

REFUGEE ROOTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1184098

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-06-25

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

Contact

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Nottingham
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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO, WHICH ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES WITHIN THE WIDER COMMUNITIES OF THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND THE COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, ARE:1) THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG PEOPLE WHO AREASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR SOCIALAND ECONOMIC POSITION, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:A) PROVIDING VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDERS/MENTORS WHO WILL ASSIST ASYLUM SEEKERS ANDREFUGEES WITH THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING ACTIVITIES,INFORMATION, ADVOCACY SERVICES, ADVICE AND SUPPORT;B) RELIEVING OR PREVENTING POVERTY AMONG ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES BYPROVIDING GRANTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE ANDOTHER ITEMS AS MAY BE NECESSARY;C) PROVIDING ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES WITH EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THEENGLISH LANGUAGE;D) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE OCCUPATION IN THEINTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FORASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES.2) THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY:A) THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE OR RELIGION;B) ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY;C) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSEBACKGROUNDS;D) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY.

Activities: A range of empowerment initiatives include befriending, accompanying asylum seekers to appointments, information, advice and guidance, as well as supportive groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Nottingham City
- Nottinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£326,036	£242,713	-	-
2024-06-30	£215,925	£221,606	-	-
2023-06-30	£222,233	£202,885	-	-
2022-06-30	£136,264	£98,065	-	-
2021-06-30	£87,457	£106,979	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carol Gillian Parker	Chair	2019-06-25
Dr Roda Madziva		2021-11-03
Helen Whitton		2021-11-03
Rev PANGANI THIPA		2019-06-25
Shamsher Chohan		2025-03-01
Tim Fox		2024-04-17
Tim Pickup		2021-11-03

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1184098

Refugee Roots

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Community Accounting Plus
Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Refugee Roots

Contents (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 9
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	10
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Statement of Financial Activities	12 to 13
Balance Sheet	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15 to 25

Refugee Roots

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Tim Fox Dr Roda Madziva Helen Whitton Rev Pangani Thipa Tim Pickup Carol Parker Shamsher Chohan
Charity Registration Number	1184098
Principal Office	Refugee Roots Suite 53. Unit 6 Sneinton Market Gedling Street Nottingham NG1 1DS
Independent Examiner	Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus Units 1 & 2 North West 41 Talbot Street Nottingham NG1 5GL

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Tim Fox
	Dr Roda Madziva
	Helen Whitton
	Rev Pangani Thipa
	Tim Pickup
	Carol Parker
	Shamsher Chohan (appointed 1 March 2025)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objects of the CIO, which are to be carried out in accordance with Christian principles within the wider communities of the city of Nottingham and the county of Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas, are: 1) the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are asylum seekers and refugees who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, in particular but not exclusively by: a) providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist asylum seekers and refugees with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy services, advice and support; b) relieving or preventing poverty among asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary; c) providing asylum seekers and refugees with education and training in the English language; d) the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for asylum seekers and refugees. 2) the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by: a) the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race or religion; b) advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity; c) promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; d) cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

Public benefit

By promoting social inclusion of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers and understanding in society as a public benefit.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

We have continued to support over one thousand participants for the second year running now, as demand has increased significantly and the landscape around us is ever changing with new and familiar challenges.

1,186 supported

Participants have reported the following:

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

- 82% felt less isolated
- 80% felt more connected to their communities
- 96% felt more confident
- 96% reported they had been helped
- 84% reported the help they received made a difference in their lives
- 83% developed skills to reach their potential
- 72% felt their English had improved

Opportunities to make new friends, extend support networks and meet new people have been noted as some of the most significant benefits for our community. Through these, participants have been able to grow their confidence, feel less isolated and develop skills essential to building a new life in the UK and for reaching their potential. Our free conversational English classes and our Befriending project, offered in safe and welcoming environments, have played an important part in participants improving their spoken and written language.

Participants have reported developing skills including:

- Learning about the UK - culture, values and law
- A better understanding of mental health and wellbeing
- Knowing where to get help and how to access further support
- CV writing and interview skills
- Using technology, IT and mobile devices, internet and email
- Using public transport
- How to find a job
- Cooking

Many participants engage in a range of activities with us and are helped with several different advice issues. This often means that they feel significantly helped by Refugee Roots, as they will have received support to address multiple concerns and goals. Through projects like Befriending or Access, participants can experience a consistent relationship alongside the issues or concerns they have sought help with. This can give stability even when there is uncertainty about many of the challenges participants face and some issues take a long time to resolve.

Refugee Roots welcomes all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home

Refugee Roots helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK. Our range of empowerment initiatives includes befriending, accompanying asylum seekers to appointments, providing information, advice and guidance, as well as support groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

Our Vision

A place to belong; for those seeking refuge and protection to feel welcome and valued, finding support to rebuild their lives with dignity.

We will create a family of networks, connections, people and friendships for refugees and asylum seekers.

Championing community voices, we have set out to “reshape refugee support where refugees take control and regain autonomy”.

Director's Report

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

It has been another astounding year where our dedicated staff, and volunteers who care have risen above many challenges to ensure that those who need it most have received the support they need, when they need it. Offering welcome, support and friendship in practical and meaningful ways, we have continued to provide a place to belong to those seeking refuge and protection.

It goes without saying that charities like Refugee Roots face incredible challenges in raising the support they need to sustain their work and support initiatives. We launched a campaign to raise £100k from sources other than trusts and foundations at the end of 2023. The campaign got off to a strong start, reaching its first milestone of 25% in the early months. The campaign is ongoing.

I want to thank all the individuals who have contributed through fundraising, making donations, or regularly giving to the charity. I am also grateful to the businesses, churches and faith communities which have given generously.

We concluded a three-year funded project, “A place to belong”, with support from the National Lottery Reaching Communities. The report is available from our website. The report highlights the significant growth of our work and its impact.

The unexpected and immediate closure of Clarendon Chambers, where our office was based, meant we had to relocate quickly. We are grateful to all those who supported us in the interim period whilst we looked for new premises. We were able to keep many of our services and operations going with little disruption. We are very pleased with the new office facilities and believe the new location in the heart of Nottingham city will be an important site for us for years to come.

Participants have been at the centre of our work and we continue to listen to, involve and engage them in all that we do. We ensure we have multiple opportunities to listen, give a platform to their voices and seek their contributions such as focus groups, our Vision Day, the Annual General Meeting, and formal and informal feedback.

We look forward with expectation and hope that we can continue to provide a place to belong for those seeking refuge and protection as we work together.

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

Chair's Report

This year, we relocated to Long Row in the city centre, following the sudden closure of Clarendon Chambers which meant we had to relocate. We quickly found a new base. Funding from the city council and support from the Landlord enabled us to make improvements to the space, both inside and outside, providing additional meeting space and privacy.

The Charity also made use of new venues like The Women's Centre on Chaucer Street and St Mary's Church in the Lace Market. We said goodbye to some staff and welcomed new team members, with several staff taking on new roles as our work evolved. Refugees and asylum seekers continue to face significant challenges, especially amid changes in asylum legislation.

We remain dedicated to supporting them through various activities focused on skills and wellbeing. Our progress is made possible by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, local churches, and partners.

The Board meets regularly, and trustee training is ongoing to ensure strong governance. I am deeply grateful to everyone who supports our charity's vision to provide refugees with a place to belong.

One-to-one befriending.

One-to-one befriending is an essential part of the support we provide to asylum seekers and refugees. Volunteer befrienders meet weekly with participants and offer support with language learning, accompanying to appointments, exploring the local area, and visiting activities and places of interest around the city. **26** participants were matched to befrienders, with more than **207** sessions held, and an additional **34** participants that were supported with one of accompanying to appointments or services across **46** sessions.

"Befriending has helped me so much. The volunteer helped me join a gym for free, to get out more in nature, start swimming and join my local library. The volunteer always did his best and in particular, really helped improve my wellbeing with the provision of emotional support. I have learned so many things as a result."

Arad, Participant

Access

Our Access project offers social and educational experiences for our participants. Participants can join in a range of activities in a friendly and safe space. Participants get to make new connections and friendships in a diverse and welcoming community.

Our English conversation groups help to improve English language skills, offering practical, conversational English classes supported by volunteers.

466 participants were involved in the project.

"This organisation really helped me when I needed support."

Yevhniia, Participant

We have been connecting with and supporting a monthly average of 338 participants at Access. We have continued to partner with local churches, organisations and groups who have helped us to increase the provision of our Access project. Their contribution is significant and has been vital to ensuring that, together, we respond well to the needs of our community with greater sustainability.

"I learn many words from this class. This is a very good class."

Misbah, Participant

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

Cooking and Eating Together

Monthly sessions bring participants and volunteers together to share food and friendship. The project was delivered in partnership with Stonebridge City Farm. **26** participants were involved in the project.

Women's Group

Our weekly women's group offers a safe space for women to learn English, take part in craft and social activities, and get to know others in a supportive environment.

"I feel good and I am happy coming here and meeting friends."

Layla

79 women supported

Training and Workshops: Several workshops were delivered to increase knowledge, develop skills and raise awareness for participants covering a range of topics. Notably, workshops relating to Digital Skills were well-engaged. **43** participants were involved in training and workshops.

We continued to provide weekly participatory arts workshops led by professional artists. We also had the opportunity to have two Art Placement Students from the University of Nottingham who helped to lead workshops at the New Art Exchange, organise visits to galleries and support existing sessions.

95 participants have been engaged across **32** art sessions.

Conference for Art of Belonging

In September 2024 Refugee Roots led a conference for the Art of Belonging Network and Consortium in a partnership project with Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy. The day was a significant and meaningful time for networking and exploring ways forward as a consortium. Details of the consortium are available on our website, including how to sign up and become a member.

Access Movement

Sponsoring Red Sea FC at the start of the season was an important step for us, and opened up a deeper partnership giving us new opportunities to work with younger refugees who would later join the Access Movement project and activities such as running and cycling. We enjoyed going along to support the team and cheer them on, often being a positive influence to diffuse racial tension and promote inclusion. We have continued to support them and remain close.

Cycling: Several bike rides were organised throughout the year with Bikes Love You. Participants could access a free bike as well. Bikes were also distributed to refugees outside of the organised rides.

Running: The Refugee Run Club, which got off to a slow start, picked up momentum as new runners joined and a steady group of around 15 now meet each week at the Park Run. Refugee Run Club has supported us to access free kit, the Coopah running app and connect with refugees from around the country. Up & Running partnered with us, providing running shoes and extending their invitation to the social run club to our participants.

Football: Red Sea FC held community football sessions which engaged more than 30 participants each week. We provided the team with their kit and covered the costs of some snacks and water.

Yoga has reached a high number of participants and provided participants with equipment as well.

Advice and Guidance

Our Advice and Guidance project and Universal Credit project have supported **773** participants.

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

Support work has included:

- Finding legal support for asylum seekers

- Applying for housing

- Applying for Universal Credit and support with benefits and welfare

- Registering asylum seekers with a GP, dental surgery etc.

- Signposting and making referrals to essential services (housing, health, wellbeing, education, immigration and more)

- Meeting basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and furniture

“I feel more confident living in the UK and knowing how to do things.”

Kerem, participant

Universal Credit Advice in partnership with Always Community

In partnership with Always Community, our Universal Credit Advice Project supported **234 participants**. Weekly appointments were held on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Meeting basic needs

Many participants have been supported to access the most basic and essential items, support and needs. This has been possible through referral pathways and signposting to services such as Food Banks, Clothing and Housing. We have also been able to offer Advice and Guidance relating to housing, welfare and benefits. Although with less capacity than previous years due to reduced funding, our team has found effective ways to manage supporting our participants to access the services they need. We could only do so through the strong links and connections we have with other providers and organisations.

“Refugee Roots went above and beyond to help me solve my problems. Their kindness and dedication stood out. Refugee Roots is an amazing organisation that truly cares about people. I’m very grateful.”

Mehdi

Volunteers who care

106 volunteers

Our volunteer programme has benefited from a diverse range of volunteers of different ages, genders, religious and social backgrounds, including those with lived experience of migration. Volunteers from local universities, faith communities and churches, the volunteer centre and more have helped create lasting change for participants. Providing placements for university students has been invaluable for us and given volunteers a rich experience. Volunteers have supported weekly language classes, befriending and accompanying, and other social activities and events. We can only do what we have been able to because of our volunteers who care.

Volunteer roles included:

- Navigators (to accompany participants)

- Access (various - language support online and in person, hospitality, activity support)

- Social media, marketing and communications

- Befrienders

- Delivering food items and collecting food donations

- Trustees

- Participating in focus groups and event support

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

Consultation, advice and professional services

Fundraising

We have an ongoing volunteering programme. Details of how to register as a volunteer can be found on our website.

“I keep coming back because I love doing it and it’s very satisfying. I love helping people and you make a relationship with people. The participants who come are such lovely people and so appreciative, it’s nice to see smiles on their faces.”

Ness, Volunteer

Methodology

In order to gather evidence for this report, as well as important monitoring and evaluation work, we used a combination of **interviews, feedback questionnaires, interactive feedback activities** and **observation**. Support records contained regular notes kept by staff, including outcomes of casework and progress, and any significant milestones or events.

Gathering this information is key to us further developing our work, understanding our participants’ needs, to inform and shape our work and helps us to pursue our charitable goals.

The data in this report covers the period from **1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**.

Many of our participants have requested the use of a different name to their birth name and so many of the names you read are pseudonyms to protect their identity.

You can find out more about our work and read the full report on our website:

www.refugeeroots.org.uk

Financial review

We are satisfied with our current financial position. We continue to seek funds from trusts and foundations, and we are working on diversifying our income sources to ensure we can continue our much-needed work, and develop the work appropriately to have the maximum benefit possible.

We are seeking corporate partnerships and sponsorship from interested potential partners. We are also developing other fundraising initiatives and financial giving sources for a more sustainable future. This includes a campaign to raise larger amounts of funds from sources other than trusts and foundations.

Policy on reserves

Trustees aim to keep three months of unrestricted funds in reserve. We review our reserves policy annually unless a review is required earlier.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 25/06/2019.

Refugee Roots

Trustees' Report (continued)

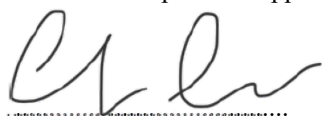
Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Recruitment of trustees is from those with an existing interest and involvement in working with refugees and asylum seekers and in sympathy with the aims of Refugee Roots, with an intention to maintain a balanced group of trustees, in terms of skills and experience, ethnicity, gender and age. Appointment is by the existing membership and trustees following an interview, references and safer recruitment measures such as DBS checks being met.

Major risks and management of those risks

Increased costs and the cost of living crisis are having an adverse effect on giving from the general public. We share with all charity's major uncertainties about funding in the present financial climate. We have seen greater challenges raising funds from trusts and foundations due to the volume of applications and over subscription.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23/04/2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Carol Parker
Trustee

Refugee Roots

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 23/04/2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Carol Parker
Trustee

Refugee Roots

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Refugee Roots

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Refugee Roots

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Roots (the Charity) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 Charity'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.

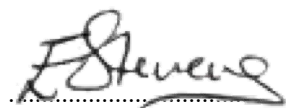
Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.



Eva Stevens, BSc, CPFA, employee of Community Accounting Plus
member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Date: 23/04/2026

Refugee Roots

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	89,876	-	89,876	44,896
Charitable activities	3	-	236,160	236,160	171,029
Total Income		<u>89,876</u>	<u>236,160</u>	<u>326,036</u>	<u>215,925</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	<u>(47,374)</u>	<u>(195,339)</u>	<u>(242,713)</u>	<u>(215,647)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(47,374)</u>	<u>(195,339)</u>	<u>(242,713)</u>	<u>(215,647)</u>
Net income		42,502	40,821	83,323	278
Gross transfers between funds		<u>2,718</u>	<u>(2,718)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		45,220	38,103	83,323	278
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>70,142</u>	<u>45,482</u>	<u>115,624</u>	<u>115,346</u>
Total funds carried forward	13	<u><u>115,362</u></u>	<u><u>83,585</u></u>	<u><u>198,947</u></u>	<u><u>115,624</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for the period is shown in note 13.

Refugee Roots

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

These are the figures for the previous accounting period and are included for comparative purposes

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	44,896	-	44,896
Charitable activities	3	-	171,029	171,029
Total Income		<u>44,896</u>	<u>171,029</u>	<u>215,925</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(30,109)</u>	<u>(185,538)</u>	<u>(215,647)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(30,109)</u>	<u>(185,538)</u>	<u>(215,647)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		14,787	(14,509)	278
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(2,738)</u>	<u>2,738</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		12,049	(11,771)	278
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>58,093</u>	<u>57,253</u>	<u>115,346</u>
Total funds carried forward	13	<u><u>70,142</u></u>	<u><u>45,482</u></u>	<u><u>115,624</u></u>

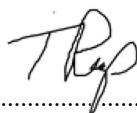
The notes on pages 15 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Refugee Roots

(Registration number: 1184098)
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	2,649	1,242
Current assets			
Debtors	10	395	10,000
Cash at bank and in hand	11	<u>199,592</u>	<u>107,716</u>
		199,987	117,716
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(3,689)</u>	<u>(3,334)</u>
Net current assets		<u>196,298</u>	<u>114,382</u>
Net assets		<u><u>198,947</u></u>	<u><u>115,624</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		83,585	45,482
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>115,362</u>	<u>70,142</u>
Total funds	13	<u><u>198,947</u></u>	<u><u>115,624</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 12 to 25 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ...23/04/2026 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Tim Pickup
Trustee

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Refugee Roots meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33% straight line
General equipment	20% straight line

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

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

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	89,876	89,876	44,896
	<u>89,876</u>	<u>89,876</u>	<u>44,896</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Grants & donations	236,160	236,160
	<u>236,160</u>	<u>236,160</u>

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

4 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	108,216	108,216
The Hilden Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000
The People's Postcode Lottery	25,000	-	25,000
The Jones 1986 Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000
Acts435	-	2,010	2,010
Nottinghamshire County Council	-	15,000	15,000
Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy	-	1,537	1,537
Critchley Charitable Trust	-	5,600	5,600
Sport England	-	11,242	11,242
Sisters of St Joseph of Peace	-	5,000	5,000
J. N. Derbyshire Trust	2,000	-	2,000
The Lady Hind Trust	2,500	-	2,500
Donations	24,405	5,629	30,034
Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham	6,250	-	6,250
Good Things Foundation	-	1,000	1,000
Nottingham City Council	-	75,926	75,926
Church Donations	24,721	-	24,721
	<u>89,876</u>	<u>236,160</u>	<u>326,036</u>

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Accounts, Bookkeeping and Payroll	389	1,789	2,178	3,492
Activities and Events	1,906	3,304	5,210	11,180
Consultancy	-	5,038	5,038	3,300
Equipment, Repairs and Renewals	353	10,094	10,447	2,849
Fee Charges	152	-	152	61
Hardship Payments	-	1,120	1,120	2,348
Hospitality and Refreshments	1,348	1,802	3,150	4,480
Insurances	543	-	543	101
IT	146	229	375	5,438
Legal and Professional	1,308	1,843	3,151	2,459
Marketing	1,127	3,433	4,560	2,948
Memberships and Subscriptions	390	2,262	2,652	720
Printing, Postage and Stationery	315	4,956	5,271	3,829
Rent	-	5,000	5,000	11,898
Resource and Guidance Material	80	374	454	1,015
Room Hire	34	4,055	4,089	5,544
Salaries, NI and Pension	34,652	132,929	167,581	140,991
Staff Training and Welfare	36	1,117	1,153	2,980
Telephone, Internet and Utilities	108	1,325	1,433	1,444
Travel and Accommodation	771	331	1,102	1,773
Volunteer Costs	1,789	5,138	6,927	6,091
Access Cost	378	2,730	3,108	-
Service charge	-	6,430	6,430	-
Depreciation	1,312	-	1,312	706
Sundry expense	91	-	91	-
Fundraising cost	146	40	186	-
	47,374	195,339	242,713	215,647

6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,311	706

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	155,323	127,367
Social security costs	8,563	10,915
Pension costs	3,695	2,709
	<u>167,581</u>	<u>140,991</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Staff numbers	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

6 (2024 - 6) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £3,695 (2024 - £2,709).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £48,439 (2024 - £44,446).

8 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination	590	565
Other financial services	250	263
	<u>840</u>	<u>828</u>

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	General equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 July 2024	6,155	2,070	8,225
Additions	2,718	-	2,718
At 30 June 2025	8,873	2,070	10,943
Depreciation			
At 1 July 2024	6,155	828	6,983
Charge for the year	897	414	1,311
At 30 June 2025	7,052	1,242	8,294
Net book value			
At 30 June 2025	1,821	828	2,649
At 30 June 2024	-	1,242	1,242

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	395	10,000

11 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash on hand	100	50
Cash at bank	199,492	107,666
	199,592	107,716

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	889	940
Other taxation and social security	1,792	-
Other creditors	1,008	2,394
	3,689	3,334

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

13 Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	70,142	89,876	(47,374)	2,718	115,362
Restricted funds					
H4U city	-	22,000	(18,212)	-	3,788
Welcome & Integration VCS	7,333	20,000	(8,877)	-	18,456
A Place to Belong	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-
RC Midlands Region	-	108,216	(108,216)	-	-
Hardship	-	2,730	(2,085)	-	645
Befriending	6,415	-	-	-	6,415
Advice and Guidance	4,846	5,509	(485)	-	9,870
Access Arts	-	1,537	(1,537)	-	-
Access	6,888	10,000	(7,889)	-	8,999
Access Movement	-	16,842	(3,758)	-	13,084
Ukraine Social	-	5,000	(3,700)	-	1,300
Ukraine English	-	5,000	(4,479)	-	521
Ukraine Befriending	-	5,000	(3,620)	-	1,380
UKSPF Essential Skills	-	12,500	(3,773)	-	8,727
UKSPF Community Venues & Spaces	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
UKSPF (Cultural Heritage and Creative Capital)	-	11,426	(8,708)	(2,718)	-
ZAKAAT	-	400	-	-	400
Total restricted funds	<u>45,482</u>	<u>236,160</u>	<u>(195,339)</u>	<u>(2,718)</u>	<u>83,585</u>
Total funds	<u><u>115,624</u></u>	<u><u>326,036</u></u>	<u><u>(242,713)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>198,947</u></u>

The transfer from the UKSPF fund to the General fund represents the net book value of fixed assets, the use of which is not subject to any restriction.

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	58,093	44,896	(30,109)	(2,738)	70,142
Restricted					
Welcome & Integration VCS	-	10,000	(2,667)	-	7,333
A Place to Belong	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Ukraine	3,431	-	(3,431)	-	-
RC Midlands Region	-	93,110	(93,110)	-	-
Hardship	54	-	(54)	-	-
Community Organisations					
Cost of Living	-	26,854	(26,854)	-	-
Community Matters Fund	-	4,557	(4,557)	-	-
Befriending	9,516	61	(4,723)	1,561	6,415
Advice and Guidance	3,604	3,107	(3,845)	1,980	4,846
Admin Core	-	-	(2,738)	2,738	-
Access Arts	12,186	2,980	(11,625)	(3,541)	-
Access	28,462	10,360	(31,934)	-	6,888
Total restricted funds	<u>57,253</u>	<u>171,029</u>	<u>(185,538)</u>	<u>2,738</u>	<u>45,482</u>
Total funds	<u><u>115,346</u></u>	<u><u>215,925</u></u>	<u><u>(215,647)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>115,624</u></u>

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

A place to belong - To help towards core operating costs.

Access - Free conversational English classes, workshops and social activities such as Cooking & Eating Together.

Advice and Guidance - For providing EVisa support.

Befriending -For volunteers to provide weekly support on a one-to-one basis with refugees and asylum seekers.

Welcome & Integration VCS – For Befriending and Digital Skills for asylum seekers in Nottingham City.

Access Arts – For Art projects, We also ran a conference for the Art of Belonging Consortium.

Access Movement – For running football, running, yoga, and cycling sessions.

Homes for Ukraine - To support for Ukrainians in Nottingham City by running English Classes, Befriending, Advice and EVisa Support.

Hardship – For hardship grants and provisions.

RC Midlands Region - To Help towards Befriending and Navigator sessions , weekly Access group sessions, monthly Cooking Together, regular workshops, activities and social events, It also helped towards covering our core running costs, staffing costs and volunteer expenses.

UKSPF (Cultural and Heritage Capital Grant) - Towards the purchase of equipment for cultural and heritage activities and events.

UKSPF (Community Venues & Spaces) - Towards the improvement of Refugee Roots' office venue.

UKSPF Essential Skills -To improve access and increase referrals to essential skills in Nottingham, Focus areas include the provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), and Digital Skills Classes.

Ukraine Befriending - Is towards Befriending support for Ukrainians in Nottinghamshire County.

Ukraine English - Is towards English language support for Ukrainians in Nottinghamshire County.

Ukraine Social - Is towards social groups and activities to support Ukrainians in Nottinghamshire County.

Zakaat - For hardship and relief of poverty support.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted		2025
	General	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,649	-	2,649
Current assets	116,402	83,585	199,987
Current liabilities	(3,689)	-	(3,689)
Total net assets	115,362	83,585	198,947

	Unrestricted		2024
	General	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,242	-	1,242
Current assets	72,234	45,482	117,716
Current liabilities	(3,334)	-	(3,334)
Total net assets	70,142	45,482	115,624

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Refugee Roots

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

16 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

REFUGEE ROOTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1184098

Accounts

Refugee Roots
(Registered charity, number 1184098)
Financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Page	Contents
2 - 9	Trustees' annual report
10	Independent examiner's report
11	Receipts & payments account
12	Statement of assets & liabilities
13-15	Notes to the accounts

Refugee Roots
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Full name Refugee Roots

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1184098

Principal address

Suite 53. Unit 6 Sneinton Market, Gedling Street, Nottingham NG1 1DS

Trustees

T Fox
R Madzvia
G Parker
R Rattigan, until 31/05/2024

Rev P Thipa
H Whitton
T Pickup

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The CIO association is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 25 June 2019.

Recruitment of trustees is from those with an existing interest and involvement in working with refugees and asylum seekers and in sympathy with the aims of Refugee Roots, with an intention to maintain a balanced group of trustees, in terms of skills and experience, ethnicity, gender and age.

Appointment is by the existing membership and trustees following an interview, references and safer recruitment measures such as DBS checks being met.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO, which are to be carried out in accordance with Christian principles within the wider communities of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas, are:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are asylum seekers and refugees who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a) Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist asylum seekers and refugees with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy services, advice and support;
 - b) Relieving or preventing poverty among asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary;

Refugee Roots

- c) Providing asylum seekers and refugees with education and training in the English language;
 - d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for asylum seekers and refugees.
2. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:
- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race or religion;
 - b) Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
 - d) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Promoting social inclusion of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers and understanding in society as a public benefit.

1. Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist participants with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy, advice and support.
2. Relieving or preventing poverty among participants by helping them access or providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, clothing, furniture and other necessary items.
3. Providing participants with education and training in the English language.
4. Providing facilities for recreation or other leisure activities to promote the social well-being of participants.

Advancing awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers among the wider public with a particular emphasis in churches, fostering understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality with diversity.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Refugee Roots

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Refugee Roots welcomes all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home

Refugee Roots helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK. We provide a range of activities in Nottingham and the surrounding area including befriending; providing information, advice and guidance; as well as groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

We have refreshed our Vision and Mission statements to;

Our Vision

A place to belong for those seeking refuge and protection to feel welcome and valued, finding support to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Our Mission

We will create a family of networks, connections, people and friendships for refugees and asylum seekers.

We have also made a fresh commitment to “Reshape refugee support where refugees take control and regain autonomy” as a response to our Vision Day in 2023 which was further considered at our Vision Day in 2024.

Chair’s Report

This year has been a busy one for Refugee Roots as we continue to provide a place to belong for those seeking refuge and protection. We are now well established at Clarendon Chambers, which is close to Nottingham Trent University and on a public transport route. In addition to the main office, we have a private interview room and other rooms which can be used for group activities.

All of our work and projects are only possible due to the determination, skill, and expertise of our staff, volunteers, and trustees, not forgetting the vital support of funders, local churches and partner organisations.

The Board of Trustees continues to meet regularly. We have been delighted to welcome a new trustee to the board, with others in the process of joining. One trustee also stepped down. Training for trustees is ongoing and trustees work to their strengths to provide the best level of governance.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we also set our sights on the future. Our commitment to providing refugees with a place to belong remains steadfast.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and all those who have contributed to the work of the charity.

Gill Parker, Chair of Trustees

Director's Report

It has been an extraordinary year, marked by growth, resilience, generosity and the shared commitment to extend a place to belong, offering friendship and hope to refugees and asylum seekers in Nottingham and the surrounding areas.

This past year, we saw a significant increase in demand for our services, with our participants rising from 749 in the previous financial year to 1,149 this year. This growth underscores the critical and urgent needs facing participants and highlights the vital role we play in working with those seeking refuge and protection to overcome the barriers they face.

I want to thank all of our donors and partners for your support and generosity. Your contributions have been instrumental in allowing us to respond swiftly to rising needs, and support those who need it most.

To our staff, volunteers, and trustees, you are the heart of this organisation. Your dedication, empathy, and unwavering commitment have made each day brighter for those we support. Your efforts continue to inspire, creating a community where everyone feels they belong and where hope flourishes.

Looking forward, we anticipate that demand will continue to increase and expect that we will still have a significant role in refugee support in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. It is important to be aware of the increasingly difficult fundraising climate and we project that this will continue to be the case. Therefore, we are seeking to maximise our fundraising efforts by growing our corporate sponsorship, regular donations, and church partnerships to be able to sustain and develop our work according to the needs of participants and fulfil our charitable aims and objectives. Trust fundraising will still have a significant place in our activities, but we recognise the need to have a mixed income stream for greater sustainability and flexibility.

Adam Baker, Charity Director

Refugee Roots

Refugee Roots has seen a tremendous increase in its capacity and provision of services, with all those involved making it possible for the charity to respond to the increased demand and need for support. 1,149 participants have been supported across all of our projects and activities. The charity has seen increased demand for support as needs have grown and the refugee population locally in the city and surrounding areas has also increased. Opportunities to support Ukrainian refugees living with UK hosts or family have helped widen our network of support and partnership.

A city centre location for the charity has also been significant for the changing landscape of refugee populations in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. The use of temporary emergency accommodation for asylum seekers by the Home Office and various government schemes such as the Homes for Ukraine scheme have made the charity's reach less geographically focussed and far more spread out.

It has been important for the charity in this period to develop new, innovative and creative solutions, partnerships and collaborations. Partnerships to deliver projects have been invaluable as they have enabled more provision and even greater benefit to participants. Local churches and organisations have played an important role in our service delivery model for projects like Access.

Alongside the increased capacity to deliver these important and meaningful support initiatives we have seen an increase to our income which has enabled our work to keep up with the rapid growth and greater need. We continue to seek funds from trusts, foundations, local churches, corporate partners and fundraising activities. Despite increased costs of living we saw growth in our regular donors and online fundraising.

Summary of projects and activities and achievements

One-to-one befriending

Volunteer befrienders met participants weekly for support with language learning, accompanying them to appointments, getting to know local travel links, finding new communities within the city and much more.

47 volunteers have supported **56** individuals across **313** sessions of befriending

"I am grateful to you for your support and help, and the opportunity to learn the language and communicate in a new country."

Participant

Refugee Roots

Access

Our Access project offers social and educational experiences for our participants. Participants can join in a range of activities in a friendly and safe space. Our English conversation groups help to improve English language skills. Participants get to make new connections and make friends in a diverse community. **571** participants were supported across **309** sessions of Access.

"I feel less lonely when I am here."

Participant

Access: Women's Group

Our weekly Women's Group which is part of the Access project has benefited **69** participants. **50** sessions brought diverse women together for language support, craft and social activities.

"I became more confident through the group"

Participant

Access: Cooking and Eating Together

Our monthly Cooking and Eating Together group brought participants and volunteers together to share food and friendship with **97** participants attending across **9** sessions.

Access: Training and Workshops

Training and Workshops offered through the Access project have benefited **68** participants. Among the **31** sessions delivered this has included wellbeing sessions, yoga, employability and digital skills training and other relevant subjects. Participants have reported being able to use what they have learned and put into practice the skills gained from sessions such as interview skills.

Advice and Guidance

Our Advice and Guidance project has supported **679 participants** with more than **1620** sessions held.

Support work has included:

- Finding legal support for asylum seekers
- Applying for housing
- Registering asylum seekers with a GP, dental surgery etc.
- Signposting and making referrals to essential services (housing, health, wellbeing, education, immigration and more)
- Meeting basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and furniture

"Here I have got the support that I needed"

Participant

Refugee Roots

Universal Credit Advice in partnership with Always Community

In partnership with Always Community our Universal Credit Advice project supported **212** participants. The sessions have empowered participants with the knowledge and skills required to access essential financial aid and support with the guidance of trained advisors.

“I had a lot of difficulties and Refugee Roots helped me solve them very quickly.”

Participant

Access Arts

145 participants have been engaged in **152** art sessions. Benefits have included reduced isolation, increased connectedness to the community and greater sense of belonging. Our Access Art's sessions offer an opportunity for participants to explore art and creative activities in a relaxing and social setting. Our twice-a-week art sessions facilitated by artists have allowed our participants to explore mediums and techniques such as watercolour and acrylic painting, charcoal, clay, collage, textiles, marbling, felting, screen printing, mod rock, stained glass, poetry and drama. A number of exhibitions were held during Sherwood Art Week, Refugee Week and in March 2024.

“Doing art makes me feel happy and relaxed, and to make friends. It's good for mental health.”

Participant

Overall outcomes reported by participants

Participants have reported the following:

- **81%** felt less isolated
- **85%** felt more connected to their communities
- **87%** felt more confident
- **85%** reported they had been helped
- **88%** reported the help they received made a difference in their lives
- **80%** developed skills to reach their potential
- **78%** felt their English had improved

Volunteering

154 volunteers have been involved in the charity. Volunteers from the local community, churches, colleges and universities have supported various projects and activities such as language support, befriending, activity support and much more. Volunteers that care make the difference.

Refugee Roots

The charity's policy on reserves

Trustees aim to keep three months of unrestricted funds in reserve. We review our reserves policy annually unless a review is required earlier. We do not have on-going liability for rent, hire of equipment etc.

Financial review

We are satisfied with our current financial position. We continue to seek funds from trusts and foundations, and we are working on diversifying our income sources to ensure we can continue our much-needed work, and develop the work appropriately to have the maximum benefit possible. We are seeking corporate partnerships and sponsorship from interested potential partners. We are also developing other fundraising initiatives and financial giving sources for a more sustainable future. This includes a campaign to raise larger amounts of funds from sources other than trusts and foundations.

The charity's risks

Failure of grant applications, donations or fund-raising activities.

Increased costs and the cost of living crisis are having an adverse effect on giving from the general public. We share with all charities major uncertainties about funding in the present financial climate. We have seen greater challenges raising funds from trusts and foundations due to the volume of applications and oversubscription.

We have appropriate insurance for a charity.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed CC Parker Date 06/03/2025

C Parker, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Refugee Roots
for the year ended 30 June 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Roots (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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  Date 11/03/25
John O'Brien MSc, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Refugee Roots
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 30 June 2024

2023				2024
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
	Receipts			
219632	Grants & donations	2 40813	171029	211842
865	Fundraising	-	-	-
1736	Sales	4083	-	4083
<u>136264</u>	Total receipts	<u>44896</u>	<u>171029</u>	<u>215925</u>
	Payments			
-	Accounts, Bookkeeping and Payroll	1182	1369	2551
16223	Activities and Events	1431	9749	11180
8544	Consultancy	-	3300	3300
9539	Equipment, Repairs and Renewals	2373	476	2849
178	Fee Charges	58	3	61
5615	Hardship Payments	194	2155	2349
8952	Hospitality and Refreshments	544	3935	4479
517	Insurances	-	101	101
1913	IT	1889	3549	5438
-	Legal and Professional	1570	889	2459
3949	Marketing	-	2948	2948
887	Memberships and Subscriptions	588	132	720
4189	Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	3829	3829
10400	Rent	1234	10664	11898
1291	Resource and Guidance Material	-	1015	1015
10830	Room Hire	970	4573	5543
106302	Salaries, NI and Pension	20768	127829	148597
1294	Staff Training and Welfare	1404	1576	2980
2662	Telephone	-	1444	1444
2442	Travel and Accommodation	866	907	1773
7157	Volunteer Costs	1003	5089	6092
<u>202884</u>	Total payments	<u>36074</u>	<u>185532</u>	<u>221606</u>
19348	Net receipts/(payments)	8822	(14503)	(5681)
94050	Cash funds at start of this period	56145	57253	113398
-	Transfers between funds	(2738)	2738	-
<u>113398</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>62229</u>	<u>45487</u>	<u>107717</u>

Refugee Roots
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 30 June 2024

2023		2024
£	Cash assets	£
113398	Bank accounts	107667
-	Cash in hand	50
<u>113398</u>		<u>107717</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use	
	General equipment.	
	Laptops purchased June 2020 at a cost of £1850	
	Tablet purchased May 2021 at a cost of £729	
	Laptops purchased June 2021 at a cost of £2700	
	Laptop purchased Jan 2022 at a cost of £876	
	Cabinet purchased June 2023 at a cost of £516	
	Printer purchased June 2023 at a cost of £1554	
	Total	<u>8225</u>
	Debtors	
5000	HMRC (Employment allowance for 2 years)	10000
<u>5000</u>		<u>10000</u>
	Liabilities: creditors	
(2482)	HMRC	(2394)
(161)	Pensions	-
-	Payroll Ca Plus	(263)
(612)	Independent examination	(678)
<u>(3255)</u>		<u>(3335)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed T Pickup  _____ Dated 09.03.2025
T Pickup, Trustee

Refugee Roots
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Donations	11762	-	11762
Church Donations	11534	168	11702
Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham	15000	-	15000
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	119964	119964
Peoples Health Lottery	-	2517	2517
Bags of Help	-	500	500
Communities of Identity	-	3360	3360
Thomas Farr	-	3000	3000
National Grid Electricity Distribution	-	4557	4557
Garfield Weston	-	20000	20000
Nottingham City Council	-	10000	10000
JN Derbyshire	-	3000	3000
Arts Council	-	2980	2980
Lady Hind	-	3500	3500
	<u>38296</u>	<u>173546</u>	<u>211842</u>

Refugee Roots

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance	Receipts	(Payments)	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Access	28462	10360	(31934)	-	6888
Befriending	9516	61	(4723)	1561	6415
Community Matters	-	4557	(4557)	-	-
Welcome & Integration VCS	-	10000	(2667)	-	7333
Hardship	54	-	(54)	-	-
RC Midlands Region (NLCF)	-	93110	(93110)	-	-
Access Arts	12186	2980	(11625)	(3541)	-
Ukraine support	3431	-	(3431)	-	-
A Place to Belong	-	20000	-	-	20000
Afghan Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	-	26854	(26854)	-	-
Admin Core	-	-	(2738)	2738	-
Advice and guidance	3604	3107	(3846)	1980	4845
	57253	171029	(185539)	2738	45481
Unrestricted funds					
General	56145	44896	(36080)	(2738)	62223
	56145	44896	(36080)	(2738)	62223

"A place to belong" is a core fund. The partner was "Garfield Weston Foundation" (ends Feb 2025).

"Access" is a restricted fund for the Access project offering free conversational English classes, workshops and social activities such as Cooking & Eating Together; it also includes our Women's Group. Funders of the Access project include: Thomas Farr (ends Sep 2024), Albert Hunt Trust (ended Jan 2024), Boots Charitable Trust (ended Mar 2024), Communities of Identity (ended Mar 2024), Lady Hind (ends August 2024), Tesco Bags of Help (ends August 2024) and others.

"Advice and Guidance" is our Advice and Guidance provision. Funders included JN Derbyshire (Mar 2024).

"Admin Core" is a core fund for the Admin Assistant's salary, the funder is Hilden Charitable Trust awarded £7000 for one year (ended Sep 2023).

"Access Arts" is our Art project which is part of the programme "National Lottery Project Grants". The funder is Arts Council England National Lottery (ended Mar 2024).

Refugee Roots

“Befriending” is for the befriending project. Volunteers provide weekly support one to one with refugees and asylum seekers. Funders have included Albert Hunt Trust (ended Jan 2024), and others.

“Community Cost of Living Fund”. The fund was to cover the retrospective costs of running existing critical services and for delivering, expanding and adapting existing services. The funding came from the UK Government and was managed by the National Lottery Community Fund (ended Mar 2024).

“Community Matters Fund” refers to a grant which was awarded by National Grid Electricity Distribution via Local Giving for operating a “Warm Bank” (ended Mar 2024).

“Hardship” refers to hardship grants and provisions. Funders and partners have included Acts 435 and others.

“RC Midlands Region” is the programme funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (3-year award, ends July 2025).

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham provide a core grant towards the Charity Director’s salary (ended Jan 2024).

Refugee Roots is grateful for a grant of £25,000 towards core costs, awarded by the Postcode Places Trust thanks to players of the People’s Postcode Lottery (ended June 2024).

“Welcome & Integration VCS” is the Asylum Seeker Dispersal grant programme from central government and funds our work to address isolation and empower asylum seekers (ends Jan 2025).

4. Trustees’ remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

5. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Accounts

Refugee Roots
(Registered charity, number 1184098)
Financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Page	Contents
2 - 10	Trustees' annual report
11	Independent examiner's report
12	Receipts & payments account
13	Statement of assets & liabilities
14-16	Notes to the accounts

Refugee Roots
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Full name Refugee Roots

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1184098

Principal address

Suite 53. Unit 6 Sneinton Market, Gedling Street, Nottingham NG1 1DS

Trustees

R Rattigan

R Madzvia

C Parker

Rev P Thipa

H Whitton

T Pickup

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The CIO association is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 25 June 2019.

Recruitment of trustees is from those with an existing interest and involvement in working with refugees and asylum seekers and in sympathy with the aims of Refugee Roots, with an intention to maintain a balanced group of trustees, in terms of skills and experience, ethnicity, gender and age.

Appointment is by the existing membership and trustees following an interview, references and safer recruitment measures such as DBS Checks being met and are arranged by the trustees.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO, which are to be carried out in accordance with Christian principles within the wider communities of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas, are:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are asylum seekers and refugees who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a) Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist asylum seekers and refugees with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy services, advice and support;

Refugee Roots

- b) Relieving or preventing poverty among asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary;
- c) Providing asylum seekers and refugees with education and training in the English language;
- d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for asylum seekers and refugees.

2. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Promoting social inclusion of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers and understanding in society as a public benefit.

- 1. Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist participants with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy, advice and support;
- 2. Relieving or preventing poverty among participants by helping them access or providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, clothing, furniture and other necessary items;
- 3. Providing participants with education and training in the English language;
- 4. Providing facilities for recreation or other leisure activities to promote the social well-being of participants;
- 5. Advancing awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers among the wider public with a particular emphasis in churches, fostering understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality with diversity.

Refugee Roots

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Refugee Roots welcomes all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home

Refugee Roots is a Christian charity that helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK. Our range of empowerment initiatives includes befriending, and accompanying asylum seekers to appointments, information, advice and guidance; as well as support groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

Chair's Report

This year has been a remarkable journey for Refugee Roots as we continue to fulfil our mission to befriend and support asylum seekers and refugees. We spent most of this past year operating from Tiger Community Hub near the Broadmarsh on Lister Gate. Tiger Community Hub was a significant place for Refugee Roots, establishing its work in the city centre. The hub played an important role in the development of the work and projects we provide. With increasing demand and the rapid growth of the charity, it was clear that our requirements for a larger office space and additional facilities was necessary and so we moved to Clarendon Chambers mid-May 2023.

Our commitment to welcome all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home, can clearly be seen in the way the staff, volunteers and everyone involved has responded to the challenges and opportunities of an ever- changing refugee and asylum seeker context in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. In particular, our response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in the city, and the wider county, exemplifies such dedication and resilience. We successfully extended our reach to the individuals and families who needed support the most. They were welcomed with open arms. None of our achievements would have been possible without the remarkable determination, skill, and expertise of our staff, volunteers, and trustees or without the crucial support of funders, local churches and partner organisations.

The diligence of our Board of Trustees cannot be understated. Their strategic guidance, prudent decision-making, and unyielding commitment have provided the foundation for our successes. Their continuous efforts to ensure accountability, transparency, and sustainability have shaped Refugee Roots, leading us to an even deeper community led and informed approach.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we also set our sights on the future. Our commitment to providing refugees with a place to belong remains steadfast. We will continue to develop our projects, collaborate with partners, and

Refugee Roots

harness the power of collective action to make a lasting impact on the lives of those we work with.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and all those who have contributed to the work of the charity. **Gill Parker, Chair of Trustees**

Director's Report

I am humbled by the overwhelming support and tireless efforts of each and every individual, organisation and partner who has contributed the work of Refugee Roots. Without your unwavering commitment and selfless dedication, Refugee Roots would not have been able to continue its vital work and achieve the significant developments that have shaped our journey this past year. Your time, skills, and passion have been the driving force behind our endeavours, and it is your tireless efforts that bring life to our mission every day.

I am proud of our exceptional staff team, providing the expertise, resilience, and the spirit needed to navigate through challenges and triumphs alike. Our trustees have given invaluable guidance and stewardship, ensuring that our actions remain in line with our core values and that our resources are utilized effectively.

We are very grateful for our partners and funders who have contributed generously through funding our work, giving us support with their time, sharing resources and working collaboratively. They have been significant in our work and in the participants' lives.

As I reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future of Refugee Roots. We have made great strides in our efforts to help those seeking refuge and protection find a place to call home but there is still much work to be done. With your continued support and commitment, I am confident that we will overcome any challenges that come our way and continue to positively impact the lives of those we work with and wider. **Adam Baker, Charity Director**

Refugee Roots has seen a tremendous increase in its capacity and provision of services with all those involved making it possible for the charity to respond to the increased demand and need for support. **749** participants have been supported across all our projects and activities. The charity has seen increased demand for support as needs have grown and the refugee population locally in the city and surrounding areas has also increased. Opportunities to support Ukrainian refugees living with UK hosts or family have helped widen our network of support and partnership.

A city centre location for the charity has been significant too for the changing landscape of refugee populations in Nottingham and the surrounding areas. The use

Refugee Roots

of temporary emergency accommodation for asylum seekers by the Home Office and various government schemes such as the Homes for Ukraine scheme have meant that the charity's reach has become less geographically focused and far more spread out. It has been important for the charity in this period to develop new, innovative and creative solutions, partnerships and collaborations. Increased partnership and collaboration to deliver projects like Access have been invaluable, as they have enabled more provision and even greater benefit to participants. Local churches and organisations have played an important role in our service delivery model for projects like Access.

Alongside the increased capacity to deliver these, important and meaningful support initiatives, we have seen an increase to our income, which has enabled our work to keep up with the rapid growth and greater need. We continue to seek funds from trusts, foundations, local churches, corporate partners and fundraising activities. Despite increased costs of living, we saw growth in our regular donors and online fundraising.

Summary of projects and activities and achievements

One-to-one befriending.

Volunteer befrienders met participants weekly for support with language learning, accompanying them to appointments, exploring travel links, communities within the city and much more.

80 Befriending matches were made in the year, and befrienders have supported **65** individuals. **419** sessions of befriending have been provided by **58** volunteer befrienders.

"Befriending saved multiple hosting relationships that would have ended without it." Lina Maksymuk (Nottinghamshire County Council, Ukrainian Cultural Centre)

Navigators (accompanying).

Volunteers have supported participants by accompanying them to appointments such as reporting, medical and housing appointments. **22** participants were supported over **24** sessions. This support helps to increase confidence and access to crucial services. The support of volunteers has been reported by participants as "reassuring" and helpful.

Access

Our Access project offers social and educational experiences for our participants. Participants can join in a range of activities in a friendly and safe space. Our English conversation groups help to improve English language skills. Participants get to make new connections and make friends in a diverse community. **481** participants were supported across **334** sessions of Access.

"This is what is so important – connecting with other people and people from different organisations too, which helps confidence so much and builds opportunities. I can only count on organisations like Refugee Roots, to learn,

integrate and try to find a place in society. Even now you have helped and supported me a lot” Mohammed, participant.

Conversational English Classes at Access have benefited **410** participants, across **193** sessions, additionally online classes were provided to **43** participants across **67** sessions.

“I feel less lonely when I am here” Olha, Participant

Access: Women’s Group

Our weekly Women's Group which is part of the Access project has benefited **62** participants. **45** sessions brought diverse women together for language support, craft and social activities.

“I feel good and I am happy coming here and meeting friends”

Charanjit, Participant

Access: Cooking and Eating Together

Our monthly Cooking and Eating Together group brought participants and volunteers together to share food and friendship with **104** participants attending across **10** sessions.

Access: Training and Workshops

Training and Workshops offered through the Access project have benefited **55** participants. Among the **19** sessions delivered this has included horticultural and wellbeing sessions, employability and digital skills training and other relevant subjects. Participants have reported being able to use what they have learned and put into practice the skills gained from sessions such as Interview Skills. Others have told us they have become more interested in nature and outdoor spaces through the wellbeing sessions at Windmill Community Gardens.

Advice and Guidance

Advice and Guidance is provided by our Refugee Support Worker. **437** participants have been supported through our Advice and Guidance project with more than **1,136** sessions held.

Support work has included:

- Finding legal support for asylum seekers
- Applying for housing
- Applying for Universal Credit and support with benefits and welfare
- Registering asylum seekers with a GP, dental surgery etc.
- Signposting and making referrals to essential services (housing, health, wellbeing, education, immigration and more)
- Meeting basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and furniture

"Thank you so much, I am getting a house thanks to your help"

Oksana Vashchenko, participant

Refugee Roots

Universal Credit Advice in partnership with Always Community

We have also recently launched a project in partnership with Always Community to offer Universal Credit Advice. The collaboration aims to empower participants with the knowledge and skills required to access essential financial aid and support with the guidance of trained advisors. Find out more [here](#). The weekly sessions are by appointment only and are managed by an online booking system.

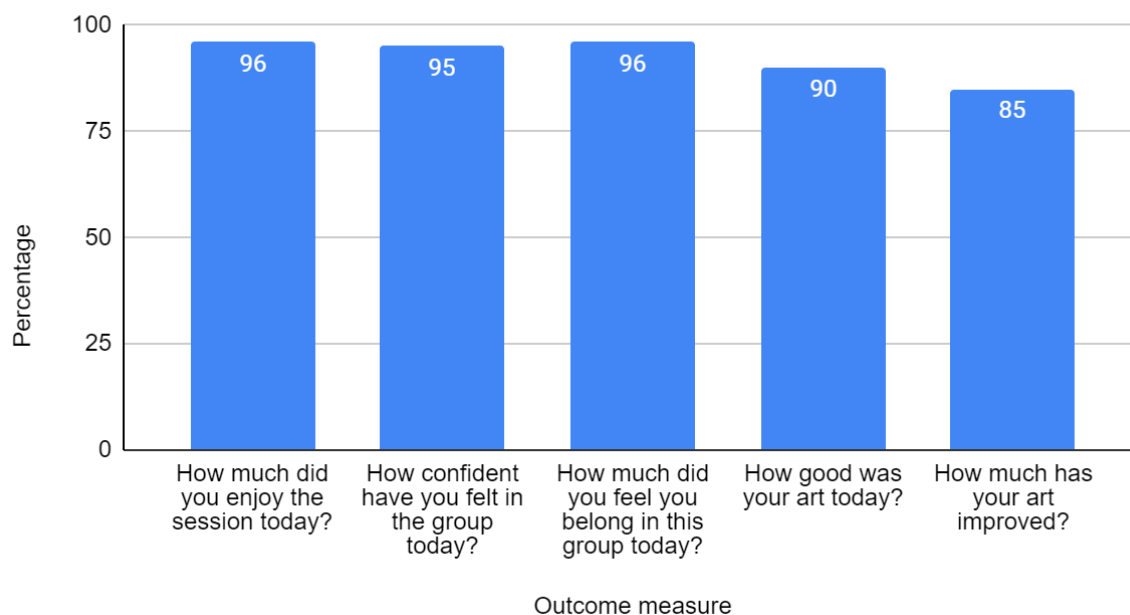
Access Arts.

147 participants have been engaged in weekly art sessions, with **85** sessions delivered. Benefits have included reduced isolation, increased connectedness to the community and greater sense of belonging. Our Access Art sessions are an opportunity for participants to explore art and creative activities in a relaxing and social setting. Our twice a week art sessions facilitated by artists have allowed our participants to explore mediums and techniques such as watercolour and acrylic painting, charcoal, clay, collage, textiles, marbling, felting, screen printing, mod rock, stained glass, poetry and drama. Exhibitions of refugee art made through Access Arts included a display during Refugee Week at The Old Bus Depot and a digital exhibition at Nottingham Playhouse. Art was also exhibited during Sherwood Art Week in two local venues.

“Now I am a peaceful, friendly, and smiling person. My creativity and art has improved, thank you very much for the artists who teach us.”

Sonya, Participant

Access Arts Outcomes



Refugee Roots

Overall outcomes reported by participants

Participants have reported the following:

- 81% felt less isolated
- 80% felt more connected to their communities
- 80% felt more confident
- 93% reported they had been helped
- 88% reported the help they received made a difference in their lives
- 82% developed skills to reach their potential
- 77% felt their English had improved

Volunteering

160 Volunteers have been involved in the work of the charity. Volunteers from the local community, churches, colleges and universities have supported various projects and activities such as language support, befriending, activity support and much more.

“I loved my time at Refugee Roots, it was incredibly rewarding and gave me the opportunity to meet some amazing people as well as develop new skills and confidence in myself and my abilities. As a volunteer I was fully immersed in the work of the charity and felt like one of the team.” Lily, Placement Student Volunteer.

Looking ahead

Refugee Roots is committed to continuing appropriate and meaningful support for asylum seekers and refugees. We expect to see increased demand as pressures on local housing providers, other support agencies and the local authorities rise. As a result we will be working closely with key partners and together we will aim to find appropriate responses to the challenges that we will come up against.

Simultaneously we will continue to seek the resources of funds, volunteers and other in-kind support. We are prepared to respond to needs that arise creatively and with agility. Our professional partnerships and collaborative work will be important in maintaining and developing our work. We will be exploring new opportunities for partnership work and developing current projects to be even more impactful. The charity (a CIO with voting members) strives to continually be informed and shaped by its members.

The charity's policy on reserves

Our principal liability is potential cost of staff redundancy in the event of loss of income.

Trustees aim to keep three months unrestricted funds in reserve. We review our reserves policy annually unless a review is required earlier.

Refugee Roots

Financial review

We are satisfied with our financial position for our current situation. We continue to seek funds from trusts and foundations, and we are working on diversifying our income sources to ensure we can continue our much-needed work, and develop the work appropriately to have the maximum benefit possible. We are also seeking corporate partnerships and sponsorship from interested potential partners. We are also developing other fundraising initiatives and financial giving sources for a more sustainable future.

The charity's risks

Failure of grant applications, donations or fund-raising activities. Clearly, we share with all charities major uncertainties about such funding in the present financial climate.

We have appropriate insurance for a charity.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed CC Parker Date 8/12/2023

C Parker, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Refugee Roots
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Roots (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

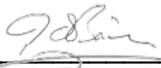
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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  Date 8/12/2023
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Refugee Roots
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 30 June 2023

2022				2023
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£		£	£	£
	Receipts			
132955	Grants & donations	43453	176179	219632
2801	Fundraising	540	325	865
508	Sales	1736	-	1736
<u>136264</u>	Total receipts	<u>45729</u>	<u>176504</u>	<u>222233</u>
	Payments			
62655	Wages, NI & pension	4856	101446	106302
5718	Professional fees	122	8422	8544
6186	Activities & events	925	15298	16223
1174	Equipment, repairs & renewals	1740	7799	9539
98	Fee charges	139	39	178
2369	Volunteer expenses	168	6989	7157
4756	Rent & room hire	13	21218	21231
1735	Hardship payments	-	5615	5615
3977	Hospitality	93	8859	8952
1793	IT	66	1847	1913
2273	Marketing	15	3934	3949
2047	Printing & stationery	-	4189	4189
-	Insurances	75	442	517
822	Telephone	13	2649	2662
979	Training	284	1010	1294
149	Travel & accomodation	280	2162	2442
1202	Resourses & materials	136	1155	1291
132	Membership & subscriptions	-	887	887
<u>98065</u>	Total payments	<u>8925</u>	<u>193960</u>	<u>202885</u>
38199	Net receipts/(payments)	36804	(17456)	19348
<u>55851</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>16605</u>	<u>77445</u>	<u>94050</u>
<u>94050</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>53409</u>	<u>59989</u>	<u>113398</u>

Refugee Roots

Statement of assets and liabilities

at 30 June 2023

2022		2023
£	Cash assets	£
93910	Bank accounts	113398
140	Cash in hand	-
<u>94050</u>		<u>113398</u>

Assets retained for the charity's own use

General equipment.

Laptops purchased June 2020 at a cost of £1850

Tablet purchased May 2021 at a cost of £729

Laptops purchased June 2021 at a cost of £2700

Laptop purchased Jan 2022 at a cost of £876

Cabinet purchased June 2023 at a cost of £516

Printer purchased June 2023 at a cost of £1554

Liabilities: creditors

-	HMRC	(2482)
(322)	Pensions	(161)
(582)	Independent examination	(612)
<u>(904)</u>		<u>(3255)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
T Pickup, Trustee

Dated 8/12/2023

Refugee Roots
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

Grants & donations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	-	79479	79479
Nottingham City Council	-	10000	10000
Nottinghamshire County Council	-	5000	5000
Ashworth Charitable Trust	-	5000	5000
Albert Hunt Trust	-	2000	2000
Boots Charitable Trust	-	10000	10000
Communities of Identity	-	5290	5290
Dioscese of Southwell	-	20000	20000
J N Derbyshire Trust	-	3000	3000
Leathersellers	5000	-	5000
Postcode Places Trust	25000	-	25000
People's Health Lottery	-	8811	8811
Archer Trust	-	1500	1500
Wheatcroft Fund	-	5000	5000
National Grid Electricity Distribution	-	10000	10000
The Hilden Charitable Fund		7000	7000
Sundry grants & donations	13453	4099	17552
	<u>43453</u>	<u>176179</u>	<u>219632</u>

Refugee Roots

2. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds				
Access	19765	34833	(26136)	28462
Befriending	7653	18761	(16899)	9515
Community Matters	-	10000	(10000)	-
Houeshold Support Fund	-	10000	(10000)	-
Hardship	172	800	(918)	54
RC Midlands Region (NLCF)	-	79479	(79479)	-
Access Arts	24249	2179	(14243)	12185
Ukraine support	522	5102	(2193)	3431
A Place to Belong	15000	-	(15000)	-
Afghan Fund	2987	-	(2987)	-
Admin Core	-	7000	(4262)	2738
Advice and guidance	7097	8350	(11843)	3604
	77445	176504	(193960)	59989
Unrestricted funds				
General	16605	45729	(8925)	53409
	16605	45729	(8925)	53409

“A place to belong” is a core restricted fund. The partner was “Garfield Weston Foundation” (ended May 2023).

“Access” is a restricted fund for the Access project offering free conversational English classes, workshops and social activities such as Cooking & Eating Together, It also includes our Women’s Group. Funders of the Access project include The Peoples Health Trust (ends July 2023), Thomas Farr (ended Mar 2023), Albert Hunt Trust (ends Jan 2024). Magic Little Grants (ended May 2023), Boots Charitable Trust (ends Mar 2024) and others.

“Advice and Guidance” is our Advice and Guidance provision. Funders included The Foyle Foundation (ended May 2023),

“Afghan Fund” was an emergency support fund for Afghan refugees. Funders included All Churches and others, funding has ended.

“Admin Core” is a core restricted fund for the Admin Assistants’ salary, and the funder is “The Hilden Charitable Fund”. The award was for £7000, for two years (£14,000 in total) ending September 2024.

“Access Arts” is our Art project which is part of the programme “National Lottery Project Grants”, the funder is Arts Council England National Lottery (ends Mar 2024).

Refugee Roots

“Befriending” is for the befriending project. Volunteers provide weekly support one to one with refugees and asylum seekers. Funders have included The Wheatcroft Fund (ended June 2023), Ashworth Charitable Trust (ended June 2023), Albert Hunt Trust (ends Jan 2024), Swan Mountain Trust (ended June 2023) and others.

“Community Matters Fund” refers to a grant which was awarded by National Grid Electricity Distribution via Local Giving for providing “Warm Banks” and “Warm Packs” (ended Mar 2023).

“Hardship” refers to hardship grants and provisions. We are grateful to our partner Acts 435 and others who have helped us meet hardship requests for those most in need.

“RC Midlands Region” is the programme funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. (3 year, ends July 2025)

“The Household Support Fund” was awarded by Nottingham City Council to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs (ended Sep 2022).

“Ukraine” is for projects, activities and support with Ukrainian refugees. Funders include Nottingham County Council (ends Oct 2023) and other donations.

We would also like to thank those who support our unrestricted/core funds

Refugee Roots thanks the Players of the People’s Postcode Lottery for a grant of £25,000 towards core costs (ends June 2024).

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham provide a core grant towards the Charity Director’s Salary (ends Jan 2024).

The Leathersellers Foundation (ended Mar 2023).

3. Trustees’ remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

4. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

REFUGEE ROOTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1184098

Accounts

Refugee Roots
(Registered charity, number 1184098)
Financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2022

Page	Contents
2 - 6	Trustees' annual report
7	Independent examiner's report
8	Receipts & payments account
9	Statement of assets & liabilities
10	Notes to the accounts

**Refugee Roots
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2022**

Full name Refugee Roots

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1184098

Principal address

The Vine Community Centre, Bobbers Mill Road, Nottingham NG7 5GZ

Trustees

R Rattigan

R Madzvia

C Parker

T Pickup

Rev P Thipa

H Whitton

P Wenham, until 3/5/22

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The CIO association is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 25 June 2019.

Recruitment of trustees is from those with an existing interest and involvement in working with refugees and asylum seekers and in sympathy with the aims of Refugee Roots, with an intention to maintain a balanced group of trustees, in terms of skills and experience, ethnicity, gender and age.

Appointment is by the existing membership and trustees following an interview, references and safer recruitment measures such as DBS Checks being met and are arranged by the trustees.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO, which are to be carried out in accordance with Christian principles within the wider communities of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas, are:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are asylum seekers and refugees who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a) Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist asylum seekers and refugees with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy services, advice and support;

Refugee Roots

- b) Relieving or preventing poverty among asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary;
- c) Providing asylum seekers and refugees with education and training in the English language;
- d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for asylum seekers and refugees.

2. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:

- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race or religion;
- b) Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
- c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
- d) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Promoting social inclusion of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers and understanding in society as a public benefit.

- 1. Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist participants with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy, advice and support;
- 2. Relieving or preventing poverty among participants by helping them access or providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, clothing, furniture and other necessary items;
- 3. Providing participants with education and training in the English language;
- 4. Providing facilities for recreation or other leisure activities to promote the social well-being of participants;
- 5. Advancing awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers among the wider public with a particular emphasis in churches, fostering understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality with diversity.

Refugee Roots

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Refugee Roots welcomes all, helping those in need find friendship and a place to call home

Refugee Roots is a Christian charity that helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK. Our range of empowerment initiatives includes befriending, and accompanying asylum seekers to appointments, information, advice and guidance; as well as support groups and activities, such as free English conversation classes.

We are so grateful for the incredible support from the community and individuals who have joined in our work to make a real lasting difference to the lives of refugees in Nottingham.

Despite the challenges and difficulties faced, we have risen up with your support and encouragement to keep going. It's been a year of change too, as we moved from our birthplace of St Stephen's with St Paul's in Hyson Green to a city centre venue in Tiger Community Enterprise CIC's new Community Hub (Tiger Community Hub) on the Lister Gate.

During the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 we worked with and supported 310 participants. (141 Female participants and 167 male participants).

Our support included;

- **Befriending (one to one)**
 - Volunteers met weekly with participants for support which included help with language learning, confidence building, accessing other services and reducing isolation.
 - **38** individuals were supported through Befriending
- **Art Sessions**
 - Weekly art sessions provided safe and creative spaces for participants.
 - **70 participants** have been involved in Art sessions.
- **Accompanying refugees and asylum seekers to appointments**
 - Volunteers accompanied participants to appointments such as medical and home office appointments
 - **28** participants helped by our Navigators (accompanying).
- **Information, Advice and Guidance, and Signposting**
 - Our support worker has provided information, advice and guidance on a range of issues such as housing, welfare, and education. The support worker has also made referrals, signposted to and provided information about other service providers.
 - **150** participants were supported with Advice and Guidance.
- **Access Project and Access Women's Group with English Classes**
 - Various weekly group sessions where volunteers taught English, created welcoming and safe spaces for refugees and social opportunities to make new friends.

Refugee Roots

- **142** participants supported through Access (English Classes, Workshops and Social Activities)
- **28** women were supported through the Women's Group which offered free English conversation classes, social activities and crafting workshops.
- Social Groups and Events
 - Day trips, meals, and celebrations, including events during Refugee week.
- Training and Workshops
 - External facilitators led workshops on topics such as Wellbeing, Life in the UK and more.

“I am very happy at Refugee Roots, I have been involved in the cooking classes and attending English classes where I learned a lot”

Morteza, Participant

- 80% Strongly Agreed and 14% Agreed Refugee Roots helped them
- 79% strongly agreed and 15% agreed that their issue was resolved
- 80% strongly agreed and 14% agreed they learned new skills
- 76% strongly agreed and 14% agreed their English language improved
- 91% strongly agreed and 6% agreed they were more confident
- 84% strongly agreed and 11% agreed they felt they had a say in the decisions and enough control over the support and activities they benefited from.

121 Volunteers have supported our projects and activities many of whom represent churches within the Diocese. It makes all the difference to have such dedicated volunteers who care, we are grateful for all that each one does and collectively what they achieve.

Already 6 months into our next period and we are seeing unbelievable growth. This is resulting from the growth of the Charity, increased demand for services, and the growing refugee population which is partially due to the Ukrainian conflict and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the commissioning of hotels and other properties as emergency accommodations for refugees in Nottingham by the Home Office.

We value your ongoing support, prayer, and encouragement.

“Refugee Roots has helped me tremendously from the first day I arrived in Nottingham. First they provided me with a befriender. They have supported me with travel to appointments and their support worker has helped me with everything I needed. Refugee Roots found a volunteer to accompany me to my Home Office interview which was important for me and meant a lot. I am regularly part of the art class and as many other activities as I can. I am

Refugee Roots

thankful that I found such wonderful people at Refugee Roots and that they truly became a family. Refugee Roots gave me hope and a reason to start again.”

Alliance, Participant

Get the full annual report from our website www.refugeeroots.org.uk

The charity's policy on reserves

Our principal liability is potential cost of staff redundancy in the event of loss of income.

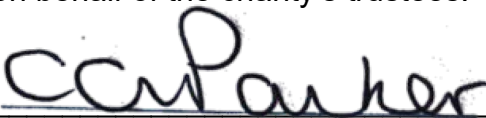
Trustees aim to keep three months unrestricted funds in reserve. We review our reserves policy annually unless a review is required earlier.

The charity's risks

Failure of grant applications, donations or fund-raising activities. Clearly we share with all charities major uncertainties about such funding in the present financial climate.

We have appropriate insurance for a charity.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed 
C Parker, Trustee

Date 23/3/2023

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Refugee Roots
for the year ended 30 June 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Roots (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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  Date 24/3/2023
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Refugee Roots
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 30 June 2022

2021				2022
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
	Receipts			
86928	Grants & donations	5384	127571	132955
70	Fundraising	35	2766	2801
201	Sales	508	-	508
258	Sundry income	-	-	-
<u>87457</u>	Total receipts	<u>5927</u>	<u>130337</u>	<u>136264</u>
	Payments			
66301	Wages, NI & pension	5055	57600	62655
4034	Professional fees	4683	1035	5718
5848	Activities & events	478	5708	6186
5400	Equipment, repairs & renewals	1089	85	1174
73	Fee charges	70	28	98
6044	Volunteer expenses	563	1806	2369
1858	Rent & room hire	593	4163	4756
486	Hardship payments	73	1662	1735
2170	Hospitality	1770	2207	3977
2374	IT	452	1341	1793
4457	Marketing	788	1485	2273
4336	Printing & stationery	1007	1040	2047
100	Sundry expenses	-	-	-
1292	Telephone	142	680	822
1643	Training	782	197	979
98	Travel & accomodation	-	149	149
465	Resourses & materials	17	1185	1202
-	Membership & subscriptions	132	-	132
<u>106979</u>	Total payments	<u>17694</u>	<u>80371</u>	<u>98065</u>
(19522)	Net receipts/(payments)	(11767)	49966	38199
-	Inter fund transfers	(720)	720	-
<u>75373</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>29092</u>	<u>26759</u>	<u>55851</u>
<u>55851</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>16605</u>	<u>77445</u>	<u>94050</u>

Refugee Roots
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 30 June 2022

<i>2021</i>		<i>2022</i>
£		£
	Cash assets	
55764	Bank accounts	93910
<u>87</u>	Cash in hand	<u>140</u>
<u>55851</u>		<u>94050</u>
	 Other monetary assets	
<u>718</u>	Debtors: HMRC	<u>-</u>
<u>718</u>		<u>-</u>
	 Assets retained for the charity's own use	
	General equipment.	
	Laptop purchased June 2020 at a cost of £650.	
	 Liabilities: creditors	
-	HMRC	-
-	Pensions	(322)
<u>(564)</u>	Independent examination	<u>(582)</u>
<u>(564)</u>		<u>(904)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Dated 23/3/23
R Rattigan, Trustee

Refugee Roots
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2022

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds					
Access	10842	31016	(22093)	-	19765
Befriending	10112	19709	(22168)	-	7653
Cooking together	-	3650	(3650)	-	-
Covid 19 response	-	100	-	(100)	-
Hardship	-	1992	(1820)	-	172
Tuesday group	892	2427	(3319)	-	-
Art group	4913	29649	(10313)	-	24249
Ukraine support	-	1000	(478)	-	522
A Place to Belong	-	17280	-	(2280)	15000
Afghan Fund	-	3805	(818)	-	2987
Advice & guidance	-	19709	(15712)	3100	7097
	26759	130337	(80371)	720	77445
Unrestricted funds					
General	29092	5927	(17694)	(720)	16605
	29092	5927	(17694)	(720)	16605

3. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

4. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

REFUGEE ROOTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1184098

Accounts

Refugee Roots
(Registered charity, number 1184098)
Financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2021

Page	Contents
2 - 5	Trustees' annual report
6	Independent examiner's report
7	Receipts & payments account
8	Statement of assets & liabilities
9	Notes to the accounts

**Refugee Roots
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

Full name Refugee Roots

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1184098

Principal address

The Vine Community Centre, Bobbers Mill Road, Nottingham NG7 5GZ

Trustees

R Rattigan

C Parker

P Wenham

Tim Pickup from 3/11/2021

Rev P Thipa

Rev C Burrows until 16/2/21

Roda Madziva from 3/11/2021

Helen Whitton from 3/11/2021

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The CIO association is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 25 June 2019.

Recruitment of trustees is from those with an existing interest and involvement in working with refugees and asylum seekers and in sympathy with the aims of Refugee Roots, with an intention to maintain a balanced group of trustees, in terms of skills and experience, ethnicity, gender and age.

Appointment is by the existing membership and trustees following an interview, references and safer recruitment measures such as DBS Checks being met and are arranged by the trustees.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO, which are to be carried out in accordance with Christian principles within the wider communities of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas, are:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are asylum seekers and refugees who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a) Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist asylum seekers and refugees with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy services, advice and support;

Refugee Roots

- b) Relieving or preventing poverty among asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary;
 - c) Providing asylum seekers and refugees with education and training in the English language;
 - d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for asylum seekers and refugees.
2. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:
- a) The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of race or religion;
 - b) Advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
 - d) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Promoting social inclusion of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers and understanding in society as a public benefit.

- 1. Providing volunteer befrienders/mentors who will assist participants with their integration into the community by providing activities, information, advocacy, advice and support;
- 2. Relieving or preventing poverty among participants by helping them access or providing grants of financial assistance, essential equipment, clothing, furniture and other necessary items;
- 3. Providing participants with education and training in the English language;
- 4. Providing facilities for recreation or other leisure activities to promote the social well-being of participants;
- 5. Advancing awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers among the wider public with a particular emphasis in churches, fostering understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality with diversity.

Refugee Roots

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Refugee Roots has worked with **275** participants supported with the contribution and help of **115** volunteers.

- 75 participants were supported by 59 volunteer befrienders across 878 sessions;
- 39 participants were supported with telephone English lessons
- 57 participants attended online English classes with average attendance of 29 weekly;
- 50 participants engaged across 32 wellbeing activities (yoga, walking, fitness, food for thought activity);
- 19 participants attended our Women's group across 42 sessions;
- 55 participants attended in person or participated remotely in our art project;
- 195 participants supported with advice and guidance across 737 sessions.

Our services in the past year have included:

- Accompanying service for refugees and asylum seekers to appointments;
- Befriending (one to one);
- Cooking Group, Art Sessions and other confidence-building opportunities;
- Women's Group, Social Groups, Walking Group;
- Weekly English Classes;
- Appointments for Advice, Guidance, and Signposting;
- Events;
- Training and Workshops (e.g. Wellbeing).

The Sharing Table cookbook was produced by volunteers and participants. It was printed and has been raising funds for the charity. The book is a collection of stories and recipes from our participants and volunteers. Copies can be purchased on our website.

"I always feel welcomed and invited"

Joy

"I attend the women's group every Tuesday. We learn English and do lots of arts and crafts together. I really enjoy these sessions and my teacher is great! I sometimes join Art on Tuesdays as I enjoy drawing. It really helps me to join these activities."

Aya

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have supported us through the year. All Grants and donations however big or small are greatly appreciated.

Grants from Barrow Cadbury Trust, Communities of Identity and the Diocese of Southwell have helped enormously during the Covid crisis.

Get the full annual report from our website www.refugeeroots.org.uk

Refugee Roots

The charity's policy on reserves

Our principal liability is potential cost of staff redundancy in the event of loss of income.

We have estimated that £12,500 reserves should be kept, covering 3 months' expenditure.

We do not have on-going liability for rent, hire of equipment etc.

The charity's risks

Failure of grant applications, donations or fund-raising activities. Clearly we share with all charities major uncertainties about such funding in the present financial climate.

We have appropriate insurance for a charity.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed P. W. Wenham
P Wenham, Trustee

Date 8/1/22

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Refugee Roots
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Roots (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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



Date 10/1/22

John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE

Employee of Community Accounting Plus

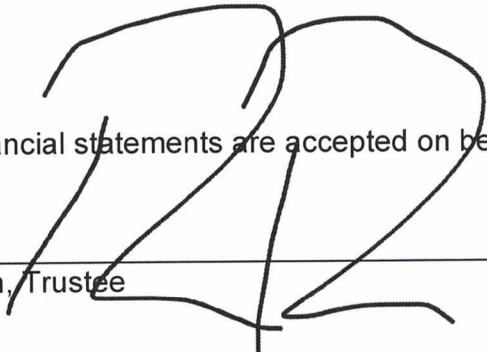
Refugee Roots
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 30 June 2021

2020				2021
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
Receipts				
109275	Grants & donations	2 50041	36887	86928
65	Fundraising	70	-	70
-	Sales	201	-	201
-	Sundry income	258	-	258
<u>109340</u>	Total receipts	<u>50570</u>	<u>36887</u>	<u>87457</u>
Payments				
24495	Wages, NI & pension	37151	29150	66301
1029	Professional fees	3896	138	4034
855	Activities & events	2651	3197	5848
100	Donations awarded	-	-	-
1411	Equipment, repairs & renewals	4390	1010	5400
76	Fee charges	73	-	73
184	Volunteer expenses	5738	306	6044
2447	Rent & room hire	1616	242	1858
114	Hardship payments	-	486	486
598	Hospitality	1616	554	2170
138	Insurance	-	-	-
262	IT	1000	1374	2374
246	Marketing	4434	23	4457
436	Printing & stationery	1582	2754	4336
137	Sundry expenses	100	-	100
598	Telephone	285	1007	1292
360	Training	1625	18	1643
354	Travel & accomodation	-	98	98
-	Resourses & materials	-	465	465
127	Membership & subscriptions	-	-	-
<u>33967</u>	Total payments	<u>66157</u>	<u>40822</u>	<u>106979</u>
75373	Net receipts/(payments)	(15587)	(3935)	(19522)
-	Inter fund transfers	(363)	363	-
-	Cash funds at start of this period	45042	30331	75373
<u>75373</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>29092</u>	<u>26759</u>	<u>55851</u>

Refugee Roots
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 30 June 2021

2020		2021
£		£
	Cash assets	
75284	Bank accounts	55764
89	Cash in hand	87
<u>75373</u>		<u>55851</u>
	Other monetary assets	
<u>-</u>	Debtors: HMRC	<u>718</u>
<u>-</u>		<u>718</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use	
	General equipment.	
	Laptop purchased June 2020 at a cost of £650.	
	Liabilities: creditors	
(475)	HMRC	-
(600)	Pensions	-
<u>(564)</u>	Independent examination	<u>(564)</u>
<u>(1639)</u>		<u>(564)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  _____
R Rattigan, Trustee

Dated 8-1-2022

Refugee Roots
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 30 June 2021

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds					
Access	4835	6007	-	-	10842
Befriending	6000	10100	(5988)	-	10112
Cooking together	573	3273	(4044)	198	-
Covid 19 response	18034	10236	(28270)	-	-
Hardship	164	204	(533)	165	-
Tuesday group	725	407	(240)	-	892
Art group	-	6660	(1747)	-	4913
	<u>30331</u>	<u>36887</u>	<u>(40822)</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>26759</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General	45042	50570	(66157)	(363)	29092
	<u>45042</u>	<u>50570</u>	<u>(66157)</u>	<u>(363)</u>	<u>29092</u>

3. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

4. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

