeking asylum in the first instance is certainly one key need amongst their community, but there are many other issues affecting women in particular, both before and after receiving refugee status. As such, the team offer court representation for Asylum and Migration, Civil and Criminal Law.

**Child custody cases are often a particular challenge** - if mothers are unable to prove that they are related to their children due to documents being lost or stolen, this can cause enormous problems, and even lead to mothers being accused of abducting their children. **Additionally, gender-based and domestic violence tends to disproportionately affect women,** made worse when there are few options for escape within refugee camps or without the right to work, and making reports to the authorities, especially as someone with precarious legal status, may be incredibly difficult. Irida supports women to find solutions that work for them, and provides a safe, welcoming space to build community, cook and eat meals, and receive support on navigating life in Greece.

Between Jan - December 2023, **140 women received legal support, and 132 women attended group psychosocial** and mental health sessions within the centre.



*Right: two children performing 'karaoke' in the child-friendly space*



# Mobile Info Team



**Mobile Info Team take a unique and highly wide-reaching approach to information provision and engagement with displaced communities.**

MIT publish informative Facebook posts in 7 languages, with key news and accessible breakdowns of laws and policies and explanation for people facing challenges in relation to lodging an asylum application or receiving asylum support as to what they need to do. **Between January - June 2023, these posts reached over 965,000 accounts.**

In addition, their message hotline **via WhatsApp and Facebook was able to respond to messages sent by over 2500 people** during the same period. During this same time, over **300 people received in-person information** relating to their rights and what to expect within the asylum process at in-person group sessions, and **23 people received in-depth legal support relating to highly complex or specific cases** involving the release of people held in detention, or who had received multiple rejected asylum applications despite having a legitimate need for international protection.

Following a year of research, in February 2023 MIT released their **detention report**, uncovering the shocking conditions that people were forced to endure for months or years for no crime other than wishing to apply for asylum or being arbitrarily deemed 'dangerous'.

In addition to their in-depth research and advocacy efforts, MIT's ability to connect with such a large segment of the refugee population is one of a kind. Humanitarian agencies globally are becoming more aware of the importance of 'information as aid'. **Providing accurate information to dispel fear, rumours and feelings of powerlessness is one of the most important elements** to supporting anyone's mental health who has experienced trauma, and to avoiding people falling into abuse or missing their opportunity to apply for asylum as a result of rumours or misinformation.

# Velos Youth

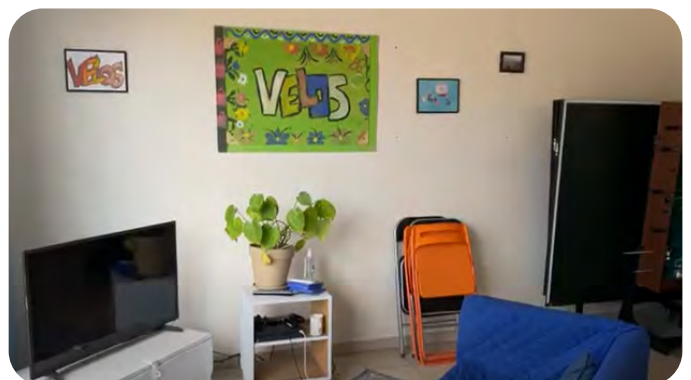


Velos Youth run an integrated programme supporting **young people of all genders between the ages of 16 and 30**, providing a safe space as well as support with what is termed 'transition to adulthood', including language classes, employability guidance, and support from a social worker.

**In 2023, SolidariTee funding enabled Velos to hire their first in-house lawyer.** Legal support has complemented the other programmes on offer, and the team's legal expert is now able to support their centre visitors with their asylum claims, as well as with other common issues facing young people who are on the move or who have newly arrived in Greece. These issues range from accessing ID cards and renewing residence permits to advice when looking for work, to avoid falling into the hands of exploitative employers.

**Young men and boys who are refugees are often particularly marginalised** within Greek society, and left out of NGO efforts which frequently prioritise women and children. Labelled 'terrorists' and 'freeloaders' in the same breath, misinformation and fear-mongering creates additional barriers towards finding community and safety in a new host country, and single men of certain nationalities are often regularly rejected for asylum, despite having experienced severe persecution, violence and even torture.

**By being able to offer young people a place to relax, share food, play games, and attend professional consultations all under one roof**, and through its refugee leadership at the CEO level, the centre plays a unique role in being able to connect with a community for whom mental health concerns are often particularly large; no matter what someone has experienced, living alone in a country where you don't yet speak the language without your family is frightening enough.





# Advocacy & Communications

In February 2023, following a successful monitoring and advocacy-focused trip at the end of 2022, we were able to **release an 18 minute documentary, recorded with 5 of our 2022-23 partner organisations.** This was the first piece of content that we had produced of this kind, and has provided us with a key outreach and educational resource introducing the SolidariTee strategy and **explaining the importance of connecting legal aid to mental health support, whilst amplifying the work of grassroots actors.** We would like to express our thanks to volunteer filmmaker Sophie Cowell for production and editing of this video, which is available on YouTube.



In July, **SolidariTee, along with STAR (Student Action for Refugees), Universities of Sanctuary and the VOICES network delivered a petition to No. 10 Downing Street,** expressing our opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill (sadly now Act).

This was a key moment of unity for us in being able to connect with other groups involved in working jointly with university communities and refugee and asylum-seeking communities. Together, we emphasised that universities should be places of inclusion and compassion, and that our **student and academic communities were standing up to say 'not in our name' together.**

# Education & Information

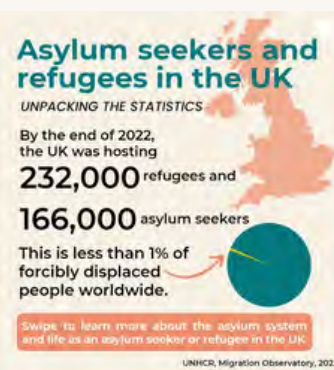


## Social Media

Throughout the academic year, we continued to publish thoughtfully researched **infographics** and **mythbusters**. Research and content creation is led by our central social media team, providing a mechanism for students to **learn about refugee issues and advocacy principles** through developing materials used to inform others. University teams also managed their own social media pages, and received social media training focused on respectful, appropriate narratives and portrayals.

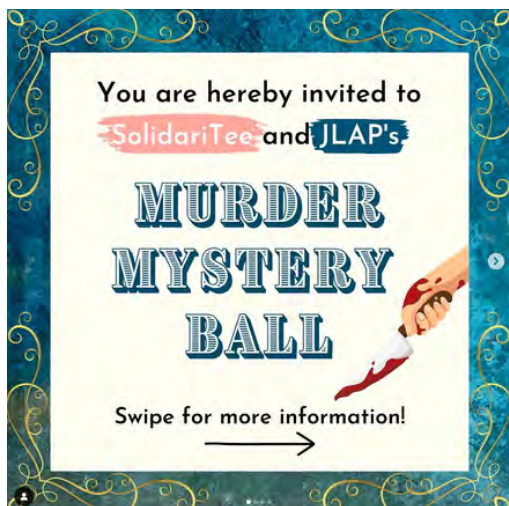
## Learning Events

SolidariTee has a dedicated outreach team, seated within the student central team. In addition to our **annual conference 2023, themed 'Accountability in Action'**, we were able to host 3 other major events throughout the academic year. We received funding from the **University of St Andrews to host a half-day conference focused on inclusion**, and held a panel event focused on the ways that **gender and sexuality intersect with experiences of migration** in Oxford. We also held a **'careers in the refugee sector'** event in London, and an **online panel event** with speakers focused global displacement outside of Europe. In total, we were fortunate to have been able to connect with dozens of expert speakers whose work spans across activism, academia, NGO management, legal aid and humanitarian response throughout the year.



# Regional Events

SolidariTee student teams are incredibly creative and dynamic, working hard to bring the conversation about the importance of welcoming refugees and the critical funding gap for support services into as many parts of student life as possible. In addition to our explicitly educational events, here are a selection of some of the other fundraisers and events organised throughout the year. It's clear that the key to building a fun, impactful movement across the student community comes from partnerships and teamwork, so we remain incredibly grateful to all of the student societies who have supported or collaborated with SolidariTee teams.



SolidariTee Lancaster collaborated with the Lawyers Against Poverty Justice Fund (JLAP) to host a murder mystery ball.



Teams at Leeds and Oxford both hosted jazz nights featuring student talent, which have proven hugely popular each time!



The Courtauld team held a t-shirt embroidery event with their uni's arts and crafts society. They also held a speaker event, bake sale, and vintage clothing sale during the year, linking fundraising to sustainable fashion and education.



The St Andrews team held a 'bring a friend' cheerleading session hosted by the cheer society. They also held a talk, wine and cheese night, and the uni's Sunday League ran a football match raising money for SolidariTee.

# Our Leadership

## Board of Trustees



Following a strategic review in 2022, we have been pleased to welcome several new trustees in 2023. Our board of 11 trustees now includes people who are currently studying, as well as graduates who have volunteered as part of SolidariTee's student chapters, in addition to more experienced professionals with expertise in asylum law, NGO management and strategic development, and who have worked operationally within refugee support organisations in Greece. Our board also includes a number of people who have lived and family experience of forced displacement. We seek to embed accountability to those most impacted in all that we do, including within our governance, and consider accountability to refugee communities as well as towards our student volunteers. Though the board may seem large for a charity of our size, it was a necessary step to allow the harmonisation of a range of perspectives and skillset without losing the early-career and youth-led input into our charity, and we have already noticed a huge improvement in our ways of working. Our board includes our volunteer CEO, who has received safeguarding training, as well as a separate safeguarding lead.

## Student Leadership

We consider our student presidents, who are appointed each academic year, to be as integral a part of our leadership as any other role (if not more so!). In addition to organising our annual conferences and leading peer support and training workshops for the wider student team, our student leadership team also feeds into key decisions about our strategy and advocacy priorities. In 22-23, the presidents were Louisa Cowell and Beth Molyneux, who both achieved incredible things.

Each university team also has one or more dedicated team leads, who receive regular 1:1 support and peer mentorship from a fellow student who is a member of the central team (university fundraising coordinators). In addition to a detailed handbook and key resources shared throughout the year, a training day was hosted for team leads in summer/ autumn of both 2022 and 2023.

We do not require prior experience in leadership for any of our roles, as part of a commitment to dismantling barriers to volunteering and perpetuating inequities, but welfare and support are key priorities throughout the year. We recognise that volunteering can be challenging, especially when being juggled with a degree, and being the type of volunteering which feels very 'direct'. To avoid contributing to feelings of stress and pressure amongst a group of young people who are likely already very aware of the world's injustices, we set targets which are more focused on activities than on individual fundraising performance, and do not over-emphasise fundraising as the only metric of success. At the same time, all of our students know that the money that they raise is going directly to NGOs who need their support, in 'real-time' - this balance between real-world impact and ensuring sustainability within the volunteering experience is something we continue to focus on.



Above: students wearing our Elpida Home t-shirt collection

## Recent Awards

In 2023, SolidariTee and legal firm Osborne Clarke were announced winners of the Business Charity Awards in the legal category for our partnership within OC's Refugee Action Group. SolidariTee were also shortlisted for the Third Sector Volunteer Team of the Year award.



# What did our volunteers gain?

Though we're mindful of our privilege as a volunteer community, and recognise that it is not 'about us', it's also an important part of our mission to ensure that people who volunteer with us take something meaningful away from their experience.

This not only helps to ensure our sustainability and succession of volunteers once current team members graduate or move on, but is a cornerstone in creating a community of people who are better informed about the solutions to issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers, and who are able to use their voices for years and decades to come.

At the end of the 2022-3 academic year, we conducted reflective end of year calls with a sample of team leads, with a view to evaluating how closely we had been able to achieve our objectives in terms of volunteer experience, and also to capture the diversity of knowledge and experiences taken away by our volunteer communities.

Many of our graduate volunteers in 2022-23 and in previous years have gone on to work at international humanitarian agencies, in major national UK-based charities, and in numerous other social-impact roles. Here are some of the self reported skills which were developed, and shared during the end-of year review meetings:



SolidariTee, a movement led by students and young people, has an energy unlike any other organisation I've worked in. By volunteering with SolidariTee, you are joining a movement of people committed to upholding human rights - and the enthusiasm and determination of our volunteers shines through in our campaigns, events, and fundraising. More than solely a fundraising body, volunteers at SolidariTee work tirelessly to change the harmful narratives in the media about forcibly displaced people - this is done through social media posts that both educate and myth-bust against harmful tropes. Finally, what makes SolidariTee truly unique is the people - at SolidariTee, you will meet the kindest, most passionate individuals, who will become friends for life.

*-Quote from Rosie Nicholls, director of Team SolidariTee in 2022-23, and previously Durham team lead. Rosie led the exit interviews which reflected on skills, achievements and challenges at the end of the year.*

# Challenges, Learning and Improvement

*Running any kind of charity is not without its challenges. We are committed to a culture of continual learning and self-reflection, so that we can do the best by every volunteer who chooses to dedicate time to the cause, and to every staff member and client who walks through our partners' doors.*

## Student Team

Many regional teams experienced challenges in being able to register as a society within their university, which in turn made it more complicated to host events on campus. We can't always change this; sometimes being part of a national charity does not meet society criteria, but in learning from this we have communicated more clearly with teams that we can support with venue hire costs up-front, knowing that this will help us to raise more money as a result.

## Partner NGOs

With a shrinking civil society and funding landscape in Greece, many of our partners experienced income unpredictability as a result of other donors rapidly pulling out. We conducted a survey to understand the funding priorities of NGOs in Greece, and have adjusted our funding strategy for 2024 and 2025 to support organisations in remaining resilient and future-proof. We have also learnt that we have the potential to play a key role in providing opportunities for organisations to connect, coordinate and knowledge share. We have made changes to our remote management and safeguarding approach, knowing that very often, funders are some the only bodies who can mandate and improve standards across the humanitarian landscape.

## Organisational Learning

In a post-pandemic culture, we have noticed that students are more discerning in how they choose to spend their time. We had concerns about having smaller numbers of volunteers since the 2020-21 academic year, but have now realised that remote and pandemic volunteering was in fact an anomalously large year in terms of team size for us, and that a focus on quality volunteering experiences and impact is a more appropriate strategy for us, alongside diversified income streams.



# Looking Ahead: Student Leadership 2023-24

In the 2022-23 academic year, we appointed Lauren Brickell and Ben Logan as student team leads for the following academic year, and they began work to build new teams of volunteers. Below you can find short pieces that they each wrote about the aspects of SolidariTee, and the future plans they have co-created, that are most important to them.

## Ben Logan



*A play on words, SolidariTee is defined by the solidarity of its volunteers with both displaced populations and one another. Far from an individual effort, our outputs from fundraising to awareness represent the collective action of a network of diverse, but like minded, young activists across the UK and beyond. From t-shirt stalls to conferences, as SolidariTee has grown, so to have the opportunities to bring together a new generation of changemakers - and friends! Looking ahead, we plan to continue building this community through, including through providing opportunities for Soli alumni to engage with our events, aiming to continue to inspire a sense of solidarity in young people that lasts well beyond their time at university.*

*By funding essential asylum services, SolidariTee supports young people to empower direct real world impact, providing student volunteers with hands-on experiences unique for our age. This last year we diversified the types of aid we fund, to embed psychological support into our legal aid approach. In doing so, we hope to help facilitate comprehensive and lasting asylum solutions. To solidify our commitment to reliable funding, this year we plan to return to our roots through centring t-shirt sales at the core of our awareness and fundraising efforts. A 'soli-T' not only visually demonstrates support for refugee rights, but tangibly underpins essential professional services which work to uphold the protection of displaced populations.*

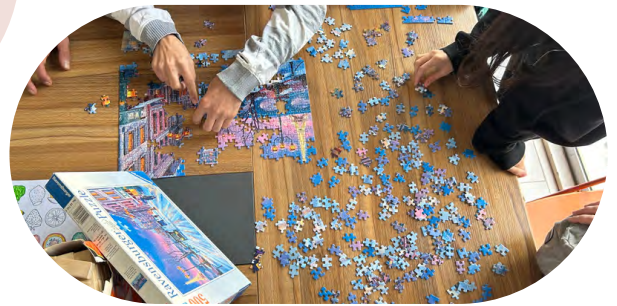
### **Favourite SolidariTee event that you've attended so far?**

My favourite event would have to be the LGBTQIA+ and forced migration event last year at Oxford. This was the first panel I chaired, which was an amazing opportunity I was empowered to pursue through SolidariTee. The issue discussed is also close to me, and the turn out was amazing!

### **One fact about refugees that you wish more people knew:**

Not necessarily a fact, but I wish people stopped treating words like 'refugee' or 'asylum seeker' as labels so often - it reduces people simply to their legal or migration status.





Lauren Brickell

*As political hostility towards displaced people becomes increasingly normalised, our work remains as vital as ever: combining our core values and traditions with fresh approaches will be key to amplifying SolidariTee's reach this year. Alongside our annual Week of Action, our university teams have been creative in planning novel events which raise funds and awareness: from art exhibitions to a Spring Ball, and even a Mario Kart tournament! Meanwhile, we have two central team conferences to look forward to this year, in London and Edinburgh; as well as some more podcast episodes to expand our digital presence.*

*This fusion of continuity and novelty applies equally to our ethics. Sustainability remains integral to our identity: we are proud that our most recent t-shirts - the Dream collection - are vegan, 100% cotton, and carbon-neutral, and our culture of sharing resources minimises waste at events. Furthermore, whilst we strive to raise and allocate funds in the most effective ways possible, with minimal operating costs, our values are never compromised, ensuring accountability to and dignified representation of those forcibly-displaced. A core new aim, though, is to diversify our array of events, in order to reach a wider audience, extending awareness of SolidariTee both within and beyond student communities. Similarly, we seek to welcome a broader range of volunteers, by increasing the flexibility and accessibility of roles and projects: SolidariTee should be something everyone can get involved with!*

*After all, it is our volunteers, and their inspirational dedication, which truly animate this organisation. Therefore, as we look ahead, our final priority is to cultivate an environment conducive to mutual learning and support: we want students to feel empowered to lead projects, initiate conversations about refugee-related issues, and have the confidence to stand in solidarity with all those forcibly-displaced.*

### **Favourite SolidariTee event that you've attended so far?**

My favourite SolidariTee event to date has to be last year's annual conference, since it brought to a wider audience a key theme in academic debates over humanitarian aid - 'Accountability to Affected Populations' - and provided a forum to hear from such inspiring speakers, as to how this can truly be upheld.

### **Favourite quote?**

"It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks." - Dina Nayeri



# Future Plans and Next Steps



*The leadership team and board of trustees have engaged in a strategic review, with a view to finalising our 2024 & 2025 strategy to maximise our capacity to adapt to changing global events affecting refugees, and continuously improve the opportunities and enablers of success for our student community.*



## 1 Develop multi-year partnerships

In recent years, the humanitarian sector has moved towards more equitable relationships with partners, and has encouraged donors to engage in multi-year agreements with partners to provide them with the support to plan ahead and adapt their work. We have always been a flexible funder, but in 2024 we will implement 2-year grants to reduce the administrative burden on organisations and develop more stable relationships. With other funders providing grants covering as little as 3 months, longer-term partnerships were prioritised by the partners we surveyed.

## 2 Invest in student leadership training & community building

Our in-person training sessions post-covid have been really well received by those who attended, so we plan to build on this by facilitating more opportunities for real-world connection at events across the UK. Many of our volunteers are taking on their first ever leadership roles, so we plan to expand our training in this area in more depth, to support the next generation of organisers in staying true to their values whilst leading campaigns and teams.

## 3 Develop our organisational resilience

In 2024 and 2025, we plan to make strategic use of consultants and training and CPD opportunities to both enhance in-house capacity and build links with experts to improve our work in areas such as our digital engagement strategy. We also plan to diversify our income streams away from exclusively community fundraising to boost our grant-giving potential whilst retaining the direct pipeline from student fundraising through to grant-giving.

## 4 Support the capacity of NGO professionals

We plan to continue to offer formal and informal support and training in areas including mental health first aid, monitoring & evaluation, safeguarding and trauma-informed approaches.



## Reserves Policy

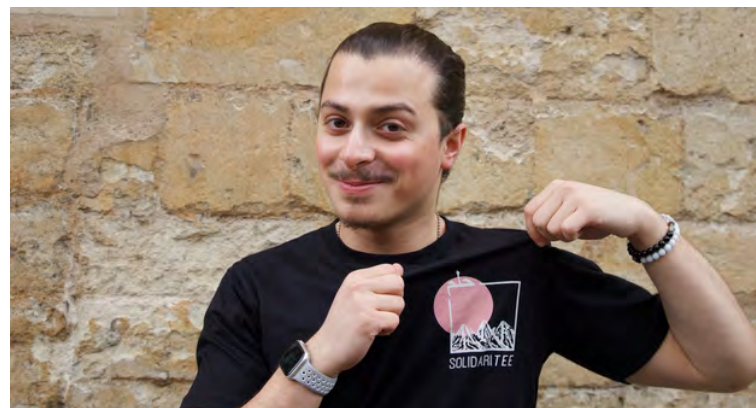
Our reserve policy is such that SolidariTee should maintain reserves of either £30,000, or income to sustain the next 3 months of operations. You can read more detail in the following pages showing our full accounts.

## Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and in particular the advancement of education and human rights, and relief of poverty. This is achieved through our awareness raising activities here in the UK, as well as our work to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid. In doing so, our work ensures that refugees are able to access their rights and are prevented from falling into destitution and poverty after receiving unjust rejections on their asylum claims or receiving inadequate mental health support following the persecution and trauma that a great many asylum seekers have faced. It also ensures that the public are informed about refugee issues in the UK and worldwide.

## Stay in Touch

If you'd like to stay up to date with SolidariTee's work throughout the year, be sure to follow us on social media and subscribe to our mailing list. If you're interested in organising an event to fundraise for SolidariTee, or would like to invite a member of our leadership team to give a talk to raise awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers in your school, group or workplace, please email us at [fundraising@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@solidaritee.org.uk). Thank you for reading this report - we hope you found it informative, and are happy to answer any questions or receive feedback at any time.



**2022 & EARLY 2023**

During this year, 81,130 new asylum claims were lodged in the UK. By the end of 2022, 132,182 applications were still waiting for a decision, with 2/3 of these applications having left individuals and families without a decision for over 6 months. News outlets revealed that hundreds of asylum-seeking children had gone missing, possibly kidnapped, within asylum accommodation.

**MARCH 2023**

The Illegal Migration Bill is introduced to parliament. Termed the 'Refugee Ban Bill' by many refugee campaign groups and NGOs, the Bill set out to prevent anyone who had arrived in the UK via small boat crossings being able to apply for asylum. International refugee law runs contra to this, and is clear that how a person arrives in search of safety should not be assessed, but rather the 'why' should be instead.

**APRIL 2023**

The UK Government confirms plans to house asylum seekers on a Barge, the Bibby Stockholm. Following this, Legionella was discovered on board, leading to evacuation and subsequent reopening. A man later died of suspected suicide following being forcibly housed there. A damning report is also released in the same month about appalling conditions in Brook House detention centre following an official inquiry.

**JUNE 2023**

The UK announces that 'hundreds' of migrants from Albania have been returned there, following months of fueled misinformation about the rights and credibility of those seeking safety from Albania, disregarding the very real threats to personal and political safety that exist for many people.

**JULY 2023**

The Illegal Migration Bill (now Act) passes into law.

*By the end of 2023 at least 23 people had died attempting to cross the Channel in a year. The Rwanda plan continues to be debated in Parliament, despite having been ruled unlawful by the Supreme court at the end of 2023. Asylum seeker claims have been rushed through the system under misguided rhetoric surrounding 'clearing the backlog' of applications, with those granted refugee status hurriedly evicted and made homeless in freezing temperatures.*

# Greece & EU

## *A timeline of key events affecting refugees and displaced people*

### **2022**

At the end of 2022, Greece implemented a closure of the programme which provided accommodation to extremely vulnerable asylum seekers, ESTIA II. People were provided with just days' notice before being transferred to remote camps in places they did not know, in conditions unsuitable for their needs and/or vulnerabilities. NGOs published numerous advocacy reports documenting the impact of the closure.

### **MARCH 2023**

The European Court of Human Rights finds that Greece has violated the rights of asylum seekers in case A.D v. Greece. The case relates to a pregnant woman who was housed in a camp in Samos, where the conditions were found to constitute ill-treatment.

### **MAY 2023**

For two months, the Greek Asylum Service website was down, preventing people from being able to lodge asylum claims. This had ramifications for people who were then at risk of being unjustly detained as a result of incorrect documents, and who therefore had no access to the (small amount of) cash assistance provided to asylum seekers.

### **JUNE 2023**

More than 600 people die in the Pylos shipwreck off the coast of Greece, from a boat of 750 people attempting the deadly crossing from Libya. Credible evidence has come to light that the Greek coastguard's actions and omissions directly contributed to these deaths.

Asylum applications in the first half of 2023 were at their highest (519,000) for any same period since 2015-16.

*In summer 2023, devastating wildfires in Greece led to the deaths of 18 migrants, many others of whom suffered incredibly cruel and unfounded treatment in relation to the fires. Moreover, the new EU Pact on Asylum and Migration was agreed in December 2023, with devastating ramifications on the rights of asylum seekers across Europe. The Pact gives states the right to deviate from protocols in 'crisis' situations, and denies people seeking safety freedom of choice or movement upon their arrival at Europe's border countries.*

# Global

*A non-exhaustive timeline of key displacement events during the reporting period*

## **SEPTEMBER 2022**

An estimated 8 million people were displaced by devastating floods in Pakistan, which submerged a third of the country at their worst point. Pakistan also hosts 1.3m registered refugees from Afghanistan, and an estimated 1.5m Afghans living in Pakistan without documentation. One year on, in October 2023, Pakistan ordered all undocumented migrants to leave the country or be deported in an 'unprecedented crackdown'.

## **FEBRUARY 2023**

Catastrophic earthquakes destroyed almost 50,000 buildings, killing over 55,000 people in Turkey and Syria, and impacting an estimated 15.7 million people. Millions were displaced from their homes and are now living in temporary camps in extreme weather conditions. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees globally, including over 3.5m Syrians, and inside Syria, prior to the earthquakes, 15.3m people were already in need of humanitarian assistance.

## **MARCH 2023**

One year on from the escalation of conflict following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 5 million people are estimated to be internally displaced within Ukraine. By the end of 2023, more than 6m refugees from Ukraine had been recorded globally, many of whom are hosted in neighbouring countries with limited financial resources and protection and integration support. Despite the large amount of international support, funding for neighbouring host countries is already drying up from international donors, with devastating consequences for the most marginalised communities.

## **APRIL 2023**

Large-scale fighting in Sudan displaces 5.7 million people within the first 6 months - almost one million people per month. By January 2024, this number has risen to 7.6m, of whom 1.4m are displaced across borders, with very little media attention or international awareness.

*At the time of publishing this report, devastating bombardment of Gaza has continued via land, air and sea for over 100 days since events on 7th October, in which Hamas attacks killed over 1200 people in Israel and led to the capture of hostages, of which approximately 132 people are still being held. More than 25,000 people have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli military, with 1.7m people displaced. Siege conditions imposed on Gaza have led to real and increasing risk of famine. We call for an immediate and unreserved ceasefire adhered to by all parties to the conflict, and for safe passage for those forced to flee persecution and attacks.*



## Accounts - Written Summary

This report, and the accounts on the following pages, refer to the period between August 2023 and July 2024. This was the first in several years that SolidariTee's grant funding cycle took place over a different time period to the financial year itself.

This was for a number of reasons, the first being that cramming grant applications, the subsequent programming, and then re-opening applications into a single financial year becomes unwieldy and rushed for both our partners and for SolidariTee ourselves. Additionally, unlike a great many other organisations, SolidariTee has operated since the beginning according to a 'forward looking' funding strategy. This means that we do not have the total amount pledged within a grant cycle sitting around in our bank account at the beginning of a funding cycle being launched - we believe in getting money out of the door to organisations who badly need it as quickly as we can, and as a small, student-led organisation ourselves, we raise a lot of the money in 'real-time'. Nonetheless, we are always very conservative, and carefully match our cashflow projections to grant installments (with a substantial buffer in the event that our fundraising is less successful than expected), to ensure that we mitigate risk for ourselves and partners.

As such, at the end of this financial year, we still had £50,000 left to transfer to our grant partners according to our pre-agreed timeline. This shows as a liability in our accounts, since it was a commitment that we had made, but doesn't reflect a cashflow concern in 'real terms'. The start of the academic year is generally our busiest period for fundraising, so the expected income was received and the grant cycle was completed, on time and as expected, by December 2023.

At the end of the financial year we had slightly stepped outside of our financial reserves policy, but have since re-aligned to our policy. Humanitarian best practice dictates that the more long-term and predictable funding can be, the better the quality and safety of the programmes supporting the refugee and asylum seeking community. Moving forwards we will be continuing to operate funding cycles that span more than a single financial year, but will also be working to substantially increase our held reserves as a risk mitigation strategy, and to allow for investment that will enable SolidariTee to grow and develop. We were dependable with our funding in 2023 and 2024, and place focus on this area, and as such are deemed a going concern (able to remain operational for the foreseeable future) moving forwards.

# SolidariTee

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 July 2023

The narrative report on pages 2 to 36 along with the formal details below form the trustees' annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>	
Alexa Netty		
Sarah Davidson		
Rebecca Young	appointed 1 September 2022	
Isabella Ponsonby	appointed 1 September 2022	
Louisa Cowell	appointed 1 September 2022	
Robert Durget	appointed 9 May 2023	
Maya Kerbellec	appointed 9 May 2023	
Mulumbeni Phiri	appointed 9 May 2023	
Sara Poursafar	appointed 9 May 2023	
Nausikaa Reimers	appointed 9 May 2023	
Dara Snead	appointed 9 May 2023	
Emma Penney	resigned 3rd October 2022	
Rosie Richards	resigned 3rd October 2022	
Madeleine Hancock	resigned 3rd October 2022	
Tiara Sahar Ataii	resigned 20th November 2022	
<b>Charity number</b>	1182195	Registered in England and Wales

### Registered and principal address

16 Lache Lane  
Chester  
CH4 7LR

### Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank Plc  
PO Box 250  
Skelmerdale  
WN8 6WT

### Independent examiner

Rachel Cooper ACA  
**Welbeck**  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

### Structure, governance and management

Solidaritee is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1182195. Its members are its trustees. Its governing document is a constitution registered 25th February 2019, and amended 1 Aug 2021.

### Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the existing trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education and human rights, and relief of poverty. This is achieved through our awareness raising activities here in the UK, as well as our work to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid. In doing so, our work ensures that refugees are able to access their rights and are prevented from falling into destitution and poverty after receiving unjust rejections on their asylum claims or receiving inadequate mental health support following the persecution and trauma that a great many asylum seekers have faced. It also ensures that the public are informed about refugee issues in the UK and worldwide.

### **Financial review**

The net income for the year was £-46,686 (2022: £-58,082) all of which was unrestricted.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £-13,886 (2022: £32,900).

Our reserves policy is set out on page 33 of this report. Please refer to page 37 of the narrative for a written summary of our spending within the financial year to contextualise our accounts.

### **Going Concern**

The board of trustees have determined SolidariTee to be a going concern, and all grant payments that were pending at the end of the financial year were subsequently completed. Please refer to page 37 for further details.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Approved by the board of trustees on  
19th February 2024



Signed: ..... (Trustee)

          Alexa Netty  
Name: .....

# Solidaritee

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Solidaritee

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023, which are set out on pages 41 to 46.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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.

### 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:

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 4 the accounts did 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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  .....

Name: Rachel Cooper ACA

Date: 27/02/2024 .....

### Welbeck

29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

SolidariTee  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and Legacies	(2)	55,711	1,000	56,711	73,328
Other trading activities	(3)	15,929	-	15,929	12,989
		-	-	-	
<b>Total income</b>		<u>71,640</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>72,640</u>	<u>86,317</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising Funds		2,716	-	2,716	1,418
Charitable activities - grants to NGOs	(4)	114,752	-	114,752	141,788
Charitable activities - other		858	1,000	1,858	1,193
		-	-	-	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>118,326</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>119,326</u>	<u>144,399</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(46,686)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(46,686)</u>	<u>(58,082)</u>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>32,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>90,982</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>32,900</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended in the current financial year derive from continuing activities.

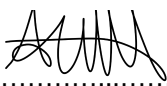
As there were no restricted funds in 2022, the 2022 Total funds column shows the full comparative figures for that year.

SolidariTee  
 Balance sheet  
 as at 31 July 2023

	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	(5) 100	100	100
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock	-	-	
Debtors and prepayments	(6) 17,908	17,908	30,577
Cash at bank and in hand	(7) 18,656	18,656	3,723
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>36,564</u>	<u>36,564</u>	<u>34,300</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Creditors and accruals	(8) 50,450	50,450	1,500
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>50,450</u>	<u>50,450</u>	<u>1,500</u>
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	<u>(13,886)</u>	<u>(13,886)</u>	<u>32,800</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>32,900</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>32,900</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>(13,786)</u>	<u>32,900</u>

19th February 2024

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on .....

Signed:  (Trustee)

Name: **Alexa Netty**  
 Name: .....

# Solidaritee

## Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

#### **Basis of accounting**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### **Going concern**

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### **Grants and donations**

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

#### **Investments**

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

#### **Expenditure and liabilities**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

#### **Grants payable with performance conditions**

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

#### **Grants payable without performance conditions**

Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.

#### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### **Volunteer help**

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

At present the charity has no restricted or designated funds

# SolidariTee

Notes to the accounts continued  
for the year ended 31 July 2023

## 2 Donations and Legacies

	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Unrestricted & Total funds £
General Donations	52,711		52,711	42,557
Donations from Subsidiary	4,000		4,000	22,819
Grant from St Andrews University		1,000	1,000	
	<u>56,711</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>57,711</u>	<u>65,376</u>

## 3 Other Trading Activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Events	15,929	13,413
	<u>15,929</u>	<u>13,413</u>

## 4 Grant making

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Awards made in the year</b>		
AMERA International	15,000	
Congolese Community of Greece	9,959	
Defence for Children International - Greece	14,938	
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid	20,000	18,000
Irida Women's Center	14,958	
Stichting Mushkila Kabira (Mobile Info Team)	14,979	17,931
Velos Youth Astiki Mi Kerdoskopiki Etaireia	14,959	
Asylum Seekers Information Services Team	9,959	17,968
Legal Centre Lesvos		17,961
Equal Legal Aid		17,933
Elpida Home		15,982
Ethnovision		18,077
Global Echo Litigation Center		17,936
Total	<u>114,752</u>	<u>141,788</u>
Grants payable and paid in the year	64,752	141,788
Provisions at 31 July 2023	50,000	-

Provisions for grants at 31 July 2023 are expected to be paid within 1 year on achievement of satisfactory performance by grantees.

## 5 Fixed assets investments

	Investment in subsidiary	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£
Balance b/f	100	100	100
Additions	-	-	-
(Disposals)	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The company's investments at the balance sheet are in its subsidiary undertaking SolidariTee Sales Company Limited of which it is the sole shareholder.

<b>6 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors - Gift Aid	2,544	534
Amounts owed by subsidiary company	14,858	28,033
Other debtors	506	2,010
	<u>17,908</u>	<u>30,577</u>

<b>7 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank	18,656	3,723
	<u>18,656</u>	<u>3,723</u>

<b>8 Creditors and accruals</b>	2023	2022
	£	£
Provision for grants payable	50,000	-
Accruals	450	1,500
	<u>50,450</u>	<u>1,500</u>

## 9 Funds Statement

	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Restricted Funds					
St Andrews University	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted Funds	32,900	71,640	118,326	-	(13,786)
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>72,640</u>	<u>119,326</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,786)</u>

Purpose of Restricted Funds  
St Andrews University

The grant was given to support costs of an event to explore the intersection between forced migration and LGBTQIA+ experience.

## 9 Related party transactions

### Trustee expenses

Trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £182 (2022:£nil)

### Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

**SOLIDARITEE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1182195

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# Accounts

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**SOLIDARITEE**

[WWW.SOLIDARITEE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SOLIDARITEE.ORG.UK)

**AUGUST 21- JULY 22**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

UK REGISTERED CHARITY 1182195



# YEAR AT A GLANCE



**450**  
student  
volunteers



**£142,000**  
given in  
grants



**8**  
NGOs supported



**50**  
uni teams

**one movement for lasting, long-term change**

*Dear All,*

Welcome to SolidariTee's annual report for the 2021-22 academic and financial year.

The SolidariTee story is one which is best told in two parts. There's the account of our volunteer movement, run by and for students and young people across the UK and beyond, and then there's the story of the work done by humanitarian response professionals providing legal aid through our partner NGOs.

Neither, of course, could exist without the other. The grants which fund vital legal aid for refugees and asylum seekers would be impossible if it weren't for the determined efforts and commitment of our student body.

Our volunteer movement, made up of university students and young people, works to raise awareness of the importance of refugee aid, combat harmful myths and stereotypes which are all too often perpetuated about forcibly displaced people here in the UK and beyond, and generate the very funds that make up the grants we give.

In parallel, our NGO partners, who receive SolidariTee grant funding, give purpose to everything we do.

Each and every person who has contributed to SolidariTee's work can be assured that, in addition to supporting our efforts to shape a society that is more welcoming to refugees in the long-term, they're also supporting tangible change that affects real people's lives in the here and now.

Grant-giving transforms us from being solely an outreach and student-focussed charity to one which takes a global lens. The intangible benefits that come with youth empowerment and engagement with refugee issues are mirrored with the more direct impacts - legal aid, and access to justice - for individual people who have been forced to flee their homes.

In turn, the questions around the sustainability of humanitarian response, and the need for longer-term culture change, are mirrored in our focus on equipping the next generation of professionals with the tools and knowledge to stand up for refugee rights. Grant-giving is one part of our journey, but it's amplified through advocacy and education. It's somewhere in the middle of this intersection that the uniquely SolidariTee energy and dynamism seems to come to life.

As I write this, I'm in my fourth year leading the charity, and SolidariTee is in its sixth year of life. This annual report marks the end of our first five years of existence, and our transition from being a newly set up charity to becoming an established, dependable presence, with the same vision, energy, and belief in the future.

All of us here at SolidariTee, and at our partner NGOs, extend an enormous thank you to all those who have supported us over the past year and beyond. As we look forward to a new strategic period, we will stay true to our core values of empowerment, innovation, and impact, finding new ways to create lasting change whilst keeping the youth-led dynamism and energy at the heart of what we do.

I hope in reading this report, you'll get a glimpse of some of the magic that makes up SolidariTee.

*Yours in SolidariTee,*

**Alexa Netty**  
**CEO & Trustee**

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# TESTIMONIALS

"I joined SolidariTee because I wanted to be a part of changing the injustices facing refugees by supporting NGOs that provide legal long-term solutions. Leading SolidariTee's NTU team, my highlights were a Christmas bake sale and an awareness online panel event involving NGOs, such as Equal Legal Aid, and refugee advocates."

Yasmin, Nottingham Trent Head Rep 21-22



'Everything would be difficult without Fenix's guidance. It will be like a person who is standing in front of an intersection and doesn't know which way to go.'

– 26-year-old woman from Afghanistan and client of Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid. Fenix have been recipients of SolidariTee grant funding since 2019.

I've been volunteering for SolidariTee since October 2019. I joined the team because I have always been invested in the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers across the globe and saw SolidariTee as a sustainable and effective way to make an impact alongside my studies.

I enjoyed the role so much, especially the sales and fundraising aspect, that I decided to join the Central team as Shop Manager in June 2020 in order to maximise the impact I was having and to ensure that SolidariTee continued to raise money globally and provide legal aid to more and more people. In this role, I was lucky enough to deal with customers on a global scale as well as our worldwide teams and take a front seat in viewing the consequences of SolidariTee's work, while getting to work alongside some amazing and inspiring people!

While I have moved on from being a student, SolidariTee and its success will always be close to my heart.

**Kyle, Shop Manager 20-22 & recent graduate, now working in the charity sector**



Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity! This brings us a big step closer to securing the funds needed to implement our expansion plans for 2022. The whole team and I are deeply thankful for all the support SolidariTee has provided to us and it is amazing..... Please also send out a thank you from us to all your volunteers who help to raise all funds! I'm very hopeful that we will again put the grant to a good use and will be able to further assist all the people who are in deep need of help currently in Greece!

**text:** email from NGO partner following confirmation of grant funding

**image:** artwork created by children of parents receiving services from one of SolidariTee's partner NGOs

# Executive Summary

## Our Mission

SolidariTee exists to **create meaningful, lasting change** in the way refugees and other people who are forced to flee their homes are treated.

We seek to **unite local and student communities** in support of fundamental rights for all forcibly displaced people. Our goal is to ensure that all forcibly displaced people have access to empowering, long-term forms of support.

## Who we are

In the 2021-22 academic year, we had more than **450 student volunteers** standing in SolidariTee across **50 universities**, including SolidariTee teams in Milan (Italy), Melbourne (Australia), and Menton (France).

SolidariTee has no paid staff, and is led by and for students and young people. Our regional campus-based teams are supported and coordinated by a student-led central team, with additional strategic and operational capacity provided by the steering committee & trustee board, made up of previous student volunteers.

## What we do

- **Outreach and education:** from conferences and panel discussions to jazz nights and rock climbing collaborations, we put supporting refugee rights on the map as a central part of daily life.
- **Grant-giving:** In the 2021-22 academic year, we gave out £142,000 in grants to 8 NGOs.
- **Modelling and promoting respectful, inclusive volunteering:** the training, resources, welfare support and practical experience our volunteers gain during their time at SolidariTee provides training and reflective opportunities relating to accountable humanitarian response and charity work.

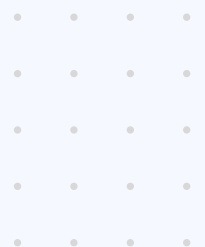


Alexa Netty

### Executive Leadership 21/22



Anna Marshall



# Our Theory of Change

How our activities combine to create lasting change for refugees

<p><b>Impact</b></p>	<p>Asylum seekers are better able to access their rights within the asylum process</p> <p>Asylum seekers have access to information about the asylum process in a language they can understand</p> <p>Asylum seekers have access to legal representation, as is their fundamental right</p>	<p>Asylum seekers &amp; refugees are better able to access their long-term rights and begin to rebuild their lives in peace and safety</p> <p>Unjust rejections and deportations are prevented, unjustly rejected asylum seekers avoid being cut off from services &amp; risk of destitution</p> <p>People with a legitimate claim to asylum under international law are granted refugee status, gaining the rights to work, housing and education</p>	<p>The asylum procedure in Greece is more fair and just. Systematic and procedural barriers to accessing rights are overcome.</p> <p>Procedural violations within the asylum system are challenged</p> <p>The capacity of the NGO sector to provide high quality legal aid is increased</p>	<p>International and UK community is more welcoming and accepting of refugees</p> <p>Wider public more accurately informed about international obligations towards refugees</p> <p>Rejection of harmful myths and stereotypes relating to refugees</p>	<p>Young people inspired and equipped to continue to volunteer and work in positions which support refugees and other forcibly displaced people</p> <p>Next generation of professionals understand challenges facing refugee populations</p> <p>Increased awareness of the problems with traditional humanitarian response, and broader shift towards more impactful, accountable methods</p>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p>	<p>Local and student communities take a visual show of solidarity with refugees, whilst contributing to refugee aid provided by partner NGOs</p>	<p>Knowledge of the asylum process is built, and misinformation and harmful myths counteracted with accurate information</p>	<p>Spaces for learning and discussion about global refugee issues are created, and opportunities for knowledge sharing facilitated</p>	<p>Young people develop skills related to charitable work, student volunteering is facilitated and encouraged, and knowledge of forced displacement and humanitarian response is built</p>	<p>Reviewed applications from 31 NGOs</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p>'Dream' t-shirt collection designed in collaboration with two artists who are themselves members of the refugee community: Alghra &amp; Salam</p> <p>T-shirts distributed to university teams, more than 5,000 products sold through direct &amp; online sales</p>	<p>48 infographics produced on social media</p> <p>4 podcast episodes produced in conversation with speakers from refugee-focussed NGOs, focused on the impact of sexual orientation and gender identity within forced displacement</p>	<p>2022 annual conference - 'Then and Now: the 'refugee crisis' since 2015'</p> <p>70+ events and initiatives organised by regional university teams</p>	<p>450+ student volunteers across 50 universities</p> <p>Training weekends &amp; regular seminars organised throughout the year</p> <p>Volunteering handbooks &amp; resources created &amp; distributed</p>	<p>Pledged £142,000 in grant funding to 8 NGOs</p> <p>NGO activities and outputs related to:</p> <p>Interview preparation</p> <p>Family reunification</p> <p>Appeals</p> <p>Information provision</p> <p>Advocacy</p> <p>Strategic Litigation</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	<p><b>SolidariTee t-shirts</b></p>	<p><b>Educational materials</b></p>	<p><b>Events</b></p>	<p><b>Student Volunteering</b></p>	<p><b>Grant-Giving</b></p>

# Context of our Work

The number of forcibly displaced people worldwide is increasing\*, whilst attitudes towards refugees continue to move towards hostility, intolerance, and exclusion.

In 2021-22, our work has become more important than ever. The need for education about refugee issues continues to increase. Over the past year, among other global crises, the world witnessed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, displacing more than 7 million people across Europe as refugees, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, and continued border violence across the EU and beyond, leading to tragic loss of life.

The public response to events in Ukraine has been described by many within the NGO sector as 'once in a generation'. We have seen an overwhelming surge of support from those in power as well as local communities, and an enormous surge in funding for those affected by the conflict.

Sadly, we have also seen governments and states demonstrate increasingly asymmetric responses towards people fleeing persecution and experiencing humanitarian crises in other countries. Whilst EU institutions have to date provided 1.6 billion euros in humanitarian aid as part of its support to Ukraine, in March 2022, the UN announced that only 3.2% of the required funding for its humanitarian response plan in Somalia had been received.

In addition to global violence and persecution continuing to force people to flee their homes and seek asylum in Greece and other EU states, we are also operating in a context which increasingly views the European 'refugee crisis' as one that is in the past. Funding for legal aid and other forms of refugee aid in Greece and the Balkans continues to decline, with many major donors and other grant-giving bodies having shifted their attention elsewhere.

At SolidariTee, we are one of the very few charitable organisations providing funding specifically for legal-focussed aid in the Mediterranean. The timeline on the next page highlights just some of this year's key events affecting forcible displacement.

*"The number of refugees worldwide increased from 20.7 in 2020 to 21.3 million at the end of 2021" - UNHCR*

# Context of our Work

AUGUST 2021

The Taliban take control of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city.

As of January 2023:

- Women have been banned from schools in Afghanistan, and from working in NGOs
- More than 28m people identified to be in need of humanitarian assistance (UN OCHA), with more than 19m people acutely food insecure.
- Afghans seeking safety in Greece continue to face 'admissibility' procedures, and must prove why they should not be deported to Turkey before being allowed to apply for asylum.

NOVEMBER 2021

31 people drown in the English Channel

In December 2022, 4 more people died in the Channel whilst attempting to seek safety in the UK.

Violent pushbacks occur at the Poland-Belarus border.

Vulnerable migrants attempting to reach the EU continue to be met with force and left in limbo at the border. Vulnerable migrants attempting to reach the EU continue to be met with documented sustained border violence and are left in limbo at the border.

JUNE 2022

European Court of Human Rights grants interim measures regarding a group of vulnerable migrants in Greece's Evros region, ordering them to be rescued and provided with food, water and medical care.

Just 3 of 14 cases of interim measures granted by the ECtHR from March-June were respected, with remaining individuals being pushed back to Turkey. Illegal pushbacks continue, with more than 92 people found naked in Evros in October 2022, allegedly pushed back from Turkey.

SEPTEMBER 2021

The first EU-funded Closed Control Access Centre (closed refugee camp) is opened on the Greek island of Samos. Refugees and asylum seekers live with heavy surveillance and control of their movements, as well as limited access to NGO services inside or outside of the camp.

Reports continue to emerge of prison-like conditions and human rights violations, with residents left without sufficient water access for two weeks. Despite this, a further 4 CCACs are either now operational or being built.

FEBRUARY 2022

Russia launches a large-scale invasion of Ukraine.

As of January 2023, More than 7 million refugees from Ukraine have since been recorded across Europe (source: UNHCR).

APRIL 2022

Nationality and Borders Bill is passed, coming into force in June 2022. The Bill gives the UK government powers to offer a lower level of protection to those who have reached the UK via irregular routes.

In April 2022, the government also announced plans to forcibly send asylum seekers to Rwanda to lodge their asylum applications. If granted Refugee Status, the scheme intends for people to live permanently in Rwanda, with no option to return to the UK. So far, no deportation flights to Rwanda have taken place. Public pressure, in addition to a number of legal challenges, have led to several airlines pulling out of the scheme.

# OUR ACTIVITIES

Educational Resources

SolidariTee Shirts

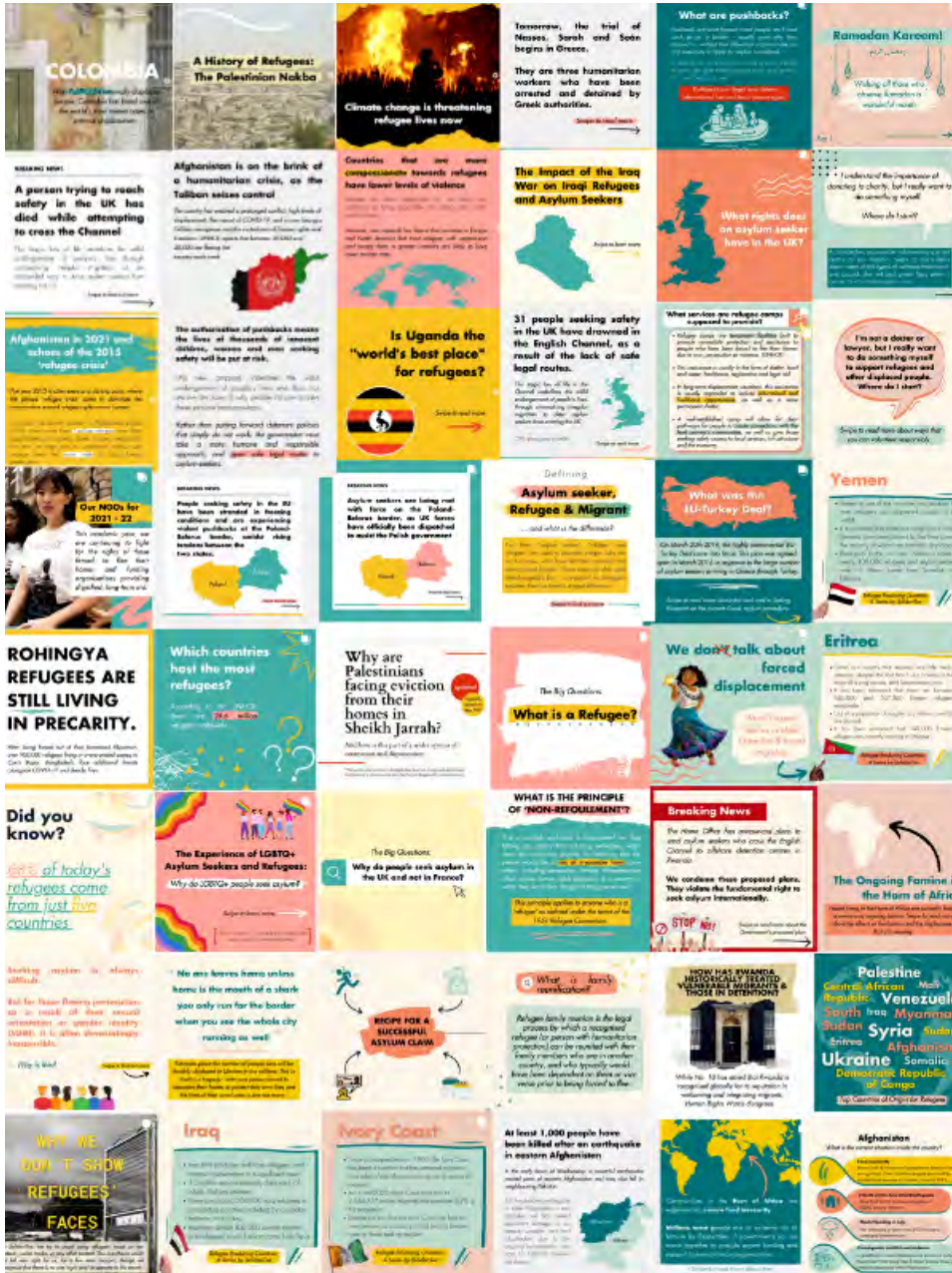
Events

Empowering Student Volunteering

Grant Giving

# Activity 1: Educational Resources

## Social Media & Podcast



## Activity 2: SolidariTee shirts



In Autumn 2021, we launched our new collection...

# DREAM by Algohra & Salam

Our tees are:

- Made from 100% organic cotton
- Vegan
- CO2 neutral
- Fair Wear Certified

The designs are printed using vegan, non-toxic (plastisol-free) inks, by London Living Wage employer Fifth Column.

The designs featured on our Dream collection are inspired by artwork created by two artists from the refugee community, transformed into the t-shirt design we know and love by graphic designer Nazy Raouf.

Across all of our designs, more than 5,000 shirts were sold in the 2021-22 academic year.

photo by Anna Calder

# Behind the Design

The artwork which inspired our 'Dream' collection was created by two artists named Algohra and Salam respectively. Images of the original artwork are shown below.



Algohra is a photo editor - the Arabic word superimposed on the suitcase above reads 'Dream' (with grammatical variations). There's a slight irony in the fact that the photo chosen is a holiday suitcase - a commentary on journeys and borders, and who is allowed to make them.

Salam has painted the Kurdish mountains. The mountains are an integral part of Kurdish culture, and he spoke of the calm he and his family feel watching him paint them.

When we see this design, we can reflect on a few things: the fact that, whilst we often focus on the injustice and suffering that refugees face, we can also focus on the dreams and aspirations of each individual person, and the fact that we're coming together in support of the safety and peace needed to pursue those dreams. We can also reflect on the fact that whilst persecution, oppression, and the cruelty of the asylum system itself take away so much, they cannot and will never be able to take away a person's internal thoughts, dreams, and wishes.



## Activity 3: Events



Developing the diversity of ways to be part of the SolidariTee movement and aiding inclusion of students of all backgrounds and circumstances has been a priority for us this year.

We're focusing strongly on ensuring that all volunteers who want to join us feel able to, and on ensuring equal value is placed on both fundraising and outreach when seeking to make change that lasts.

In the early days of SolidariTee's journey, t-shirts were the central focus of almost all of our volunteers' time with us. Though several fantastic student events took place, we knew that we could do more to create a support structure outreach and knowledge sharing within our regional university teams, instead of just our central team, to support events. We also wanted to ensure that volunteering was inclusive of people from diverse backgrounds, particularly economic backgrounds, and placing a heavy emphasis on fundraising within volunteer roles can run contra to this.

Over the past few years, we have undergone a progressive strategic shift to ensure that education and outreach are front and centre in the work done by all of our volunteers.

We were encouraged by the success of the 20-21 move to offer designated events-focussed positions for the first time. In the 20-21 academic year, our student volunteers ran more than 250 events and initiatives as part of this shift, with huge improvements in our ability to raise funds outside of t-shirt sales.

In 21-22, our continued focus on supporting events-based activities continues to form part of our wider thinking around inclusion, both for our volunteers but also those who form part of the wider SolidariTee community. We have worked hard on underlining our message that there is no one right way to stand up for refugee rights, and that all forms of solidarity make a difference, whether financial or not.

## Activity 4: Empowering student volunteering



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

7/11/2021	Gender & displacement
14/11/2021	Free Humanitarians Campaign
21/11/2021	Christmas sales push
28/11/2021	Continuing solidarity with Afghanistan
5/12/2021	Having difficult conversations & mythbusting
12/12/2021	More about our NGOs

**SOLIDARITEE** Sunday sessions



The events organised **by** our student teams for their university and local communities are just one part of the picture - the events organised **for** them are equally important.

Our volunteer training sessions and workshops, prepared by our student central team in collaboration with expert speakers and NGO partners, are crucial to what we do. Taking place during onboarding and throughout the year, these sessions complement the more practical, outward-facing parts of our volunteering roles, and ensure that all of our volunteers have access to opportunities to continue learning about a cause that they're passionate about.

We place a big focus on ensuring all of our volunteers are equipped to talk about the refugee crisis in a way which is accurate, accessible, and inclusive. We talk about the importance of avoiding victim/saviour narratives, and of being mindful of the fact that work to uphold refugee rights also needs to take an intersectional lens, since racism, homophobia, Islamophobia, and other forms of intolerance all play a part in anti-refugee rhetoric.

All of our central team members and team leads are invited to a 2-day training session, with all volunteers also having access to 'SolidariTee Sunday Sessions'. These sessions featured talks by NGO partners, in addition to training and discussions from previous volunteers across topics including fundraising, event organisation, publicity, and conflict management, mental health, and compassion fatigue

## Activity 5: Grant-giving

In the 2021 - 22 academic year, we gave  
£142,000 in grants to 8 NGOs:

- A.Ss.I.S.T. (Chios & Athens, Greece)
- Elpida Home (Thessaloniki, Greece)
- Equal Legal Aid (Thessaloniki, Greece)
- Ethnovision (Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid (Lesvos & Athens, Greece)
- Global Echo Litigation Center (international)
- Legal Centre Lesvos (Lesvos, Greece)
- Mobile Info Team (Thessaloniki, Greece)

*In addition, SolidariTee-funded implementation periods from the prior grant cycle, paid out in the 20-21 academic year, were still active during this year for European Lawyers in Lesvos (implementation period ended 31st Aug 2021) and Legal Centre Lesvos (implementation period ended 31st Dec 2021).*



**We give grants to organisations providing legal aid and other lasting forms of support to displaced people.**

6 of our grants went to legal aid NGOs operating in Greece. Why is legal aid so important in this context?

Greece receives refugees seeking safety from persecution who have fled countries all over the world.

Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, and Eritrea are just some of the places from which people are forced to flee.

This may be because they have experienced persecution because of their political opinions, or have been targeted by a regime because of their religion, ethnicity, or even job title. Others are forced to flee their homes because their lives are at risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, or because they are escaping forced conscription by militant groups.



In 2022, more than 18,000 people were reported to have arrived in Greece in search of safety. Due to violent 'pushbacks', whereby authorities illegally force people back across borders, the real number is likely to be far higher.

*left: map of Greece; data: UNHCR*

## Activity 5: Grant-giving

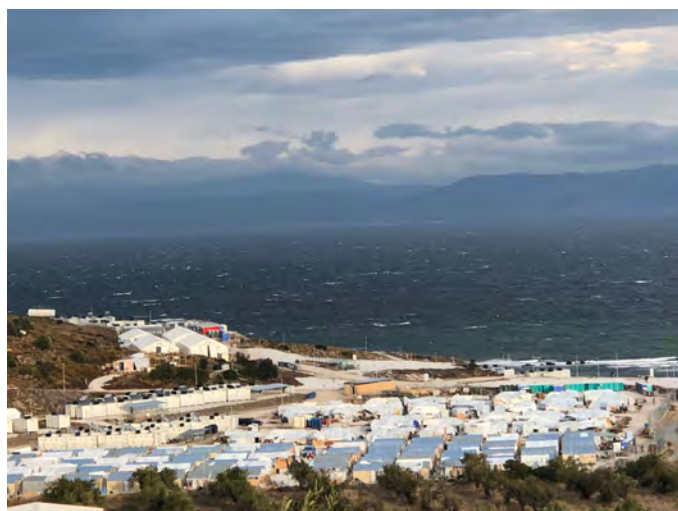
**We give grants to organisations providing legal aid and other lasting forms of support to displaced people.**

What happens once someone has reached Greece?

Even after someone has made a journey lasting weeks, months, or even years in escape of persecution, safety is by no means guaranteed. Throughout 2021 and 2022, reports continued to emerge of violent pushbacks conducted by Greek authorities, border force agencies, and even extremist civilian groups, causing physical harm and preventing people from crossing or staying in Greek territory.

For those who manage to avoid pushbacks, living conditions are dire. Many are forced to live in camps made of little more than plastic shed-like rooms or marquees no matter the weather. These camps are often nowhere near local towns, and with individual asylum seekers receiving as little as 75 euros per month, it can be incredibly difficult to access services, even when leaving camps is permitted.

Others are forced to sleep in abandoned city buildings, as the only alternative to the conditions and restrictions on movement of camps.



*left: Athens buildings*

*right: Mavrovouni camp, Lesbos*

**We give grants to organisations providing legal aid and other lasting forms of support to displaced people.**

What does applying for Refugee Status in Greece involve?

The key step in the process of refugee status determination is a person's **asylum interview**. This interview is aimed at determining whether the persecution someone has experienced is 'credible', and generally consists of extremely detailed and invasive questions aimed at 'catching out' asylum seekers, by finding ways in which their story 'doesn't match up'.

Depending on location across a Greece, asylum interviews tend to happen in extremes: either within 2-3 days of a person's release from quarantine, leaving no time for preparation whatsoever, or months or even years after a person has arrived in Greece, due to severe barriers to being able to lodge an asylum claim on the mainland.

**In all cases, asylum seekers are given effectively no information about the process or their rights.** Any information published is generally only accessible in Greek, which is not a language that majority of asylum seekers speak or can understand.

In Greece, state-provided legal aid is effectively not available. When it is, it's normally after a person has already been rejected, and state lawyers frequently submit appeals without having had any contact whatsoever with the applicant themselves.

**We give grants to organisations providing legal aid and other lasting forms of support to displaced people.**

### What happens without legal aid?

Estimates from our partner NGOs in 2021 suggest that fewer than 3% of asylum seekers are able to access legal aid before their asylum interview. This lack of legal aid leads to dire outcomes for thousands of people each year who have experienced persecution. Despite meeting the UN Refugee Convention's definition of a refugee, a large proportion of asylum seekers without legal aid will be wrongly denied access to their rights under international law.

Some of the consequences of a lack of legal aid include:

- **Unjust rejections for refugee status.** When this happens, people are at risk of being:
  - detained by authorities
  - deported to countries where their life is in danger
  - forced into destitution, sleeping in parks or abandoned buildings
- **Unaccompanied children being wrongfully treated as adults.** Without representation from a legal aid NGO, many unaccompanied minors are denied the special protections afforded to under 18s and forced to live in camps alongside adults without any special protections.
- **Separation of families.** Deadlines for family reunification claims are very tight, and no information is provided regarding this by authorities. This means that many people with parents, children, or spouses in another EU state are denied the opportunity to be reunited.

## Activity 5: Grant-giving

**We give grants to organisations providing legal aid and other lasting forms of support to displaced people.**

What happens with legal aid?

**In short, people gain access to their rights.**

People who have fled persecution and violence are given accurate information about the process of seeking asylum.

They understand what to expect within their interview and have received support in collecting necessary documents which may be needed as evidence.

They have the opportunity to be referred to doctors and psychologists for treatment and documentation of any physical or mental health concerns, and evidence of this is included within a person's asylum claim where relevant.

The asylum process is less traumatic, and people are equipped with the tools to advocate for themselves to the best of their ability.

Unjust rejections are prevented, and those who have fled persecution receive refugee status, as is their right. In turn, they gain access to the right to work in Greece, to send their children to school, and to receive medical care.

The population of people sleeping rough is reduced, as is the burden of needless appeals within the Greek asylum service from people who were wrongfully rejected the first time.

The asylum system becomes more functional, fairer, and less cruel. Solidarity with refugees is normalised, and their ability to contribute to Greek society is increased.

## Activity 5: Grant-giving

# IMPACT OF OUR NGOS

working in Greece

**806 information session attendees**

*Mobile Info Team, 2021*

**316 legal consultations**

*A.Ss.I.S.T. September 2021 - March 2022*

**122 interview preparations for clients visiting drop-in centre**

*Elpida Home October 2021 - September 2022*

**96 clients supported with family reunification**

*Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid  
Jan - Dec 2021*

**375 individual consultations**

*Equal Legal Aid January - June 2022*

**214 people registered asylum claims in Lesbos**

*following legal assistance by Legal Centre Lesbos for newly arrived people to access asylum procedures, July - Sept 2022*

**75,000 people reached per informational post**

*Mobile Info Team, run a Facebook page with posts providing key information regarding the asylum system and refugee issues in Greece. Average reach per post over 2021.*

**344 humanitarian aid workers received training**

*training provided by Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid to NGO workers across Greece & beyond  
Jan - Dec 2021*

### A note on our NGO data:

*Each of our partner NGOs agrees an implementation period (i.e the period of time during which SolidariTee funds will be spent) with us according to their own requirements. This rarely if ever correlates to the financial year of SolidariTee. Final reports for many of the grants provided in the 21-22 year are not due until 2023, so data shown here is taken from interim reports and/or calendar year annual reports produced by each NGO. We remain committed to strong monitoring and evaluation processes which are streamlined and avoid weighing down small organisations with inflexible bureaucracy, and which are useful for all parties. These statistics are intended as highlights only, and in no way reflect the full scope of their work.*

# IMPACT OF OUR NGOS

## *working in Greece*

Two of our NGOs operated outside of Greece this year: [Global Echo Law Center](#), non-profit law firm that works with affected communities and civil society organisations to end corporate human rights violations in areas of armed conflict and occupation; and [Ethnovision](#), an NGO based in Bosnia and Serbia focussing on protection, information, and advocacy services.

### Case study: Ethnovision

When reviewing applications from NGOs outside of Greece, we recognised the need for a flexible, needs-led approach to grant-giving. In the Western Balkans, where hypothermia & frostbite amongst vulnerable migrants are common, asylum services have incredibly low rates of recognition (granting refugee status), and the majority of those in the region are people on the move, attempting to reach a safe country in which to seek asylum and facing violent pushbacks at borders throughout the journey. NGO presence in refugee camps in Serbia and Bosnia is very limited, as the region receives very little funding.



SolidariTee's funding has been used to design, build, and fit out this container, pictured in various stages of development. The container can be transported into camps or to the border as needed, and the space can be used to run a range of protection and information services which would otherwise be impossible without a private, safe space which is protected from the elements.



# Strategic priorities

2021-2022

At SolidariTee, we know that our words have power. At all times, we focus on not just what we're doing, but how we're going about doing it. Here are some of the core values which define our work this year, which aren't always easy to convey in short social media posts or at events, but which cut across all of our activities.

**1** Remaining mindful of the fact that not all forcibly displaced people are refugees.

The UN Refugee Convention's definition of a refugee is a specific legal definition, and refers to people who have been forced to flee their homes because they fear persecution:

“someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a **well-founded fear of being persecuted** for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.” - *1951 Refugee Convention*

However, it's important to acknowledge that there are millions of people across the globe who are forced to leave their homes and begin all over again who **aren't** covered by this definition. This often includes:

- **Internally displaced people:** (people who have been displaced within a country and who haven't crossed an international border)
- **Climate migrants:** because persecution refers to being targeted because of something personal to you, such as your identity or beliefs, drought, tsunamis, and other climate-induced disasters don't qualify someone for refugee status.



**1** Remaining mindful of the fact that not all forcibly displaced people are refugees. (ctd)

- **Survivors of trafficking** - people who have crossed borders against their will, but not because they feared persecution in the country they left, are also not generally covered by the Refugee Convention
- **Unjustly rejected asylum seekers** - in Greece, where SolidariTee funds most of its work, wrongful rejections are common. This means that people there are thousands of people who are not officially recognised as refugees, and therefore have no access to the international protections and right to work, healthcare and housing in the country they have fled to, despite having fled persecution. Often, this is as a result of lacking legal aid.

Whilst we often use 'refugees' in sentences where it isn't practical to say 'refugees, asylum seekers, and other people forced to flee their homes and migrate in vulnerable situations', this year we have focused on remaining mindful of the diversity of circumstances around forced migration, and the need to avoid playing into 'good and bad migrant' tropes.



**2** Combining legal aid with other forms of related support to enable us to support displaced people in a wider range of contexts

Legal aid is crucial in preventing asylum seekers from receiving unjust rejections, and the devastating consequences that often follow, namely deportations to countries where a person's life and freedoms are in danger, or homelessness without access to basic services in Greece.

However, in 2020-21, we were increasingly aware that, with a rise in border violence and a changing global context, legal aid within the context of asylum law, wasn't always the most effective intervention. In many of the countries that neighbour Greece, or through which forcibly displaced people live in or travel, (such as Bosnia and Serbia) asylum services are even less functional, and many forcibly displaced people are trying to reach other countries where they can apply for refugee status.

Therefore, in response to the rapidly changing context, this year, we decided to expand our grant-giving focus beyond Greece and direct legal aid. SolidariTee seeks to view legal aid holistically – as a form of lasting and empowering aid which operates in a complex and dynamic context. SolidariTee takes a needs-based and flexible approach which ensures that our mandate of lasting, empowering aid is at the heard of what we do.

In 2021-22, we gave the highest total amount of grant funding that we've ever given in a single year.

For the first time, we gave grants to two organisations based outside of Greece, where our partners usually work.

# CHALLENGES & RESPONSES

A summary of our evaluation of the current threats to SolidariTee's operations, both internally & externally to the charity, and our strategy in responding to these.

THREAT	DETAIL	MITIGATION
Reduction in no. of volunteers	<p>Post-Covid, like many other organisations, we have observed lower levels of student volunteering. Our priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to attract engaged, committed volunteers</li> <li>• Ensure that SolidariTee can remain functional and effective with fluctuating team sizes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have moved away from an individual, linear fundraising model predicated on each volunteer selling a certain no. of t-shirts.</li> <li>• We continue to place emphasis on events and group campaigns and fundraisers that can be carried out by uni teams of any size.</li> <li>• We collect data on, and are responsive to, the reasons why people choose to volunteer with us, and ensure that we continue to offer opportunities which meet these objectives.</li> </ul>
Challenges fulfilling grant payments	<p>Cost of living increases, reduction in student volunteer uptake, and/or unforeseen events which force students off-campus (c.f coronavirus) could threaten fundraising for grants.</p>	<p>We operate a reserve policy which ensures leeway within our financial modelling. We go into each grant cycle with a proportion of the funds already raised, and always pledge less than we expect to raise in case of unforeseen circumstances. We pay grants in installments to diffuse financial risks.</p>

# CHALLENGES & RESPONSES

THREAT	DETAIL	MITIGATION
<p>Access challenges for NGO partners</p>	<p>As Greece, as well as other EU and neighbouring states, operate increasingly hostile border and migration policies, access to refugee populations by NGOs comes under threat. This is evident in new registration requirements for NGOs in Greece, as well as in new procedures around Closed Control Access Centres (closed camps). Furthermore, several humanitarian workers across Greece and beyond have recently been implicated in criminal cases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to adopt a flexible funding model - should an NGO be unable to implement their initially proposed project, we remain ready to work with them to deliver viable, impactful, alternatives.</li> <li>• We continue to closely monitor the Greek &amp; EU migration context, and conduct 8-weekly updates focused on context changes with our NGO partners.</li> </ul>
<p>Challenges fulfilling operational capacity requirements using a solely volunteer-led model</p>	<p>Being led by current students as well as recent graduates and young professionals means that, by nature, we do not have full-time staff. Our challenge is ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of our volunteers, and ensuring that productivity remains high despite individual people having a lower capacity than full-time team members would do.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021-22, we added a steering subcommittee to the board of trustees, with the aim of adding additional institutional knowledge and capacity to the student team.</li> <li>• Our dedicated welfare team helps to ensure volunteers continue to enjoy their roles and provides support in balancing volunteering with work/study. We also have a planned meeting with a qualified psychologist to advise on mental health strategy.</li> <li>• In 2022-23, we have separated the student president from the CEO role, to reduce the burden on individuals whilst providing greater opportunities for student autonomy.</li> </ul>

# CHALLENGES & RESPONSES

THREAT	DETAIL	MITIGATION
<p>Lack of media coverage and political attention on contexts in which SolidariTee operates</p>	<p>It is natural, if unfortunate, that media attention waxes and wanes with each new passing global crisis. However, the war in Ukraine has dominated both the discourse and the funding available for humanitarian work on a scale that has been described as a 'once in a generation'. As the 'refugee crisis in Greece' is deemed by many in the mainstream media to have been a '2015 problem', communicating the ongoing need in Greece and the Western Balkans to volunteers &amp; donors is an ongoing challenge, with many large institutional donors having pulled out of the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We remain committed to funding contexts where we perceive our grants have the ability to make meaningful change, i.e., there is a need for the work SolidariTee funds, there are NGOs in the region with capacity to respond, there is a funding gap for such work, there is a functioning asylum system which makes intervention possible, and there is expertise regarding the context within our team. This means that we will not move contexts in search of more attention or funding, but will continue to advocate for support for underfunded contexts.</li> <li>• We continue to prioritise robust educational content published via social media, which keeps alive the conversation regarding the treatment of refugees in Greece and beyond.</li> </ul>
<p>Challenges ensuring uniformity of volunteer experience</p>	<p>The experience a volunteer has on our team will differ according to where, if anywhere, they are studying, with their experience being affected by their team leader, as well as the university culture and ease with which events can be organised, and their own time availability. This can lead some volunteers to gain more from their experience than others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to provide thorough training available to members of all teams to ensure that knowledge of available opportunities, and access to learning about our cause, is universal.</li> <li>• We commit to placing greater emphasis on ensuring centrally organised events are held more widely across the UK, not just in London.</li> <li>• We place focus on building relationships with local businesses and venues, to make event organisation more feasible across a range of locations.</li> </ul>



SolidariTee is a unusual charity: we're made up entirely of students and young people, everyone is a volunteer who fits SolidariTee around their work or studies, and most of us are at the very start of our careers with no professional experience to fall back on. Despite this, we're going strong into our sixth year, supporting NGOs doing essential work with refugees and asylum seekers. This year, I hope to see SolidariTee continue to work hard to uphold refugee rights: through fundraising across and beyond our university campuses, as well as by producing high-quality, far-reaching education that will help to combat the myths about displaced people that are so prevalent. SolidariTee is made up of lots of people doing what they can, but together we're able to have a real impact. The work that SolidariTee funds sadly continues to be extremely urgent, but change is possible, and I'm inspired every day by the students and young people who come together in solidarity with forcibly displaced people worldwide.



# Looking ahead

A word from our Student President for 2022-23, Louisa Cowell

*In 2022-23, Louisa works alongside Beth Molyneux, student Vice-President, and Alexa Netty, CEO, with priorities for the year including expanding our volunteer base to include non-students, and funding legal aid which is complemented by mental health and psychosocial support.*



# Our policy on reserves

Note: SolidariTee (CIO) also has a subsidiary trading company, wholly owned by the CIO, and which donates all of its proceeds to the CIO.

- We seek to maintain either £30k, or enough funding for the next 3 months' worth of grant installments, in reserves at any time. This is to enable us to be 'ahead' of our grant installment goals so that we are always comfortably able to meet our obligations to our NGO partners, and also so that we could launch a small emergency grant if necessary due to unforeseen changes to context (for example, the Covid-19 emergency grant cycle of £10.5k which was distributed in 2020). These reserves may be 'split' across the CIO bank and amounts owed by STC on occasion.
- We seek to strike a balance between financial prudence and maximising our ability to provide grant funding in what is a rapidly changing context with an urgent need for funding, coupled with financial forecasting and grant cycles based around academic years. It's important for our volunteers that their efforts directly contribute to the outcomes in a given year, and, given that we are cognisant of the usual peaks and troughs in income across the academic cycle, we seek to time our grant installments in accordance.
- Our grant installment timelines are always generous to ensure that, were we to have unforeseen challenges or a less successful fundraising year than anticipated, we have an extra 3+ months' of leeway against predicted fundraising goals. Where appropriate, we may sometimes therefore be in a position to provide grant funding before the final installment deadlines.





# thank you

The board of trustees would like to extend our deepest thanks to all current and former volunteers for making SolidariTee possible; we would be nothing without your hard work, determination, and commitment to upholding refugee rights. We also express our gratitude to everyone who has supported our work this year, either financially, through attendance at one of our events, or by engaging with us online. Finally we would like to extend thanks to all those working at our partner NGOs: thank you for being, quite literally, the change we hope to see in the world.

With thanks to organisations and partners who have supported us:

- Durham University John Snow Fashion Show
- Guild of Dough
- Judy Fishel Watercolour commissions
- King's Affair (Cambridge)
- Oxford MedSoc
- Oxford Union
- Osborne Clarke
- The Climbing Lab
- Trinity College Commemoration Ball (Oxford)
- Wadham Ball (Oxford)

A big part of why our t-shirts are so central to SolidariTee's vision is because they act as a visual display of solidarity with refugees worldwide. They're often a conversation starter, opening the door to friendly, inclusive conversations about displacement.

That's why it's so important that the wider context behind each design is central at all times.



### Wider Context

Though not an officially recognised state, the region of Kurdistan spans Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Armenia. Kurds make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in this region, though do not have a permanent nation-state, and Kurdish people are heavily persecuted in each of these states. There is a semi-autonomous region of Iraq known as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and this region itself has received millions of refugees of several ethnicities.

Nonetheless, Kurdish people make up a large number of the world's refugees; in Iran, Kurds face oppression and discrimination, and in Turkey, laws attempting to crack down on Kurdish language and culture have been passed, with the government attempting to reduce Kurdish freedom of expression.

Within the asylum process in countries like Greece, there is often a complete lack of sensitivity to the persecution that Kurdish people face. In addition to being forced to live in unsafe conditions within camps which leave them vulnerable to further attack, there are often problems within asylum interviews themselves.

One of our NGO partners recently reported a situation whereby a Kurdish asylum seeker was been forced to complete their interview in the next room, and in earshot of, non-Kurdish people from the same country as them, who they live with in refugee camps in Greece.

On this occasion, the asylum seeker in question was too scared to explain the reason why he had fled his country (he was being persecuted because of his political opinion - he had advocated for an autonomous Kurdish state) because he feared retribution in the camps. This would have effectively cost him his asylum application, and is just one more reason why legal aid and advocacy is so crucial within the process. It's also an example of the history, learning, and conversation that can be brought about by wearing a simple tee.

# SOLIDARITEE



# Solidaritee

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 July 2022

The narrative report on pages 1 to 35 along with the formal details below form the trustees' annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Alexa Katerina Netty	appointed 8 April 2021
Louisa Helen Cowell	appointed 1 September 2022
Isabella Emily India Ponsonby	appointed 1 September 2022
Rebecca Katherine Young	appointed 1 September 2022
Sarah Jasmine Davidson	appointed 1 August 2021
Tiara Sahar Ataii	resigned 20th November 2022
Emma Penney	appointed 1st August 2021 resigned 3rd October 2022
Rosie Richards	appointed 1st August 2021 resigned 3rd October 2022
Madeleine Hancock	resigned 3rd October 2022
Mouki Kambouroglou	resigned 27 Feb 2022

**Charity number** 1182195 Registered in England and Wales

### Registered and principal address

16 Lache Lane  
Chester  
CH4 7LR

### Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank Plc  
PO Box 250  
Skelmerdale  
WN8 6WT

### Independent examiner

Rachel Cooper ACA  
**Welbeck**  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

### Structure, governance and management

Solidaritee is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1182195, its members are its trustees. Its governing document is a constitution registered 25th February 2019, and amended 1 Aug 2021.

### Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed for a term of one to three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the existing trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

## Public Benefit Statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and in particular the advancement of education and human rights, and relief of poverty. This is achieved through our awareness raising activities here in the UK, as well as our work to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid. In doing so, our work ensures that refugees are able to access their rights and are prevented from

falling into destitution and poverty after receiving unjust rejections on their asylum claims or receiving inadequate mental health support following the persecution and trauma that a great many asylum seekers have faced. It also ensures that the public are informed about refugee issues in the UK and worldwide.

## Financial review

The net income for the year was £-58,082 (2021: £27,264) all of which was unrestricted.

## Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £32,800 (2021: £90,982).

Our reserves policy is set out on page 33 of this report, and our spending this year was in line with our reserves policy following a year of increased income in the 2020-21 (prior) financial year.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Approved by the board of trustees on 7th March 2023

Signed.....  (Trustee)

Name: Dr Alexa Netty VetMB

# Solidaritee

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Solidaritee

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022, which are set out on pages 39 to 44.

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

As the charity's trustees, 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.

### **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:

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 4 the accounts did 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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  .....

Name: Rachel Cooper ACA

Date: Mar 15, 2023 .....

### **Welbeck**

29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

Solidaritee  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 July 2022


	Notes	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and Legacies	(2)	73,328	73,328	119,419
Other trading activities	(3)	12,989	12,989	13,413
		-	-	
<b>Total income</b>		<u>86,317</u>	<u>86,317</u>	<u>132,832</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising Funds		1,418	1,418	1,233
Charitable activities - grants to NGOs	(4)	141,788	141,788	103,500
Other		1,193	1,193	835
		-	-	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>144,399</u>	<u>144,399</u>	<u>105,568</u>
<b>Net income</b>		<u>(58,082)</u>	<u>(58,082)</u>	<u>27,264</u>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>90,982</u>	<u>90,982</u>	<u>63,718</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<u>32,900</u>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>90,982</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended in the current financial year derive from continuing activities.

Solidaritee  
 Balance sheet  
 as at 31 July 2022

	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	(5) <u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	(6) 30,577	30,577	70,563
Cash at bank and in hand	(7) <u>3,723</u>	<u>3,723</u>	<u>21,369</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>34,300</u>	<u>34,300</u>	<u>91,932</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Creditors and accruals	(8) <u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,050</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,050</u>
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	<u>32,800</u>	<u>32,800</u>	<u>90,882</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>90,982</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds	<u>32,900</u>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>90,982</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>32,900</u>	<u>90,982</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on ..... **7th March 2023**

Signed:  ..... (Trustee)

Name: Dr Alexa Netty VetMB

# Solidaritee

## Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2022

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

#### Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

#### Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

#### Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

#### Grants payable with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

#### Grants payable without performance conditions

Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.

#### Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

At present the charity has no restricted or designated funds

# Solidaritee

Notes to the accounts continued  
for the year ended 31 July 2022

## 2 Donations

	2022	2021
General Donations	42,557	43,510
Donations from Subsidiary	22,819	75,909
	<u>65,376</u>	<u>119,419</u>

## 3 Other Trading Activities

	2022	2021
Events	12,989	13,413
	<u>12,989</u>	<u>13,413</u>

## 4 Grant making

Grants to NGOs	2022	2021
	Grants to institutions £	Grants to institutions £
Asylum Seekers Information Services Team	17,968	15,000
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid	18,000	20,000
Stichting Mushkila Kabira (Mobile Info Team)	17,931	10,500
Legal Centre Lesbos	17,961	20,000
Equal Legal Aid	17,933	-
Elpida Home	15,982	-
Ethnovision	18,077	-
Global Echo Litigation Center	17,936	-
Avocats Sans Frontieres	-	18,000
European Lawyers in Lesbos	-	20,000
Total	<u>141,788</u>	<u>103,500</u>

## 5 Fixed assets investments

	Investment in subsidiary	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£
Balance b/f	100	100	100
Additions	-	-	-
(Disposals)	-	-	-
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The company's investments at the balance sheet are in its subsidiary undertaking SolidariTee Sales Company Limited of which it is the sole shareholder.

<b>6 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors - Gift Aid	534	5,517
Amounts owed by subsidiary company	28,033	65,041
Other debtors	2,010	5
	<u>30,577</u>	<u>70,563</u>

<b>7 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash at bank	3,723	21,369
	<u>3,723</u>	<u>21,369</u>

<b>8 Creditors and accruals</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	1,500	1,050
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,050</u>

## **9 Related party transactions**

### **Trustee expenses**

Two current trustees received reimbursement for expenses incurred during their voluntary service to SolidariTee during this year. Neither trustee (R Young or I Ponsonby) was a member of the board of trustees at the time of expense reimbursement, and the combined total of reimbursed expenses was under £30.

### **Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

# SOLIDARITEE



# Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. If you have any questions about SolidariTee's work or would like more information, please contact [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk) via email.



*SolidariTee is a UK Registered Charity 1182195. To read more, visit [www.solidaritee.org.uk](http://www.solidaritee.org.uk)*

*Text for annual report produced by Alexa Netty.*



**SOLIDARITEE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1182195

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# Accounts

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



# ANNUAL REPORT

Aug 2020 - July 2021



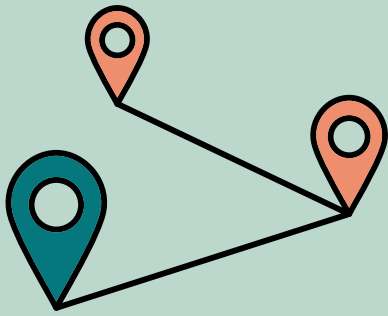
**SOLIDARITEE**

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The first section of this report covers broader context and strategy, whilst our Impact Report, published in January 2022, covers our activities and performance metrics in more detail for the period. It is included at the end of this document, and we encourage anyone who wishes to gain a fuller understanding of our work to view the two sections in conjunction.

It is also worth noting that our prior year reporting period covered 16 months from February 2019-20, spanning the better part of two academic years, as our first published report since charitable registration, whilst this period covers the standard 12 months.



## Vision, Mission and Activities

## STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD

Despite it being a year of huge turbulence globally, the SolidariTee academic and financial period July 20-21 was our most successful to date across a variety of indicators. In this annual report, we detail the ways in which we met our objectives, provide an evaluation of the context of our activities, and offer insight into our strategic priorities during this time.

## OUR TEAM

During this period, SolidariTee was an entirely student-led team made up of 900 volunteers. Since its inception, we have continued to operate without paid staff. We would like to thank all of those who believed in and supported a group of young people in their determination to make change. It is the contributions of a collective which add up to real impact; from the speakers who shared their wisdom at events to the small businesses who donated to our work, and, of course, all the students and their communities who have chosen to stand in SolidariTee with forcibly displaced people worldwide. We hope that you find this report useful and informative.

To read more, visit [www.solidaritee.org.uk](http://www.solidaritee.org.uk) or email [boardoftrustees@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:boardoftrustees@solidaritee.org.uk) with any feedback or questions.



## VISION

SolidariTee stands for real-world, lasting improvements in the treatment of asylum seekers, refugees, and other people in vulnerable migration contexts.

Our vision is a world in which people who are forced to flee their homes have access to services which will allow their fundamental legal and human rights to be upheld, and that the general public are informed and united in support of kinder, less hostile migratory structures.

## MISSION

**Our objectives are:**

- 1) To support and amplify the work of grassroots organisations who provide legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers.
- 2) To raise awareness of global refugee issues and build public knowledge around the injustices perpetrated against forcibly displaced people globally, as well as the importance of legal aid in creating asylum systems that are just and dependable.
- 3) To provide students, as the next generation of voters, educators and policy-makers, with the opportunity to make meaningful change whilst also developing their own skills as activists and humanitarians who operate respectfully and ethically.

# ACTIVITIES

## WHAT WE DO, AND WHY IT MATTERS



- **Grant Giving (objective 1)**

In the 2020-21 academic year, we gave £103,500 in grants across six NGOs providing legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers in four regions of Greece: Thessaloniki in the northern mainland, and the islands of Lesbos, Samos, and Chios.

We are one of the increasingly rare grant-giving organisations who provide predominantly unrestricted funds, which means that we do not force organisations to use our funding on specific budget lines. Instead, by providing a stable, predictable amount of money, we allow them the flexibility to do what they do best. In addition to funding NGOs who wish to expand, we also help others to cover core operational costs. This enables them to focus on their key priority: providing a dependable service. It also allows them to develop a funding plan for the longer-term.

Our grants were able to fund the equivalent of a full-time Greek lawyer at each organisation, a key need in 2020. At the time, changing regulations meant that volunteer lawyers could no longer operate effectively without local Greek lawyers, especially when dealing with appeals for people whose applications had been unjustly rejected.

*"Thank you to all of you for this great news! You gave me the hope that I can see my children again after 6 years. I'm so happy now! Today you gave me the happiest news I have ever heard!"*

A Quote from a client of Mobile Info Team, who received their support for her family reunification case for over two years.



# ACTIVITIES *continued...*



- **Events (objectives 1, 2, and 3)**

Our regional teams of students, based at over 60 universities, collectively organised more than 250 events and initiatives.

In addition, our central team organised 2 national conferences as well as panel discussions and a virtual art exhibition (see impact report for further details).

We believe that education should be accessible to all. For many events, participation was either free or on a 'pay what you can' basis. Nonetheless, we raised approximately £50,000 through events and donations in this year, amounting to approximately 25% of our income,

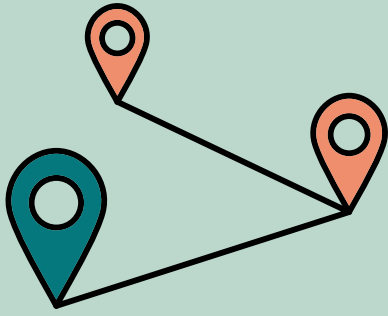
Every activity organised by our student volunteers gave the team members a chance to build a range of key experiences valued within the charity sector. In our volunteer survey, members reported developing skills in event organisation, leadership, confidence in having tricky conversations, marketing, and social media.

- **SolidariTee t-shirt sales (primarily objective 1, additionally 2 and 3)**

A core part of the rep role has always centred around facilitating the sale of our custom-made SolidariTees. The 2020 collection was our first vegan & organic range. Not only do our t-shirts make up the majority of our fundraising for the year but, by featuring refugee artwork, they act as a conversation starter, opening the door to connection and education.

- **Social media infographics & podcast (objectives 2 and 3)**

Our centrally managed social media pages and website provide up-to-date content, educating our followers on refugee issues through our mythbuster series, infographics, current affairs content, and podcast. This year, we placed a greater focus on international coverage of global displacement, and launched a 'History of Refugees' series to unpack the cyclical nature of forced migration across the centuries.



## Structure, governance and management

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND LEADERSHIP

At the start of this reporting period, the charity had just three trustees: SolidariTee's founder Tiara, in addition to Mouki Kambouroglou and Madeleine Hancock, two of SolidariTee's earliest team members. The board was particularly small at the time of registration with the charity commission in 2019, reflecting the size of the student central team that was, at this point, only 6 members.

By early 2020, a delegation of responsibilities between the board and the central team had been achieved, with a non-trustee Executive Director leading the charity's activities and operations. Subsequently, 4 new trustees have joined the board, including the outgoing executive director Alexa. Trustees were recruited by a written application process, with a non-binding vote by central team members, followed by an official vote by the Board of Trustees.

## ACCOUNTING, RESERVES AND GRANT-MAKING

At the end of SolidariTee's reporting period, we held approximately £89,000 in unrestricted reserves. We pay our grants in pre-agreed instalments throughout the academic year. At all times, we seek to have funds in excess of the instalments required for the coming 3 months, or £30,000, whichever is the greater, which would enable us to launch an emergency grant should the need arise. These reserves help us to mitigate risks and dependably meet our pre-existing grant requirements should any unforeseen circumstances arise.

# STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 20-21

At the start of this reporting period, I was in the fifth year of a veterinary degree, and our charity was about to embark upon a new academic year during the COVID-19 pandemic, with little to no sense of whether any of our 900 student volunteers would ever get to meet each other in person, let alone sit in a lecture hall together.

In prior years, SolidariTee's activities had mostly centred around fundraising and awareness raising through the sale of our custom-made SolidariTee shirts (through its subsidiary trading company), in addition to our regional teams organising mostly campus-based events.

Our model had previously been reliant on face-to-face interactions, such as a t-shirt sold over lunch in the students' union, or a bake sale outside the library. As a result of the pandemic, changes were crucial. Our volunteers at every level of the organisation rose to the occasion with agility, boldness, and determination, and we were able to pivot the organisation to meet and exceed many of our targets.

A side effect of the pandemic was an enormous collective will to make change. We saw a huge increase in support for online events and sponsored challenges - being a part of something together, even if behind our screens, was highly valued. This meant that it was perhaps easier to galvanise support for events and campaigns. It was a year where almost every initiative was being run in this way for the first time, creating a huge learning curve for everyone involved.

At the same time, we watched a rapidly changing context within refugee camps across Greece, where most of our grants reached. Moria, at the time Europe's largest refugee camp with 30,000 people, faced a devastating lack of provision for COVID-19 in early 2020, and was almost entirely destroyed by fire in September 2020. New camps were hastily created, and inadequate.

This was also the year where pushbacks - violent and illegal expulsions of people seeking safety at land and sea borders - became one of the dominant barriers to seeking asylum. In addition, severe restrictions placed on camps by Greek authorities in response to the pandemic meant that entry or exit was often prevented, making seeking legal counsel incredibly complex. These were all contextual changes which we sought to respond to through awareness-raising, in addition to delivering on our grant payments at a time when many areas of the charity sector faced huge financial challenge.

Overall, the year was a big success for SolidariTee in many areas. We raised more money, held more events, and sold more t-shirts than in any other academic year. We also had the largest number of volunteers and campus teams SolidariTee has seen so far. I believe that several strategic shifts, made in conjunction with the central leadership team, contributed to this success, in addition to the pandemic context itself encouraging altruism and volunteering. These shifts, as detailed below, resulted in an increased sense of volunteer community, providing each person with the autonomy and mandate to make change in a way that felt right for them. My goal was for the teams' individual interests to be harnessed in diversifying our impacts and activities. Some of those changes were:

**1) To expand the SolidariTee representative ("rep") role to include events and campaigns in addition to t-shirt sales.** Every team was responsible for working together to host events, and every volunteer took the lead on their own fundraising or awareness-raising initiative. This was a big difference compared to prior years, in which the only mandated activity for campus teams was to sell t-shirts, and led to increased room for creativity and flexibility within the rep role as well as increased presence on campus. Feedback from this change was overwhelmingly positive, with reps having a lot of fun with their activities, and increasing the amount raised through their regional teams.

**2) To organise SolidariTee's first Week of Action and annual conference.** In this year, our central team prioritised organising their own large-scale events which were open to the public over simply monitoring and supporting our regional teams. This was a first step in moving away from student-exclusivity, which was the start of a strategy to broaden our reach.

**3) To shift to vegan, organic t-shirts, sold at £12 instead of £10.** A 20% price hike seemed controversial, but in moving to more ethical, environmentally conscious t-shirts, it was necessary in order to maintain profit margins. Our supporter base generally share our values around sustainable fashion, which was part of the success of the range.

**4) To create a SolidariTee welfare team which acted as a confidential listening service and a signpost to expert resources.** Students, with or without a pandemic, often struggle to access mental healthcare. Leading from the front in terms of avoiding compassion fatigue, burnout, and the ill effects of second-hand trauma within the humanitarian sector was a priority.

**5) To renew our focus on providing information about displacement contexts outside of the Mediterranean, where our grant recipients operated.** This meant we worked to raise awareness around refugee issues within the UK, as well as Australia, Latin America, Bangladesh and more, in addition to launching a History of Refugees series.

There is still a long way to go in perfecting our model; volunteering, especially at university, can be an inherently privileged and exclusive activity, and more needs to be done to bring people of all backgrounds into our movement, and into the humanitarian sector in general.

Additionally, whilst we recognise the importance of raising awareness of forced displacement globally, developing our contextual knowledge in order to do so impactfully has been an ongoing project. Our improvements in reach were noticeable throughout the year, with a Facebook reach of 227,000 (+94% from the previous year), and an Instagram reach of 33,000 (+852%), reflecting the relative immaturity of our accounts prior to this, but developing strategies to ensure that our infographics are reaching people on a wider scale and that the information is presented accessibly and shareably remains an area for development.

One final challenge which had not yet been effectively addressed at the time of this report was around sell-through of stock and scalability. Many reps did not sell all of the t-shirts assigned to them, and the logistics involved in product recall, in addition to the concern felt by reps who believed they had 'underperformed', caused huge issues both practically and for team morale. Additionally, our fundraising model was still operating on a very linear scale; every additional volunteer meant an additional pack of t-shirts could be distributed, with an additional increase in fundraising potential. Undeniably, this meant that the year was only as successful as it was because recruitment at the start of the year was so effective. Team size is neither reliable or necessarily controllable year-on-year, as student interests and media coverage wax and wane. Furthermore, if our ability to grow and expand is contingent on ever-growing team sizes, we will inevitably reach roadblocks, and a model based on driving sales inorganically does not sit well with us as a leadership team seeking to promote ethical fashion.

Whilst I was acutely aware of these challenges throughout the year, we did not yet have financial predictability through events or donations. Over the course of the year, SolidariTee was able to demonstrate the immense fundraising power that students can create independently of the t-shirts, in a way which can be orchestrated through relatively smaller groups of people, paving the way for future changes to team structure being implemented at the time of writing this report.

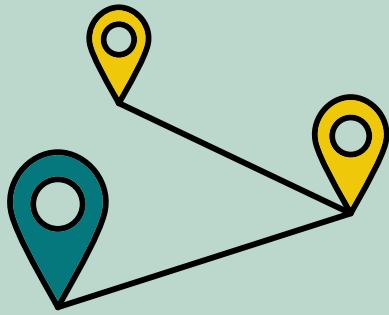
As I handed over to Anna Marshall and joined the board of trustees, we felt looking forward that the upcoming academic year would be one of stabilisation after enormous growth, and recalibration as our uni teams and local communities rediscovered events in-person.

The achievements of this year would have been wholly impossible without the unending commitment of the central team directors Sarah Davidson, Emma Penney, Rosie Richards, and Flic Kersting - I owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for all that you made happen. I'd also like to thank the board of trustees for entrusting me with this role - this has been the opportunity of a lifetime.

Yours, in SolidariTee,

*Alexa Netty*

**Executive Director 20-21**



## How our partner organisations make change

# NGO ACTIVITIES

The activities of our partner NGOs supported refugees and asylum seekers at the individual and family level with information provision and direct representation. This looks like:

- 1:1 sessions to support people in collecting evidence and being able to describe the fragmented memories that often make up experiences of persecution and other traumatic events
- legal representation for families seeking to be reunited across borders
- WhatsApp hotlines and information provision via social media

Many NGOs also work on advocacy reports and strategic litigation, where lawyers bring cases forwards to the Greek Government or European Court of Human Rights to stand up against procedural or human rights violations. Examples include people with severe medical conditions being forced to live in camps which don't meet their basic needs, or unaccompanied children being treated as adults within the asylum system. Here is a snapshot\* of what they achieved...

**6000+ people assisted with individual info provision**

**650000+ interactions with social media information posts**

**86% user satisfaction**

Mobile Info Team, annual report 2021

**96 clients supported with family reunification**

**44% of clients victims of torture and violence**

**344 external humanitarian aid workers received training**

Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid, annual report 2021

**181 legal consultations across**

**18 nationalities including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Eritrea and Mali**

**20 successful appeals to unjust rejections**

A.Ss.I.S.T., annual report 2021

\*Further details of the work done by each of our NGOs are publicly available and can be found on each organisations' website, or are available upon request.

# IMPACT REPORT

*A short summary of our activities  
and what we've achieved in the  
past academic year*

2020-21



**It is the obligation of  
every person born in a  
safer room to open the  
door when someone in  
danger knocks**

- Dina Nayeri

# The 20-21 academic year has been our biggest yet

900 students



60+ universities



10 countries



## one movement



*SolidariTee is an international, student-led charity striving to uphold the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable migrants worldwide.*

*We're a grant-giving charity, offering grants to NGOs which provide legal aid and other long-term, empowering forms of support to asylum seekers. We also work to raise awareness among the international community about the injustices perpetrated against refugees and asylum seekers worldwide.*

*Our supporters are people from all walks of life, with students and non students alike, united in solidarity with all those forced to flee their homes.*

# What We Do

*At SolidariTee, we stand for equal legal and human rights for all, and seek to empower students to be the change they want to see.*

## The 4 pillars of our activities

*In addition to providing grants to NGOs and our range of awareness-raising activities both on and off campus, we place a key focus on equipping students with the tools and confidence to be able to advocate sensitively and appropriately in the long-term for the rights of people who have been forced to flee their homes.*

### 1. Grant-Giving

- £103,000
- 6 NGOs
- 4 regions in Greece

### 2. Education

- 250+ events and initiatives
- Multiple conferences
- Infographics + podcast

### 3. Student Engagement

- rep initiatives
- whole-team events
- welfare support
- workshops & skill building

**4. Modelling respectful, inclusive activism at every level of the charity's operations**



# Key Milestones

## **1st February 2021: Day of SolidariTee**

Marking the start of the Week of Action, on this day students and those who support us from all corners of the globe wore their SolidariTees, changed their profile pictures, and told the world one reason why they chose to stand in solidarity with refugees and other forcibly displaced people

## **June 2020**

Refugee Week Conference, themed 'Beyond the Mediterranean' (online)

## **November 2020**

Launch of Right to Refuge: A SolidariTee Podcast  
Virtual art exhibition featuring artwork created by those with lived experience of displacement

## **March 2020**

Final grant installment of £103,000 paid

## **July/August 2021**

### **End of academic year**

10,500 t-shirts sold  
£190,000 raised  
171 events held  
200 initiatives run

## **October 2020**

SolidariTee x Elpida Home t-shirts launched

## **1st-7th February 2021**

### **Week of Action**

In addition to one centrally organised event per day of the week, more than 35 teams took action on campus by hosting their own events.

## **December 2020**

Livestream Christmas piano concert  
60+ events & initiatives organised by our regional teams by the end of term 1

## **6th-7th Feb**

SolidariTee's very first Conference, themed 'Seeking Solutions to Injustices Against Refugees', with over 100 online attendees

## **August - October 2020**

Central Team, Head Rep & Rep training sessions

## **Aleppo - Lesvos Challenge**

Symbolically covering the 1201km, the distance between Aleppo in Syria and the Greek island of Lesvos, teams of reps and other supporters raised more than £10,000 this week

# Letter from Alexa Netty, SolidariTee's 20-21 Executive Director

Dear All,

Thank you for taking the time to read this impact report - after this letter it gets far less wordy I promise!

It has been a little over three years since I first began working with SolidariTee, and I have been lucky enough to have been executive director for almost 18 months of that time. In many ways, this academic year was a year of SolidariTee's reincarnation; no longer were we a brand-new charity, and no longer were we the 't-shirt charity'. It had been a long time since the 2015 'refugee crisis' first began, and in order to stay relevant and impactful within an ever-changing context, we needed to make some changes to the ways in which we operated. Prior to taking on the ED role, I had identified a few key areas in which I wanted to take the charity forwards, and to see those changes come to fruition is a real testament to the incredible team members I have been able to work alongside.

## **Team training and culture**

My approach to team management revolves around focussing on each person's own individual motivations. I view my job as a leader to be about setting the overall vision, protecting the wider team from uncertainty and instability, and then providing the resources, training and infrastructure in order for each person to achieve their individual and collective goals. People join SolidariTee for a variety of reasons; some wish to build skills within the charity sector, some have family members with lived experience of displacement, and others are simply appalled by the injustices they witness in the news. What binds all of us is a will to use our time and energy in a meaningful way, and to be part of a community of others fighting for positive change. For me, keeping that wider goal in mind has been central. Some of the steps we took to allow reps to participate in the team as fully as they wished included running training workshops for those in each different role within the charity, setting up a designated welfare team, and developing a mental health-conscious culture which actively sought to combat burnout and compassion fatigue.

## **Reinventing the rep role**

A challenge which I had identified from analysis of previous years' activities was that reps, up until this year, appeared to focus almost solely on t-shirt selling. This was certainly not helping to build our team's collective knowledge and skills within the sector, and meant that reps weren't feeling as personally connected to SolidariTee's mission, or to the rest of the team, as they could. Moreover, it placed a huge cap on the number of people we could reach outside of our team, limiting our educational and awareness-raising impact too.

For this reason, reconceptualising the regional roles to include a designated events-focussed component was perhaps the most notable success of the year. With teams being responsible for organising both fundraising and awareness-raising events, the number of opportunities for people to learn about legal aid and other sustainable solutions to the 'refugee crisis' shot up, and fundraising outside of shirt sales skyrocketed. Another step along this road was to allow regional teams, with proper training and editorial support, to run their own regional social media pages, enabling our teams to find their own voice within the space.

Each rep was also responsible for organising their own initiatives, either alone or in small groups, which could follow their own interests completely. Many reps organised panel discussions and quizzes, whilst others ran Instagram takeovers or bake sales. Some of the most memorable initiatives include the handmade earrings which were sold by one rep to raise money for SolidariTee, and another rep who made a Vietnamese cookbook together with her Mum. Overall, reps appear to be having more fun than ever before, despite many of our team members never having met anyone else from SolidariTee in person due to the pandemic.

## **The move to organic tees**

I was clear from the start that SolidariTee would not be manufacturing any new clothing which was not made from organic cotton, which uses far less water and is much less environmentally harmful than non-organic cotton. To do this required us to increase the price of the new t-shirts from their well-known, and more convenient, £10 to a slightly more awkward £12. While this seemed bold at the time, the response to the organic collections (of both 2020 and 2021) has been overwhelmingly positive.

## **Broadening our fundraising, communications and outreach**

As much as I am a believer in the power of our t-shirts, as a visual display of solidarity and a conversation starter, I was very conscious of the importance of placing a focus on the environmental sustainability of our operations. We felt strongly as a team that we only wanted people to purchase SolidariTees who really wanted and would wear them. What this meant is that we needed to expand the number of ways that people could contribute in other capacities, whilst being mindful of financial inclusivity. Additionally, we sought to ensure that our educational content was not solely limited to the Mediterranean, and adopted an intersectional approach to understanding forced displacement. The poor treatment refugees around the world face intersects with racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, misogyny, the climate crisis, and economic inequality to name but a few factors, none of which can be considered in isolation.

## **My visit to Greece**

I recently spent some time volunteering with NGOs in Greece after graduation, and witnessing the context first-hand. Despite believing that I knew what to expect, it was unbelievably shocking; and yet, paradoxically, it was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Legal aid, something which had at times can feel so intangible, really can be life-changing, and my conviction in its power was strengthened more than ever.

## **Thank you and next steps**

To everyone who has been a part of the SolidariTee team this year, thank you - it has been an honour and an absolute pleasure to work alongside you, and I just know that whatever you each go on to do next, it's going to be amazing. To our supporters - thank you for keeping the SolidariTee world turning and enabling us, and in turn the NGOs we support, to continue their vital work. To Tiara, SolidariTee's founder - I owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for trusting me to lead this team - what has been achieved since the charity's conception is quite simply amazing. To Rosie, Emma, Sarah and Flic, the central team directors 2020-21 - thank you for being there for every 3 hour long meeting, for keeping me accountable, challenging the status quo, and bringing success, fun, and kindness to everything you touched.

It should be noted that many of the ideas I listed here would never have come to fruition without the gentle encouragement and nuanced suggestions of our newest executive director Anna Marshall. There is no one I would rather hand this role over to, and if you stay tuned this year I have no doubt you will witness some fantastic achievements through Anna and the new central team's leadership. Prior to handing over, I worked with the other outgoing central team directors to develop a steering committee within the board of trustees, with an aim of improving institutional memory and capacity-building future central teams. The director roles are huge, especially alongside degrees, and so in order to keep building on our success, I believe the key is to provide an additional resource as opposed to adding additional responsibilities to the existing roles.

I hope you enjoy reading this document even 1% as much as I have enjoyed this past year - if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours, in solidarity,

**Alexa Netty**

Executive Director 2020-21

Trustee & Head of Steering Committee (current)

[alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk)

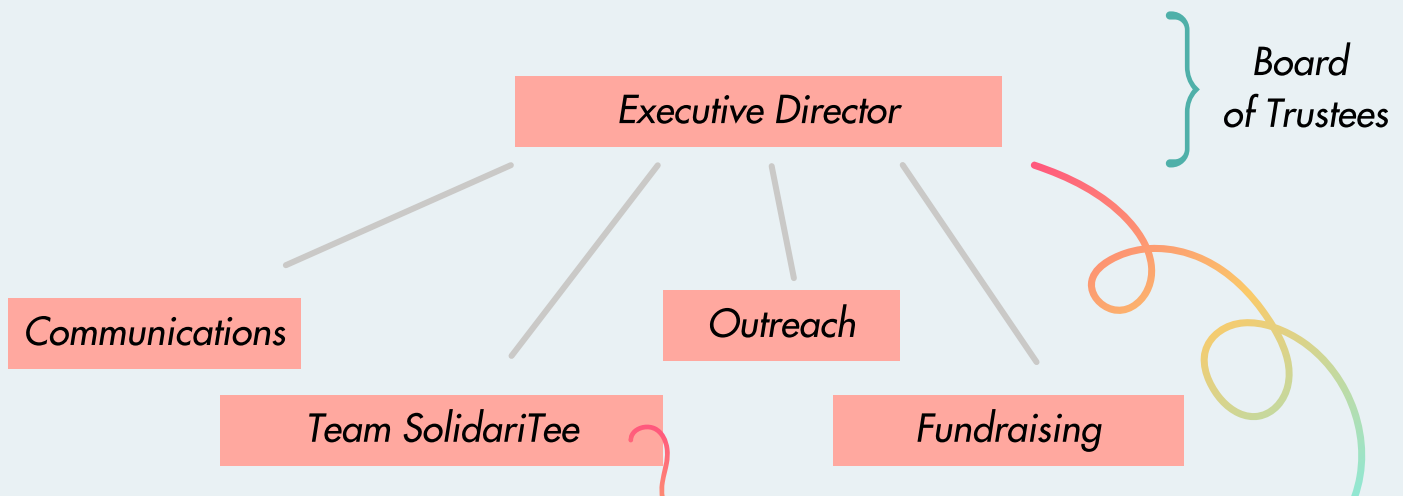
## **About me:**

I have a degree in psychology, neuroscience and behaviour, with a particular interest in trauma psychology, as well as a degree in veterinary medicine. Prior to leading SolidariTee, I was president of the organising committee for International Development and TEDx conferences, in addition to working with other student-led social impact initiatives. My other love in life is animal behaviour, and if I'm not at my desk it's very likely I'm teaching at puppy school!



I'm pictured above selling SolidariTees at a market stall in London, alongside my Mum and Grandma (in Greek we say Yiayia), two of the people who have taught me the most about standing up for what is right, each wearing their favourite SolidariTee.

# Team Structure



## SolidariTee Regional Teams (60+)

Our regional teams, based at individual universities, are composed of:

- 1-2 head reps
- publicity officer
- events officer
- 5-50 regional representatives

& Shop Managers, postal assistants, graphic, photography, strategy and data analysis officers



Our central team is divided into 4 core sub-teams (pink), each with a director and 3-8 members, in addition to several other standalone roles (turquoise). The members of 'Team SolidariTee', known as regional focal points, provide direct support to the head reps at SolidariTee's regional teams (gold).

# Our Regional Teams

## UK Universities

Aberdeen	East Anglia	Liverpool	SOAS	Sunderland
Bath	Edinburgh	London South Bank	Southampton	Sussex
Bath Spa	Exeter	LSE	St Andrews	UCL
Birmingham	Glasgow	Manchester	St Georges	Warwick
Buckingham New	Goldsmiths	Newcastle	Strathclyde	York
BPP	Guildhall	Nottingham		
Brighton	Heriot Watt	Nottingham Trent		
Bristol	Imperial	Oxford		
Cambridge	KCL	Oxford Brookes		
Cardiff	Kent	Queen Mary		
Courtauld	Lancaster	Queens, Belfast		
Durham	Leeds	Sheffield		

## International Teams

Italy: IULM  
 Greece: numerous universities  
 Switzerland: Graduate Institute Geneva  
 Australia: Melbourne University  
 Germany: Munster University  
 USA: Yale, UNC Chapel Hill  
 Canada: Ontario University  
 France: SciencesPo Menton & Paris  
 Sri Lanka: numerous universities  
 Republic of Ireland: Trinity College Dublin

**& a Year Abroad team, and an Online team for those studying at wholly remote institutions**

Left: in a 'normal' year, our SolidariTee teams get together to organise photoshoots. The pandemic made this impossible, but our St George's team were undeterred, and did a zoom photoshoot instead!



## Rosie Richards, TeamSolidariTee director 2020-21

Being a part of SolidariTee has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. One of the most valuable things about being part of this charity is the level of investment in empowering young people to make a difference. Unlike at so many levels of the professional world, SolidariTee acknowledges both the passion and potential that young adults have and harnesses those qualities allowing them to translate into skill and productivity. Our focus is on providing volunteers with the training, knowledge and confidence they need to take the reins themselves. I have volunteered with many organisations and none of them have given me this opportunity to see my ideas through from conception to execution, with enough support to not feel overwhelmed, yet enough agency to to learn and progress as an activist. SolidariTee has equipped me to move into the professional world with a level of confidence and self respect to enact sustainable change in the humanitarian aid sector in which I now work.



# changes to better support and empower our reps

## 1. Rep Initiatives & Team Events

*For the first time this year, every member of the SolidariTee team was given the responsibility, support, and freedom to organise their own event or initiative, either alone or in small groups of 2-3.*

*In previous years, SolidariTee teams had been encouraged to organise events, including team photoshoots, and whilst some teams had organised fantastic events such as 'Dance 4 SolidariTee' or run panel discussions, uptake was not even or universal.*

*As such, this year we built the requirement for engaging with outreach and fundraising other than through t-shirt sales into the role itself. Each team was given the target of organising two outreach and two fundraising events as a group over the academic year, in addition to reps working on one of their own personal projects, known as 'rep initiatives'.*

*In doing so, reps are given the tools and confidence to take SolidariTee's mission forwards once they have left the team and are no longer selling tees, and were far more engaged and connected to the cause as a result.*

## 2. Discussion Sessions

*In Spring 2020, Team SolidariTee developed a new team structure to allow for remote activism and volunteering, at a time when universities were closed and meeting in-person was too unsafe. We began our very first series of discussion sessions during this period, in response to feelings of helplessness and restlessness among many of our volunteers. We decided that if we weren't able to be out in the world acting, then we would use this time for education. The sessions proved so successful in providing a safe, engaging space to learn from and with each other, that we continued these into the following academic year.*

*Each session was conceived, researched, and facilitated by a different volunteer from across SolidariTee - many of our team members have worked with NGOs, written dissertations, or otherwise gained specialist experience across a range of topics including gendered experiences of exile, NGOization, hostile border policy, volunteering in Greece, Palestinian refugees, and climate refugees.*

# Changes to better empower and support our reps



## 3. SolidariPedia

*In response to the success of the discussion sessions, we also wanted to provide accessible, collated information about a range of displacement contexts outside of Greece, where our work has focussed in a written format. Central team members compiled resource packs covering contexts including Venezuela, Myanmar and Afghanistan, designed to act as a springboard for regional teams to facilitate their own discussion sessions. From there, 3 groups of regional teams embarked on research projects covering climate migration, the importance of language in experiences of migration, and refugee mental health, giving presentations alongside our other seekers at our Refugee Week Conference. Empowering reps to take agency over the ways in which they wish to make change is a cornerstone in our vision for the year, and this was one of our favourite examples of success.*

## 4. Welfare Team

*The welfare of our volunteers has always been a top priority for TeamSolidariTee. We are acutely aware of the often distressing subject matter of our mission, the difficulties of maintaining stable mental health in a university setting, and the compounded challenges posed by successive lockdowns. As such, this year we sought to create an dedicated welfare team with official training and formalised mechanisms through which any volunteer could seek support, and be able to reach either a friendly listening ear, or be signposted to more appropriate professional resources. Our welfare team each had expertise in one or more specific fields such as gender, sexuality, physical and mental health, financial access, and diversity and ethnicity, and all received training from someone qualified as a mental health first aider. We also held weekly welfare drop ins for anyone to access if they wanted advice in an informal and confidential capacity.*

Background image: SolidariTee team photoshoot (pre-pandemic)

# Regional Team Highlights

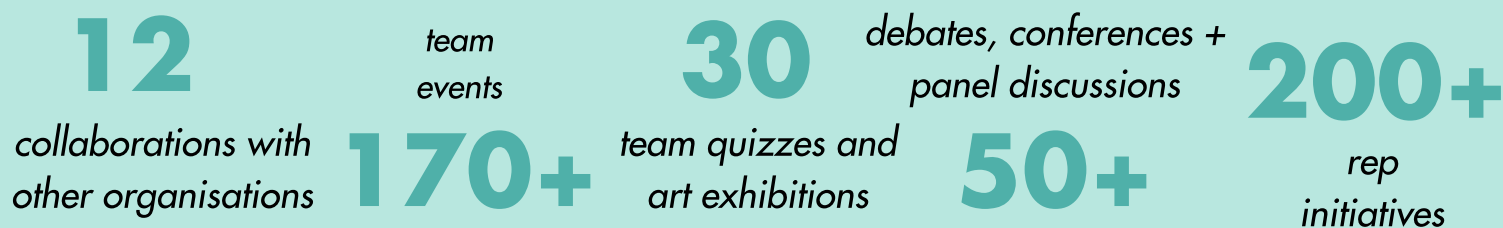
*We asked a few head reps to tell us about their SolidariTee year...*

66

## **Newcastle - led by Head Rep Esther Price**

The Newcastle SolidariTee team 2020-2021 had a wonderful year. We created, organised and delivered 9 events including an incredibly successful 9 hour DJ livestream raising £375 and a 555 challenge in which our team walked, ran, and cycled 555 miles- the distance many refugees are forced to travel, from Izmir to Dubrovnik. This event raised a huge £970, something we are so proud of. It wasn't just about fundraising events though, we put on panel talks spotlighting incredibly knowledgeable and inspirational individuals from organisations such as the West End Refugee Service, N.E.S.T and ASSIST. Those who attended these events told us how much they had learnt from those with lived experience and how they had been moved by their stories of courage, tenacity and strength. Our team created some incredible and diverse initiatives from creating freshly made brownie and cookie delivery boxes, to an Instagram running challenge, to a week of blog posts all targeted at raising awareness of the refugee crisis. Last but not least our t-shirt sales were a triumph, and in total we raised over £6000!

”



66

## **KCL- led by Head Rep Jessica Gjeloshi**

KCL ran 12 events and initiatives in total including a freely accessible day long conference in collaboration with 6 KCL societies including Students for Justice for Palestine and charities like Safe Passage UK and The Learning Station Project. They had a variety of speakers including lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists and various academics, where possible ensuring they platformed those with lived experiences of displacement. KCL also ran a month-long fundraiser, again in collaboration with various sports and academic socs at King's, which involved running/cycling/walking 50km for 500k refugees in Greece that raised over £700. Multiple volunteers wrote articles in different languages to highlight different issues relating to experiences of exile. Alongside this they ran a yoga class, political sketch class, and a virtual cooking class with Majeda Khouri, a Syrian chef and asylum seeker who runs the 'Syrian Sunflower' cooking school.

”

# Our Communications

A policy was put in place early on by Tiara, SolidariTee's founder, to avoid showing refugee faces in our social media content, and we have stuck to this ever since. This is to avoid playing into tropes about what a 'good' or 'typical' refugee looks like, prevent feeding into exploitative or saviourist narratives, and to ensure there are no issues surrounding informed consent, especially in contexts with marked power asymmetries. In addition, we have sought this year to develop a range of educational content which is:

- **Accessible and inclusive** - for a post to be educational, it needs to first be understandable! We avoid the use of jargon, seek to never assume prior knowledge, and provide alt text, content notes, and references as appropriate
- **Global and intersectional** - we have chosen not to focus solely on the locations where we fund work, and strive to acknowledge the many factors which compound injustices against refugees, as well as the many vulnerable migrants and forcibly displaced people who are not covered under the refugee convention.
- **Bold** - brave activism requires us to address the elephants in the room, approaching charged topics in a sensitive, nuanced way



*In March 2020, we also released a concept video, with more information on what we stand for as well as messages from team members.*

**Watch it here!**

# Social Media: taking a global, connected approach

## Internally Displaced Person

Noun

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

The UN Refugee Agency

## A History of Refugees: The Spanish Inquisition (1478-1834)

Sources: Britannica, Jewett Visual Library

## A History of Refugees: The Partition of India (1947)

## 8,000 migrants crossed from Morocco into the Spanish city of Ceuta this week.

6,500 have now been returned to Morocco.

Migrants' lives are not a bargaining tool to be used in border negotiations or political spats - yet this is increasingly what we are seeing.

Long-term, often indefinite, mandatory detention has become Australia's first resort, rather than its last.

## Why are Palestinians facing eviction from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah?

And how is this part of a wider system of occupation and dispossession

"We use the term 'eviction' to highlight how these acts are legalised under Israeli law. However it is important to note that they are illegal under international law."

## The Syrian Civil War 10 years on

March 2021 marks 10 years since protests demanding change began in the major cities of Syria. It followed the accumulation of economic, political and social suffering under the [Hafez al-Assad from 1970, followed by his son Bashar al-Assad since 2000].

## Infographics & Current Affairs

"In South Africa, the rights and liberties of people with non-binary gender expressions are not protected. My sexuality is at the core of who I am."

- Recipient of Micro Rainbow Support

## NGO Spotlights

This year, we are proud to be supporting six legal aid NGOs, in four different locations in Greece, providing grants totalling over £100,000.

One T-shirt. One Statement. One Movement.

Myth: Asylum seekers are mostly men, not women and children who really need asylum

Now let's unpack this myth...

'Back to Basics' series

New: history of refugees series

Mythbusters

Our Projects

## Το 2020 2,7 εκατομμύρια άνθρωποι εγκατέλειψαν τη Βενεζουέλα.

Διαβάστε περισσότερα για την πρόσφυγική κατάσταση της χώρας και τις τρέχουσες προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζουν όσοι έχουν διασκορπιστεί εκτός των συνόρων της. Πηγή: Υπηρεσία Αρμόστεια του ΟΗΕ για τους Πρόσφυγες (UNHCR).

New: multilingual content

## I Paesi che sono più compassionevoli nei confronti dei rifugiati hanno livelli di violenza più bassi

I rifugiati sono spesso considerati capri espiatori dai media e dai politici per casi di violenza e altri problemi.

Tuttavia, una nuova ricerca ha dimostrato che i Paesi in Europa e Nord America che trattano i rifugiati con compassione e che ne accettano in maggior quantità tendono ad avere tassi di omicidi inferiori.



Led by Sarah Davidson, Comms Director 20-21

# New for 2020-21: SolidariTee Conferences

One of our key goals for the year was to broaden the variety of educational and awareness-raising opportunities offered by our Central Team, and our two centrally organised conferences were highlights in the SolidariTee year. By bringing a range of speakers ranging from NGO workers and academics to journalists and psychiatrists, including those with lived experiences of forcible displacement themselves, our audience were able to meaningfully connect with new information and make links between various themes within the fight for refugee rights.

Tickets were available on a 'donate what you can' basis, with free tickets for anyone experiencing financial hardship - we believe that combining fundraising with outreach can be a great way for interested individuals to connect meaningfully with SolidariTee's mission whilst gaining something in return, but we don't ever want access to our educational resources to become financially exclusive. At both conferences, current SolidariTee volunteers were also given the opportunity to present their own ideas and research.

Day 1 • 6/Feb 2021

## SOLIDARITEE CONFERENCE

- 10:00-10:20** **Welcome**  
Alexa Natty, Executive Director of SolidariTee
- 10:20-11:00** **From the field: in conversation with legal aid NGOs**  
Panel: Sheila Cross & Philip Worthington, in conversation with Alexa Natty
- 11:00-11:30** **Mary Atkinson**  
Keynote: *compagnier* at Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
- 11:40-12:40** **Media depictions of refugees: how can journalists report responsibly?**  
Panel: Melis Onel, Mathilda Mallinson, Katy Fallon, Abdulwahab Tahhan & Charlotte Egge  
Chair: Emma Penney
- 14:00-14:30** **Sophie Kloos**  
Keynote: *Director of Asylas, on country of origin research in promoting evidence-based asylum processes*
- 14:30-15:15** **Gender: how gender identity shapes experiences of borders & migration**  
Panel: Anis Noor, Billy Holstberg & Navaj Savilmy  
Chair: Rosie Richards
- 15:15-15:45** **Matt Mahmoudi**  
Keynote: *advisor at Amnesty International & PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge*
- 15:45-16:15** **Zabihullah Jamil**  
Keynote: *Coordinator for Translation & Cultural Mediation at Felix Humanitarian Aid*

## 'Beyond the Mediterranean'

One day conference: Saturday 19th June

AM	PM
<b>Panel: Rohingya Refugees</b> 10 - 11 am	<b>Panel: IDPs - Legal and humanitarian challenges</b> 2:30 - 3:30 pm
<b>Panel: Seeking Asylum in the UK</b> 11:30 - 12:30 pm	<b>Research Presentations from SolidariTee Team</b> 3:50 - 5 pm
<b>Workshop: Resisting the Hostile Environment</b> 12:45 - 1:45 pm	<b>Keynote: Malual Bol Kiir</b> 5 - 5:30pm

# Other projects: fundraising & outreach



Led by Flic Kersting (L) and Emma Penney (R), Fundraising and Outreach directors 202-21



This year, we placed a big focus on diversifying the ways in which students and non-students alike can be a part of the SolidariTee movement. In order for supporting us financially be more accessible, we broadened the range of products we offer to include a long-sleeved option, and virtual non-consumer products, as well as 'donate what you can' events. To build upon our outreach and educational foundations, we hosted shorter panel discussions and launched a podcast in addition to running 2 conferences, leaving people free to engage in whichever manner suits them best.



Launch of 'coffee cup' monthly donations & virtual gifts



SolidariTee jumpers released

## Other projects



Valentines card commissions by Judy Fishel



Panel discussion in collaboration with WWF



SolidariTee's podcast, which ran for two seasons during the academic year, covering topics ranging from the use of language around forced migration to how to have tricky conversations.



SolidariTee cookbook created by team Italy



Virtual Exhibition

# Spotlight on: SolidariTee x Elpida Home 2020 t-shirt collection



*For the first time ever, the 2020 SolidariTees were made from 100% organic cotton. The climate crisis already forcibly displaces people from their homes, and this is set to increase drastically if nothing is done. We know that in order to fight for human rights, we also need to fight for the planet. Our 2020 tees are also certified:*

- PETA-vegan approved
- Global Organic Textile Standard
- OKEO-TEX 100
- Fair Wear

*Our designs are printed using phthalate free, vegan, non-toxic, water-based inks by London Living Wage Employer Fifth Column*

*They are based on a design created by a group of 12 refugees and asylum seekers, who each stood against a piece of paper and traced each others outlines. It is displayed in the Elpida Home community centre, where the art was created, in Thessaloniki.*



# SolidariTee open letter to UK home office

You can read a copy of the letter [here](#).

'We are returning migrants who have no legal right to be in the UK. They have illegally crossed the Channel when they have no need and no right to leave mainland Europe.'

UK Home Office Spokesperson

Now let's unpack these myths...

August 2020



October 2020

## BREAKING NEWS

On Friday, a fire broke out at Napier Barracks in Kent, a former military barracks which is being used to house asylum seekers.

Swipe to read more about the UK government's response, and the reality of life for asylum seekers at Napier Barracks

January 2021

## The New Plan for Immigration is against international law.

The UK Home Office's New Plan is based on harmful myths and baseless stereotypes which aim to undermine human rights, asylum seekers' rights and refugees' rights.

March 2021

April 2021: open letter written by SolidariTee published, cosigned by over 50 organisations

## DEAR UK HOME OFFICE,

"We condemn in the strongest terms any attempt to criminalise those seeking safety from violence and persecution, and see this proposal as especially damaging in this light."

Swipe to find out how you can help

# Context in Greece: 2020-21



March 2020: The world locks down, whilst in some regions of Moria, Europe's largest refugee camp at the time, there was just one tap per 1200 people.



June 2020: Joint Ministerial Decision - Greece unilaterally declares Turkey a 'safe' country for asylum seekers from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Anyone attempting to seek asylum in Greece from these countries who has passed through Turkey is assumed to be 'inadmissible' within the Greek asylum system unless proven otherwise, and can be forcibly returned.

This is despite the fact that Turkey is definitively unsafe for a variety of groups, and has recently withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence). This does not change when the Taliban gain control of Afghanistan.

September 2020: Fires almost entirely destroy Moria camp, leaving its thousands of residents homeless, including those who had tested positive for covid-19. For several days, people were stranded between two police checkpoints on the roadside. A year on, research by Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid would find that many former residents did not have access to daily food provision during the fires.



# Context in Greece: 2020-21



Autumn 2020: A new 'temporary' camp named Mavrovouni is assembled, consisting of open air tents which flooded at the first rains. Many refugees and asylum seekers are transferred off the island to mainland Greece, often with little knowledge of where they are being sent. For those midway through asylum procedures, this is devastating.



Spring 2021: Though still officially denied by Greece to this day, overwhelming evidence of Greek coastguard and authorities carrying out illegal 'pushbacks', forcibly preventing asylum seekers from entering the territory continues to come to light. In many cases, there are reports of vessels having been deliberately capsized, with those aboard violently attacked.



March 2021: EU Commissioner announces funding of 250 million euros to build 5 new 'closed' camps across Greece.



Autumn 2021: 'temporary' Mavrovouni camp has been formalised, with most of the accommodation now taking the form of large partitioned marquees or 'isoboxes' - plastic one-room cubes.

Arrivals are lower in 2020 & 2021 than in previous years despite humanitarian crises unfolding, likely linked to pushbacks and other deterrent policies. Plans for closed camps remain unclear.



# Our Grants

In the 2020-21 academic year, we are honoured to have provided grants totalling £103,000 to 6 NGOs, working in 4 different regions of Greece.

## *Legal Centre Lesvos*



"Since August 2016, we provide free and individual legal information and assistance to migrants who arrived by sea to Lesvos, where our office is based. Beyond this continuous and direct support, we work on documenting violations of migrants' rights and engage in advocacy and strategic litigation to hold the Greek government, Member States of the European Union, and European institutions to account. In addition, we advocate for equal access to safe and legal routes of migration in Greece, Europe and globally."



Above: Fenix Team



## *Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid*

"Fenix was founded in November of 2018 by 5 young professionals who believed that there was a need for a different, more holistic approach to legal aid in humanitarian contexts. Two years later Fenix celebrates having over 50 staff members and volunteers who provide what we have coined 'Holistic Legal Aid'.

This is a service that addresses the legal, protection, psychological, social and emotional needs of our clients through legal, protection and mental health services to the most vulnerable amongst the vulnerable: unaccompanied minors, survivors of torture and sexual gender based violence, and people with medical issues or disabilities.

In the last 32 months, Fenix has assisted over 3,700 asylum seekers and refugees from 25 countries in 11 different languages. Our multidimensional, survivor-led and trauma-informed approach to legal aid combines effective and skilled individual case work and emergency response with high quality evidence-based advocacy and strategic efforts at the local, national and European level. We strongly believe in the power of our work: in information, safety and empowerment as compelling tools for healing trauma and fostering integration, and in community engagement, advocacy and strategic litigation as means for structural change."

Dated: Autumn 2021

# Our Grants 2020-21 (ctd)



## Mobile Info Team

The Mobile Info Team (MIT) has supported over 700 asylum cases, representing over 1,500 refugees, and specialising in family reunification. An asylum claim cannot be straightforwardly transferred from one country to another, leaving many family members and unaccompanied minors stranded across several different countries, with the threat of deportation hanging over them.

Thus far, their advocacy has directly resulted in countless positive application decisions for those struggling to navigate the complex asylum process. MIT use a 3 tier system: their social media provides essential information to their followers, which includes many refugees; they have a WhatsApp hotline for asylum seekers' concerns and enquiries; and hold in-person sessions, with group sessions to provide information and one-to-one casework sessions.

## Asylum Seekers Information



## Services Team

A.Ss.I.S.T's mission is to ensure all asylum seekers have access to fair process when their case is being assessed through the provision of information and legal aid, and that those ineligible for asylum still receive adequate information and support about their situations.

They work with the core values of accountability, honesty, respect and responsibility, and impartiality.

From July to December 2019, they supported over 1000 asylum seekers through information Sessions and legal aid provision. There are few lawyers on Chios who are qualified to support refugees in their asylum applications, with A.Ss.I.S.T working to fill this gap.

## Quantifying Impact

*By nature, real-world impact is delicate and ever-changing. Asylum processes can take years, and success rates vary according to the complexity of someone's case, their country of origin, and the international political landscape to name just a few factors.*

*For this reason, we also consider the impact on an NGO's operating capacity when measuring the impact of our grants. Each grant given out enabled the NGO in question either to pay for a Greek lawyer for a year, or to implement a growth and sustainability strategy. Please note all grants were 'unearmarked'*



Left: childrens' drawing in the A.Ss.I.S.T office  
Right: Alexa, 2020-21 executive director + current trustee, visiting MIT



# Our Grants 2020-21 (ctd)

## European Lawyers in Lesvos



ELIL believes that every asylum seeker should be able to receive free, high-quality assistance from an independent, experienced lawyer before their asylum interview. They provide legal assistance to asylum seekers on Lesvos and Samos. Of those they have assisted, 74.5% have been granted asylum, compared to an average of 46.5% in Greece, and have provided free legal assistance to over 11,000 people since 2016.

They provide one-to-one legal consultations, assistance with family reunification applications, and group legal information sessions. These help familiarise asylum seekers with the asylum process, help them understand their rights, and prepare fully for interview.



## Avocats Sans Frontières

Avocats Sans Frontières is an international organisation that works to defend individuals' fundamental rights through providing access to independent legal advice and ensuring the proper implementation of human rights. This year, SolidariTee are supporting their work at a legal aid centre on the island of Samos. The centre opened in January 2019, and in their first six months supported 387 individuals with their asylum applications.

ASF in Samos focus on providing support and information to asylum seekers prior to the initial asylum interview and throughout the appeals process where necessary. This includes activities such as translating medical documents, communicating with the Greek asylum service, working on family reunification cases, and identifying individuals who are classed as 'vulnerable' so able to access specific protections.

### the results were better than we hoped

*Thanks to the support of all those who stood in SolidariTee during that period, we were able to deliver all of our grants in just 7 months, 9 months ahead of schedule, and confidently increase the amount which we pledged in our next round of grants. In the 21-22 academic year, we have pledged £142,000 to 8 NGOs working across Greece, the Western Balkans and beyond - to read more about who we're currently supporting, click [here](#).*

# about our grant-giving

*We believe our grant-giving model is the most impactful form of support we can offer. Defined sums of money enable NGOs to focus on doing the work that they do best, allowing them to plan ahead with financial certainty.*

We carefully select each grant recipient to ensure that we are funding work where SolidariTee's support is able to make the biggest difference, through a combination of written application, budget review, and interview. We seek to provide grants where an injection of funding will enable an NGO to either ensure its long-term sustainability, or to expand, grow, and develop.

The NGO world is not straightforward; funding is scarce across the board, and tends to come and go along with media attention. Many NGOs doing vital work are forced to close simply through being unable to secure enough money to keep going. In many contexts, this has led to a continual turnover of new NGOs being set up and closed down, leading to less reliable services for the communities they seek to support, and no ability for organisations to plan ahead. At the same time, funding can sometimes be very 'donor-driven', meaning that NGOs have to focus on doing projects that donors want to fund, which can be at odds with where the greatest need is. This, amongst other factors, also results in refugees, asylum seekers, and other affected populations having little say in the services they receive, or ability to report any issues they experience in many cases.

That's why, at SolidariTee, we've tried to take a different approach. We focus on enabling NGOs to do what they do best.

We don't ask that NGOs set up specific new projects in order to get funding; we are just as happy to cover general operational costs as we are to support a specific project, so long as there will be a long-term benefit to the organisation. We also focus heavily on accountability to the affected population - we want to ensure that the NGOs we fund are involving those they seek to support in guiding strategy at every level. Beneficiaries must be able to express what kind of services they want, and how those services are best provided, protected from further harm through robust safeguarding procedures, and have the opportunity to provide feedback about their experiences. Above all, we want to know that the work we're funding provides tangible, lasting benefits to those forced to flee persecution and violence, and is provided in a respectful, inclusive way.



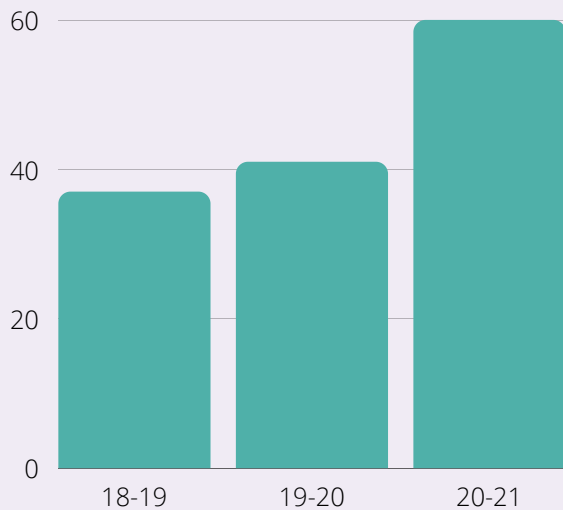
Mavrovouni camp, Lesvos: Right: Autumn 2021, Left: Autumn 2020



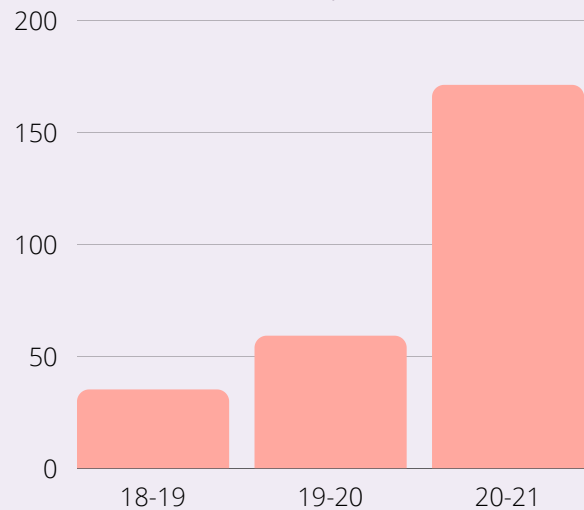
# In Figures

*Measuring our growth per academic year*

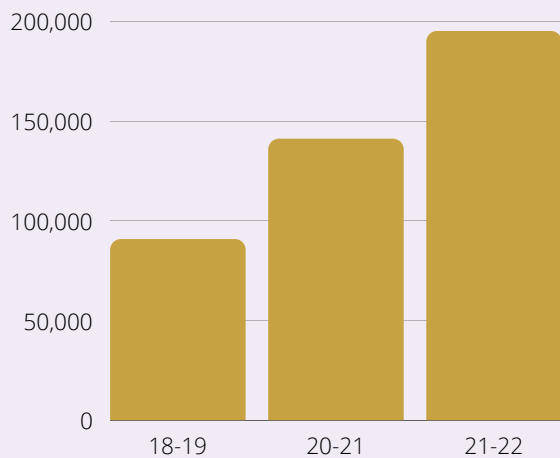
## No. university teams



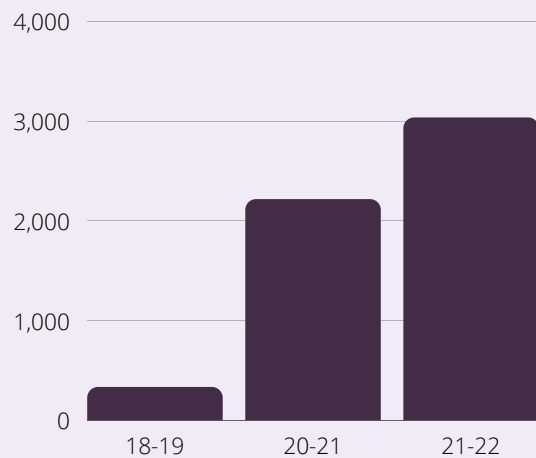
## No. regional team events (excluding rep initiatives)



## Money Raised (1st Sep - 31st Aug)



## Online Sales (no. products) (1st Sep - 31st Aug)



**At our last financial review (Autumn 2021) we spent under 1% of our income on administrative costs such as our website and insurance. The rest either goes directly to our grants, or is used to manufacture products and ship orders to customers. By all working remotely, we have next to no overheads, making our work incredibly efficient.**

# Thank You!

Everybody reading this has contributed to SolidariTee's mission in one way or another, be that by attending one of our events, purchasing a t-shirt, or simply taking an interest in our educational resources. SolidariTee is based upon the principle of united impact, so our work would, quite simply, not be possible without you. Thank you for helping us grow from a one-student initiative to where we are today.

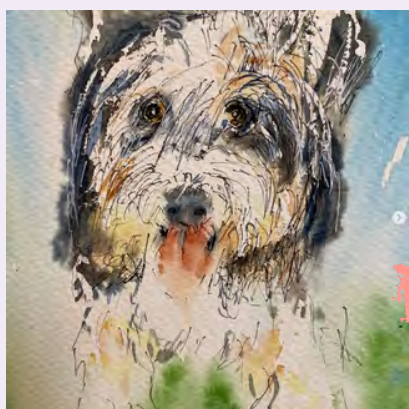
We would also like to extend a particular thanks to our partner organisations Judy Fishel Art, Jericho Coffee Traders, and NEMI Teas.



JCT is an Oxford-based roastery and coffee subscription service, who donate 15% of the price of all online orders to SolidariTee when the code JCTXSOLIDARITEE is used.



NEMI Teas are a London-based specialist tea company who employ refugees at every stage in their supply chain. They donate 15% of the price of all online orders to SolidariTee when the code SOLIDARITEE15 is used.



Judy Fishel is a watercolour artist who donates 100% of the proceeds from commissions made referencing SolidariTee.



# Looking Ahead



“

*This report serves as a clear reminder of just how much has been achieved over the past 18 months and the sheer standard that has now been set. Internationally, the past year has seen a toughening of anti-refugee policy, making our charity's growth not only remarkable but also crucial. As a volunteer-led organisation, we are a smooth machine only when every volunteer feels able to contribute to the best of their ability. The challenge now is to find ways to continue this drive and engagement across every campus.*

”

*- Anna Marshall, Executive Director  
for the 21-22 academic year*

Whilst 4 of the 5 outgoing Central Team directors from the 20-21 academic year went on to join the board of trustees and form the new strategic steering committee, Anna has taken over as Executive Director, overseeing the day-to-day running of the charity alongside studying for a masters in Climate Change, and leading a fantastic new Central Team. We look forward to combining the collective knowledge and experience across all areas of SolidariTee to ensure that this coming year is just as impactful and true to our mission.

If you'd like to get involved, either through an event or partnership or as a volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

*To get in touch, please email:*

*teamsolidaritee@solidaritee.org.uk for volunteering queries  
boardoftrustees@solidaritee.org.uk for grant-making information  
fundraising@solidaritee.org.uk for partnerships and donation info  
outreach@solidaritee.org.uk for event & speaker enquiries*

Document written January 2022 by Alexa Netty, with contributions from Rosie Richards. Both are current members of the board of trustees and steering committee at the time of writing.

# SolidariTee

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 July 2021

The narrative report on pages 1 to 37 along with the formal details below form the trustees' annual report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Alexa Katerina Netty	appointed 8 April 2021
Madeleine Hancock	resigned 3 October 2022
Sarah Jasmine Davidson	appointed 1 August 2021
Mouki Kambouroglou	resigned 27 Feb 2022
Tiara Sahar Ataii	resigned 20th November 2022
Rebecca Katherine Young	appointed 1 September 2022
Isabella Emily India Ponsonby	appointed 1 September 2022
Louisa Helen Cowell	appointed 1 September 2022
Emma Penney	appointed 1 August 2021 resigned 3rd October 2022
Rosie Richards	appointed 1 August 2021 resigned 3rd October 2022

**Charity number** 1182195 Registered in England and Wales

### Registered and principal address

16 Lache Lane  
Chester  
CH4 7LR

### Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank Plc  
PO Box 250  
Skelmerdale  
WN8 6WT

### Independent examiner

Rachel Cooper ACA  
**Welbeck**  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton  
SO17 1ST

### Structure, governance and management

Solidaritee is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1182195, its members are its trustees. Its governing document is a constitution registered 25th February 2019, and amended 1 Aug 2021.

### Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed for a term of up to three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the existing trustees have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

**Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education and human rights, and relief of poverty. This is achieved through our awareness raising activities here in the UK, as well as our work to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid. In doing so, our work ensures that people are able to access their rights and are prevented from falling into destitution and poverty, by preventing those who have fled persecution receiving unjust

**Financial review**

The net income for the year was £27,264 (2020: £63,718) all of which was unrestricted.

**Reserves policy**

The charity’s free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £90,882 (2020: £63,718).

Our reserves policy can be found on page 7 of this document.

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;


state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

Approved by the board of trustees on 27/01/2023

Signed:  (Trustee)

Name: Dr Alexa K Netty

# SolidariTee

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Solidaritee

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021, which are set out on pages 41 to 46.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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.

### 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:

- 1 the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- 4 the accounts did 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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  .....

Name: Rachel Cooper ACA

Welbeck  
29 Welbeck Avenue  
Southampton SO17 1ST

Date: 27 January 2023

# SolidariTee

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	17 months to 31st July 2020 Unrestricted funds £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and Legacies	(2)	119,419	119,419	165,644
Other trading activities	(3)	13,413	13,413	34,809
		-	-	
<b>Total income</b>		<u>132,832</u>	<u>132,832</u>	<u>200,453</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising Funds		1,233	1,233	5,918
Charitable activities - grants to NGOs	(4)	103,500	103,500	128,803
Other		835	835	2,014
		-	-	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>105,568</u>	<u>105,568</u>	<u>136,735</u>
<b>Net income</b>		<u>27,264</u>	<u>27,264</u>	<u>63,718</u>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>63,718</u>	<u>63,718</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<u>90,982</u>	<u>90,982</u>	<u>63,718</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended in the current financial year derive from continuing activities.

# SolidariTee

## Balance sheet

as at 31 July 2021

	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	(5) 100	100	100
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock	-	-	
Debtors and prepayments	(6) 70,563	70,563	53,455
Cash at bank and in hand	(7) 21,369	21,369	10,763
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>91,932</b>	<b>91,932</b>	<b>64,218</b>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Creditors and accruals	(8) 1,050	1,050	600
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	<b>90,882</b>	<b>90,882</b>	<b>63,618</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>90,982</b>	<b>90,982</b>	<b>63,718</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds	90,982	90,982	63,718
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>90,982</b>	<b>90,982</b>	<b>63,718</b>

The notes on pages 43 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on ..... 27/01/2023



Signed: ..... (Trustee)

Name: Dr Alexa K Netty .....

# SolidariTee

## Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2021

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

#### Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

#### Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

#### Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

#### Grants payable with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

#### Grants payable without performance conditions

Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.

#### Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

At present the charity has no restricted or designated funds

# SolidariHee

Notes to the accounts continued  
for the year ended 31 July 2021

## 2 Donations

		17 months to 31st July	
	2021	2020	
General Donations	43,510	51,707	
Donations from Subsidiary	75,909	113,937	
	<u>119,419</u>	<u>165,644</u>	

## 3 Other Trading Activities

		17 months to 31st July	
	2021	2020	
Events	13,413	12,191	
T shirt sales (prior to formation of subsidiary)	-	22,618	
	<u>13,413</u>	<u>34,809</u>	

## 4 Grant making

		17 months to 31st July	
	2021	2020	
	Grants to institutions	Grants to institutions	
	£	£	
Avocats Sans Frontieres	18,000		
Asylum Seekers Information Services Team	15,000		
European Lawyers in Lesbos	20,000		
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid	20,000	95,680	
Stichting Mushkila Kabira (Mobile Info Team)	10,500	23,123	
Legal Centre Lesbos	20,000		
Kitrinos Healthcare		10,000	
Total	<u>103,500</u>	<u>128,803</u>	

## 5 Fixed assets investments

		2021	2020
	Investment in subsidiary	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Balance b/f	100	100	100
Additions	-	-	
(Disposals)	-	-	
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The charity's investments at the balance sheet date are in its subsidiary undertaking SolidariTee Sales Company Limited of which it is the sole shareholder.

<b>6 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors - Gift Aid	5,517	
Amounts owed by subsidiary company	65,041	53,455
Other debtors	5	
	<u>70,563</u>	<u>53,455</u>

<b>7 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash at bank	21,369	10,763
	<u>21,369</u>	<u>10,763</u>

<b>8 Creditors and accruals</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals	1,050	600
	<u>1,050</u>	<u>600</u>

## **9 Related party transactions**

### **Trustee expenses**

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

### **Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.