



## **Cornwall Refugee Resource Network (CRRN)**

Charity number: 1184187

All Saints Church Highertown, Tresawls Road,  
TRURO, TR1 3LD

Phone: 01872495121 Email: [Crrn4cornwallrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:Crrn4cornwallrefugees@gmail.com)

### **Trustees Report for the First Period - 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2020**

The Objects of CRRN are:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are refugees and asylum seekers and are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, by promoting and/or coordinating services and facilities to assist them to adapt within a new community.
2. the relief of financial hardship among asylum seekers and refugees living or working in Cornwall and surrounding areas by acting as an umbrella and resource for local refugee support services,
3. the relief and assistance of asylum seekers and refugees residing beyond the United Kingdom in such countries as the trustees shall determine by providing emergency aid (such as shelter, clothing, food and water) either directly or through local agencies.
4. the advancement of the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum and human rights.
5. the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and good relations between the general public and people such as asylum seekers and refugees who are seeking sanctuary.

#### **Our history**

Cornwall Refugee Resource Network is a network of organisations and people who work together to ensure that Cornwall provides refuge and sanctuary to those most in need. We celebrate good news stories of how the resettlement of refugees can indeed shape Cornwall for the better. We campaign for positive change in policy. Our desire is to ensure that Cornwall leads the way as an example of how the resettlement of refugees can be mutually beneficial for all.

Cornwall Refugee Resettlement Network was established at All Saints (Highertown) Church, Truro in 2016 in direct response to the acute crisis caused by the war in Syria and the number of people fleeing from danger.

From the website of the time:

*"We want our website serve as a resource; a way of celebrating what has been done so far; and most important, a way to find the people with the most relevant hands-on experience around specific issues. We also should continue to provide the day-to-day resources needed by refugees already resettled, from conversations to ironing boards."*

In 2018 CRRN decided that the new name of a "Resource Network" would be more appropriate, and to apply for charitable status, to enable better representation and dialogue with other agencies. Geoff Watson, and others, developed the constitution and the objects of the charity. On 1st July 2019 CRRN became a registered charity and the first trustees' meeting took place.

## **Summary of main achievements during 2019 - 20**

### **Supporting refugees in Cornwall:**

The network held regular meetings throughout 2019 and then continued with regular online Zoom meetings throughout 2020. At these meetings there was a sharing of information and resources between the organisations supporting refugees in Cornwall, in particular the families settled under VPRS through Cornwall Council and the community sponsorship groups in Cornwall in Bude and Falmouth. Our membership has widened to include people who hope to start their own community sponsorship groups. Through regular updates we have heard about the successes in resettlement and where our network can help if there is a difficulty. We have focused on practice and strived to maintain the confidentiality of those resettled.

### **Refugee Forum:**

A bi-monthly online Forum has been established for those who work directly with refugees and asylum seekers in Cornwall. Each meeting focuses on a topic. So far, the Forum has looked at subjects such as seeking work opportunities and good practice in learning English as an additional language. The group has a WhatsApp group, which keeps members up to date with current events and queries, and with each other.

### **Supporting refugees in Europe:**

In 2019, members of CRRN continued to support refugees in France. Shelley M and James B went to France in July 2019. At the time, volunteers were making 1500 meals a day in the Calais refugee community kitchen, some of which were sent out to other areas such as Dunkirk. SM and JB went to clean the camps of litter, working with Mobile Refugee Support. They worked with volunteers who refabricate lithium batteries for use by refugees and working on recycling plastic.

Rowley S went in October. He found that conditions were worse than ever, numbers having increased over the summer, about 1500 people spread between Calais and Dunkirk. One large shelter had been closed so all were camping outside including over 40 families. There were only 4 taps and no toilets or showers or even organised latrines. Refugees were still being harassed by the military police regularly.

Although visits and support continued in the early part of 2020, the Covid 19 pandemic had an impact on provision almost immediately, and it became impossible to travel there or to get goods through. In addition, local festivals in Cornwall did not take place so the opportunity to gather up discarded tents and sleeping bags did not arise.



## **Collections**

The Network continued to promote and support the activities of Open Hearts Open Borders, One and all Aid and Mobile Refugee Support. Since the onset of the pandemic, Cornwall has continued to be very generous with donations of essential materials, but storage and transportation has been very challenging.

## **Campaigning**

### **Welcoming unaccompanied young refugees in Cornwall**

Representatives from CRRN had a meeting with Cornwall Council regarding Cornwall's response to the needs of refugee children who are unaccompanied minors. In the past there have been concerns around young people not staying in Cornwall or choosing not to come, so very few children have been resettled in the county.

### **The general election 2019**

With a general election called for December, having received guidance from the charity commission on activity in elections and referendums, the group decided to canvass all candidates in the forthcoming election about their views on the refugee situation. The following questions were drafted and sent to candidates in several constituencies.

1. Do you support doing more to guarantee safe, swift, legal passage to Britain for some of the most vulnerable refugees in Europe? What steps would you take?
2. As part of the pledge to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK made in 2015, Cornwall pledged to resettle 60. Community sponsors have welcomed three families so far. Do you think this figure is adequate? What figure do you feel is appropriate?
3. UK Local authorities have together already pledged 1,170 places for child refugees if the Government makes a new resettlement commitment. Fewer than 20 unaccompanied young people have been resettled in Cornwall at this time. Could Cornwall do more? How do you feel about this figure?
4. Do you support asylum seekers being able to work legally whilst their application is being processed? Why do you think asylum seekers are not allowed to work here? What would be the pros/cons?

When CRRN reviewed the impact of canvassing the candidates, at our first meeting in 2020, we found that very few had been willing to engage beyond acknowledging receipt of correspondence.

## Links with other organisations

### Cornwall Equality and Diversity Network (CEDN) and Cornwall Faith Forum

Members of CRRN have attended CEDN meetings and are aiming to participate in the CEDN five year plan of objectives for equality, which was not finalised by the end of 2020. For a short time, CRRN attended meetings of the oversight group, which reported back to the trustees of Cornwall Faith Forum as to how their service agreement with Cornwall Council was working to support families resettled by the council under VPRS, until the contract was discontinued at the end of 2019.

### Financial Review:

Total income from 1 July 2019 to 31st December 2020:	£1254.00
Total expenditure from 1 July 2019 to 31st December 2020:	£1191.00

The accounts have been independently examined by an accountant who commented:-

*More grant funding/ donations are required to boost bank balance and available expenditure, but your overheads are low apart from the trips to Calais. A good rule of thumb is a ring fenced figure for emergencies of three times normal annual outgoings.*

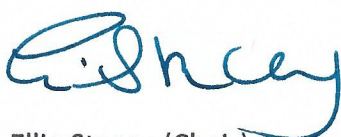
At the start of the period, CRRN funds were being held by All Saints Church, Highertown, but CRRN opened its own bank account in April 2020. The credit from All Saints, Highertown, at that time included the balance brought forward from December 2019 with an additional £700 of donations for refugees collected by the church since CRRN started.

Most activities that were able to continue in 2020 required no expenditure, due to the restrictions placed on us all by the pandemic.

### Thanks from the Trustees

I would like to pass on thanks on behalf of the Trustees to everyone who works to support refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants in Cornwall and beyond. Our special thanks to Kirsty and the team at All Saints, Highertown, for their support. As we now look on at the situation in Afghanistan, hopeful of a positive response from Cornwall, there is still so much to be done.

On behalf of the trustees,



Ellie Stacey (Chair)

5<sup>th</sup> September 2021





# Cornwall Refugee Resource Network (CRRN)

Charity number: 1184187

## Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure for the first period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2020

01/07/19 to 31/12/20

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations	943.85
Xmas catalogue	310
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1253.85</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Calais Trips- Travel costs, van hire, fuel, tickets	655
Moving clothes to Saltash	54
Contribution to Open Hearts and Open Borders	300
Translation for asylum seeker	181.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1190.50</b>
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR YEAR</b>	<b>63.35</b>
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	<b>1678</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>1741.35</b>
<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash at Bank and In Hand	1741.35
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1741.35</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1741.35</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	
Brought forward	1678
(Deficit)/ Surplus for year	63.35
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>1741.35</b>

These financial statements have been approved for issue by the Board of Trustees

on 5th September 2021

and signed on their behalf by:-

E. Stacey

Trustee (signature)

ELEANOR STACEY

Name in capitals

G. Watson

Trustee (signature)

GEOFFREY WATSON

Name in capitals



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
CORNWALL REFUGEE RESOURCE NETWORK

On accounts for the year  
ended

31/12/2020

Charity no  
(if any)

1184187

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

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

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

Independent  
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Lynn Vallis

Date:

24/09/2021

Name:

LYNN VALLIS

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body



(if any):

Address:

ST. TERESA'S BAYFORD HILL BAYFORD NR. WINCANTON  
SOMERSET BA9 9NH

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NOTHING TO DISCLOSE TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION