

WOMEN WITH HOPE

England & Wales · Charity number 1186078

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-10-31

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

Contact

Address 4 Autumn Drive
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6BB

Phone 01543257338

Email dorrelltownsend@gmail.com

Website <http://womenwithhope.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: (A) TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHO ARE LIVING AS REFUGEES OR ARE SEEKING ASYLUM WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.(B) TO RELIEVE HARDSHIP AMONG WOMEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHO ARE LIVING AS REFUGEES OR ARE SEEKING ASYLUM BY PROVIDING THEM WITH BASIC MATERIAL NEEDS AND BY PROVIDING OR FACILITATING ACCESS TO INFORMATION, ADVICE, ADVOCACY AND SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES THINK FIT.(C) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM

Activities: Women with Hope meets on a weekly basis to engage in social and educational activities for women who are seeking asylum or are refugees.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£10,563	£10,921	-	-
2023-12-31	£9,523	£10,005	-	-
2022-12-31	£7,267	£4,173	-	-
2021-12-31	£11,560	£12,075	-	-
2020-12-31	£22,000	£7,400	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Eunice Barnes	Chair	2022-07-19
Amon Agnes Tanoh		2019-02-20
Bridget Obi		2019-02-20
Clare Peat		2023-03-16
Salem Hagos		2021-03-27
Senait Jones		2019-02-20

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England & Wales - Charity number 1186078

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Annual Report and Accounts of Women with Hope for the Year 2024

Introduction

Throughout 2024, there has been a notable increase in unrest among the general public as political pressures have mounted, particularly regarding government policies toward refugees. In July, riots began in Southport and quickly spread to many major cities across the UK. These riots included racist attacks targeting both communities and hotels that house refugees and asylum seekers. We are seeing the media reports of increasing hostility towards asylum seekers and refugees.

Refugee Situation in the UK

According to the UNHCR, the UK is home to approximately 515,700 refugees. As of June 2024, government data indicates there are 224,742 pending asylum cases, including appeals and post-decision cases, with 87,000 awaiting an initial decision. Many of our clients have waited over a year to receive refugee status, and some have waited for more than a decade. Most asylum seekers are not permitted to work, have no choice over their place of residence, and must rely on a government cash grant of just £7 per day for food, sanitation, and clothing. These prolonged waits deeply affect individuals' mental well-being, often resulting in depression and anxiety.

Our Work and Impact

Women with Hope provides vital support to women in Birmingham who are seeking refuge while navigating the asylum process. Our charity offers a safe space where women can meet and relax. Membership continues to rise, and we now average 25 women attending our weekly sessions. The Rwanda Plan remained a dominant media topic throughout 2023 and 2024, causing anxiety for many seeking safety in the UK. Our charity's mission remains critical in the current political climate, where members remain at risk of detention and removal by the Home Office. Despite these challenges, our members demonstrate resilience, learn new languages and cultures, and work towards becoming settled residents.

We are deeply concerned for the millions who are violently displaced or who take great risks to seek safety. Their plight highlights the generosity of individuals in the UK and beyond. It is essential to remember that many seeking asylum live among us, and we can all offer practical friendship and welcome.

Eunice Barnes, Chair & Dorrell Townsend Secretary Women with Hope



Charity Activities and Community Support

Women with Hope entered 2024 in a strong financial position. Trustees continue to support women in a safe environment at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting House, hosting weekly gatherings. Women attending these sessions gain skills such as practising English, arts and crafts, and relaxation activities to support mental health. The meetings offer opportunities for sharing and moral support, which is vital amid negative media coverage affecting members' mental well-being.



Since 2023, group numbers have grown, with an average of 25 women attending each week for friendship, support, and signposting. Unfortunately, due to riots in July, our annual seaside trip in August was postponed for the safety and well-being of our group.



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Our meetings include workshops on physical and mental health, storytelling, celebrating successes, and sharing cultural experiences. We have also hosted sessions on housing policy changes, immigration updates, and assistance during the asylum process.

Women have visited St Joseph Catholic School where over the years, teachers and children have supported our group by donating Christmas presents and toiletries' .



Thanks and Acknowledgements

The trustees and members would like to thank our volunteers for their dedication in coordinating weekly activities. Special appreciation goes to Bridget, Dee, Beauty, Margaret, Veronica, and Monisola.

Our thanks also go to:

- Brian Homer for ongoing website support
- Claire Peat, Selly Oak Quakers & Friends for their donations
- Lichfield Hope Support Group for ongoing support
- Women for Refugee Women for their practical and financial help
- Right to Remain for continued support and training
- The children of St. Joseph Catholic School for Christmas bags and gifts
- Sarah Taal, Baobab Women Project, for ongoing support
- Barbara Forbes for continued support
- The Roughley Trust and AW60 for generous funding
- Rhoda Wharton for serving as independent examiner of our accounts
- Dee who has volunteered with the charity from the beginning in 2019 and has now retired

Charity Information

Our trustees include women with direct experience of the UK asylum system:

- Eunice Barnes (Chair)
- Senait Jones (Treasurer)
- Bridget Obi
- Clare Peat
- Salem Hagos
- Dorrell Townsend (Secretary)
- Anthony Wilson (Advisor)



Registered Office: C/o 4 Autumn Drive, Lichfield, Staffordshire

Charity Number: 1186078

Website: <https://womenwithhope.org.uk>

Financial Account

1 January – 31 December 2024

Income and expenditure statement 2024	2024	2023	2022	2021
Current Assets	£	£	£	£
Cash	0	0	0	0
Bank	15,959	16,317	16,799.15	13,704.93
Total Assets	15,959	16,317	16,799.15	13,704.93
Creditors	0	0	0	0
Net Assets	15,959	16,317	16,799.15	13,704.93
Fund 1.1.24 brt fwd	16,317	16,799	13,704.93	14,219.69
Cashbook totals				
Total Income	10,563	9,523	7,267.60	11,560.33
Total Expenditure	10,921	10,005	4,173.38	12,075.09
Total income over expenditure	-358	-482	3,094.22	-514.76
Fund c/fwd 31/12/24	15,959	16,317	16,799.15	13,704.93
Held in current account	9,643	10,244	13,779.05	10,696.28
Held in deposit account	6,317	6,074	3,020.10	3,008.65
Cash	0	0	0	0
Details of Income				
Grants	7,500	8,000	6,000	9,800.00
Donations	2,664	1,470	1,027.88	1,481.81
Interest	135	54	11.45	8.52
Other	264		228.27	270.00
Total	10,563	9,523	7,267.60	11,560.33
Details of Expenditure				
Travel/Top up			1,512.75	7,286.10
Refreshments	7,954	7,089	497.95	403.56
Volunteers	885	1,215	470	1,015.00



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expenditure				
Rent & Admin	1,418	1,277	919.70	2,002.55
Entertainment			0	365.00
Insurance	186			
Bank charges	125	94	87.55	58.48
Miscellaneous*			233.54	944.40
Web & Zoom	353	331		
Total	10,921	10,005	4,173.38	12,075.09

Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenditure for WwH – 2022

Additional support cost	£5.27
Christmas expenses	£228.27
Total	£233.54

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Annual Report and Accounts of Women with Hope for the Year 2023

An asylum seeker is a person who flees their home country, enters another country and applies for the right to stay in that country. In the UK, asylum seekers are not allowed to work, and must rely on state support. Housing is provided, but asylum seekers cannot choose where it is. Some of the women in our group have been waiting over 5 years for their asylum claim to process. The wait means that individuals struggle with their mental wellbeing and suffers from depression and anxiety.

Our work to support women in Birmingham who are seeking refugee whilst going through the asylum process is one that is valued by those who access our charity. We strive as a charity to provide a safe space for women to meet and relax. Our membership has grown where we now have on average 25 women attending our weekly sessions.

The Rwanda Plan dominated the media throughout 2023, which cause anxiety to many who sought refuge in the UK. *The work that we do for our members is one that is still needed in the current political climate, where our members are still faced with detention and removal by the Home Office. Our members are resilient to survive and get to learn the new language and culture and secure settled residents of this country.*

We are rightly concerned for the millions of people being violently displaced or taking great risk to seek refuge: their situation exposes the inherent generosity of people in this and other countries. Let us continue to remember that there are people seeking asylum here and now in and near to our communities to whom we can extend a hand of practical friendship and welcome.

Eunice Barnes Chair WwH

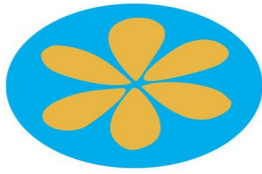
Women with Hope entered 2023 in excellent financial position. The trustee continues to work to support woman to meet in a safe environment at Selly Oak Quaker



Meeting house, on a weekly basis. Many of the women who join our weekly sessions comes to the sessions to gain new skills such as practising speaking English, arts and crafts as well as relaxation sessions to support their mental wellbeing. Also an opportunity to gain information from guest speakers on immigration process. Some of the women have been worried about the government announcement regarding removals and reopening of detention centres. The meeting is an opportunity for sharing and moral support.

The group has grown in 2023 with more women joining our weekly sessions for support, friendship and sign posting. Fifty of our women and their children travelled by coach for a day trip to the seaside town of Llandudno in North Wales. Where they enjoyed strolling on the beach and the attractions on offer. For some this was their first experience of English seaside.

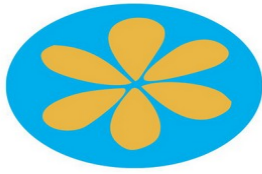




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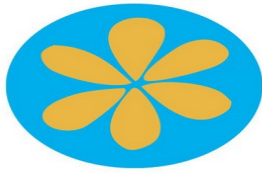
Our meetings provide workshops on health, mental and physical. We spent time sharing stories, celebrating successes and learning about each other's culture. We have had workshops on housing policy; changes in immigration and help whilst in the asylum system.



**WOMEN
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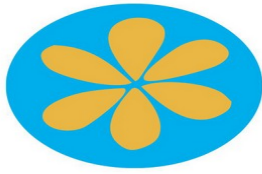
We shared with Lichfield Friends a memorial celebration to celebrate WwH founder Rosemary Crawley. Were many Friends from across the country alongside Rosemary family and the WwH shared their reflection, love and appreciation to a wonderful and kind person who had touched so many lives. (31.03.1944 – 17.01.2022)



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Agnes one of the women who joined the group when it first started and was a trustee for some years was celebrated for her pioneering work for asylum seekers in September 2023.



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The trustees and members would like to thank our volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure the coordination of weekly activities. Our appreciation to Bridget, Dee, Beauty, Margaret, Veronica & Monisola



Our thanks goes to:

Brian Homer for all of his ongoing help and support with the website
Barrow Cadbury Charitable Trust for financial support
Liz Clegg & Meena Centre for continued financial support
Claire Peat Selly Oak Quakers & Friends for their donations
Lichfield Hope Support Group for continuing financial support
Women for Refugee Women for all of their ongoing support both financial and practical
Right to Remain continuing support and providing training
The children of St. Joseph Catholic School for their generosity for Christmas bags and gifts
Sarah Taal Baobab Women Project for ongoing support
Barbara Forbes continuing support
The Roughley Trust and AW60 for their generous funding awards
Rhoda Wharton for generously acting as independent examiner of our accounts

Charity Information

Our charity trustees include women who have had direct experience of the UK asylum system.

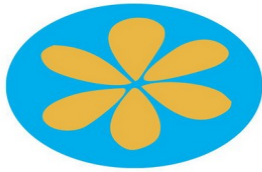
Eunice Barnes (Chair), Senait Jones (Treasurer), Bridget Obi, Claire Peat, Dorrell Townsend, Anthony Wilson (Advisor),

Registered Office: C/o 4 Autumn Drive, Lichfield, Staffordshire, Charity Number; 1186078

Website: <https://womenwithhope.org.uk>

1 January – 31 December 2023

Income and expenditure statement 2021	2023	2022	2021
Current Assets	£	£	£
Cash	0	0	0
Bank	16317	16799.15	13704.93
Total Assets	16317	16799.15	13704.93
Creditors		0	0
Net Assets		16799.15	13704.93
Fund 1.1.23 brt fwd	16799	13704.93	14219.69
Cashbook totals			
Total Income	9523	7267.60	11560.33
Total Expenditure	10005	4173.38	12075.09
	-482	3094.22	-514.76
Fund c/fwd 31/12/23	16317	16799.15	13704.93
Held in current account	10244	13779.05	10,696.28
Held in deposit account	6074	3020.10	3008.65
Cash	0	0	0
Details of Income			
Grants	8000	6000	9800.00
Donations	1470	1027.88	1481.81
Interest	54	11.45	8.52
Other		228.27	270.00
Total	9523	7267.60	11560.33
Details of expenditure			
Travel/Top up)	1512.75	7286.10
Refreshments)7089	497.95	403.56
Volunteers expenditure	1215	470	1015.00
Rent & Admin	1277	919.7	2002.55
Entertainment)	0	365.00
Bank charges	94	87.55	58.48



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*Miscellaneous		233.54	944.40
Web & Zoom	331		
Total	10005	4173.38	12075.09

***Break down of miscellaneous expenditure for WwH
- 2022**

Additional support cost	£5.27
	£228.
Christmas expenses	27
	£233.
Total	54

WOMEN WITH HOPE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186078

Accounts



Annual Report and Accounts of Women with Hope for the Year 2022

Foreword from Eunice Barnes: Chair

Our report for 2021 opened with the sudden death of our founder Rosemary Crawley who died on the 17 January 2022: Rosemary was an inspiration to the 50 plus members who attended her funeral to support her family. Again in 2023 the members came out in numbers to support her family when a memorial was held by Lichfield Quakers members in Lichfield were friends from Quakers across the UK showed their love and respect to this incredible women, who will never be forgotten because she touched so many people's lives.

In 2022, the charity also had to deal with the additional loss of our long standing chair Anthony Wilson, who was involved with the charity from its formation with Rosemary Crawley. Members and trustees would like to thank for his stewardship, his hard work for the group. We are delighted that Anthony will remain as an advisor to trustees.

Anthony and Rosemary led our trustee body as a team, and we warmly acknowledge their work over the year; this must include the management of our website by Brian Homer (<https://womenwithhope.org.uk>), where our activities are recorded.

The work that we do for our members is one that is still needed in the current political climate, where our members are still faced with detention and removal by the Home Office. Our members are resilient to survive and get to learn the new language and culture and secure settled residents of this country

We are rightly concerned for the millions of people being violently displaced or taking great risk to seek refuge: their situation exposes the inherent generosity of people in this and other countries. Let us continue to remember that there are people seeking asylum here and now in and near to our communities to whom we can extend a hand of practical friendship and welcome.

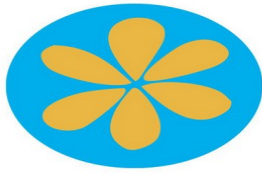
**Eunice Barnes
Chair**



Women with Hope entered 2022 in good shape. The trustee aims were to continue Rosemary's legacy. The women agreed that they wanted to remain at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting house, and returned to meeting weekly

The women wanted to maintain some of the traditional events such the annual Picnic trip for the ladies from Birmingham to Lichfield. Also, the women having a lunch with friends of Selly Oak Quakers. The annual picnic was a wonderful opportunity for groups to meet, relax, eat and play games in Beacon Park.





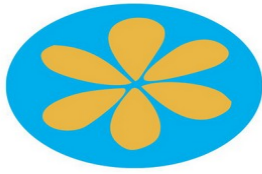
**WOMEN
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Some of our women travelled together by coach Birmingham where the celebration of unity started on the coach. The Birmingham group met up with supporters from the Lichfield Quaker meeting house and local Syrian refugees who have settled in Lichfield

We meet in Selly Oak and this has been successful for our members. The women who join us repeatedly affirm their appreciation of a safe place in which they can share experiences and receive support and affirmation during their lonely and incredibly difficult individual journeys.

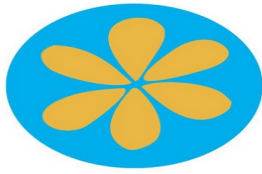
Our meetings provide workshops on health, mental and physical. We spent time sharing stories, celebrating successes and hearing each other sing, knitting, playing games.



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We started this report announcing the death of the founder of the charity Rosemary Crawley and Anthony Wilson stepping down as chair. The trustees and members would like to thank our volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure the coordination of weekly activities. Our appreciation to Bridget & Dee.



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Our thanks go to:

Brian Homer for all of his ongoing help and support with the website
Barrow Cadbury Charitable Trust for funding phone top ups
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Rhoda Wharton for generously acting as independent examiner of our accounts

Charity Information

Our charity trustees include women who have had direct experience of the UK asylum system.

Eunice Barnes (Chair), Senait Jones (Treasurer), Agnes Tanoh, Bridget Obi, Claire Peat, Dorrell Townsend, Anthony Wilson (Advisor),

Registered Office: C/o 4 Autumn Drive , Lichfield, Staffordshire, Charity Number; 1186078

Website: <https://womenwithhope.org.uk>

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT
1 January – 31 December 2022

Income and expenditure statement 2021	2022	2021	2020
Current Assets	£	£	£
Cash	0	0	0
Bank	16799.15	13704.93	14,490.00
Total Assets	16799.15	13704.93	14,490.00
Creditors	0	0	270.00
Net Assets	16799.15	13704.93	14,490.00
Fund 31.12.21 brt fwd	13704.93	14219.69	9033.68
Cashbook totals			
Total Income	7267.60	11560.33	12510.13
Total Expenditure	4173.38	12075.09	7324.12
	3094.22	-514.76	5186.01
Fund c/fwd 31/12/21	16799.15	13704.93	14219.69
Held in current account	13779.05	10,696.28	11489.56
Held in deposit account	3020.10	3008.65	3000.13
Cash	0	0	0
Details of Income			
Grants	6000	9800.00	11000.00
Donations	1027.88	1481.81	1375.00
Interest	11.45	8.52	0.13
Other	228.27	270.00	135.00
Total	7267.60	11560.33	12510.13
Details of expenditure			
Travel/Top up	1512.75	7286.10	3842.00
Refreshments	497.95	403.56	900.20
Volunteers expenditure	470	1015.00	552.39
Rent & Admin	919.7	2002.55	633.88



Entertainment	0	365.00	817.03
Bank charges	87.55	58.48	11.71
*Miscellaneous	233.54	944.40	566.91
Total	4173.38	12075.09	7324.12

***Break down of miscellaneous expenditure for WwH
- 2022**

Additional support cost	£5.27
	£228.
Christmas expenses	27
	£233.
Total	54

WOMEN WITH HOPE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186078

Accounts



Annual Report and Accounts of Women with Hope for the Year 2021

Foreword from Anthony Wilson: Chair

Our report for 2021 has to open with 17 January 2022: the death in hospital of our founder and inspiration Rosemary Crawley. She had been increasingly unwell in the course of the year, so even when the Covid regulations allowed for a measure of face-to-face socialising it was still difficult for her to attend the Tuesday sessions in the Selly Oak Quaker meeting house when these resumed for a short period. The momentum which she imparted carried us through the first lockdown in 2020, and the months when shared contact was only feasible through our mobile phones: she made sure that the funds which would have been spent on gatherings were re-directed to covering phone charges, as described in our 2020 report.

Each of our 50+ members felt that Rosemary was a personal friend, such was the quality of her relationships – which extended to accompanying them to Home Office interviews which could result in detention before removal from this country: many members are 'undocumented', and survivors of minimal public support or 'no recourse to public funds'. Others had been successful in their applications for the right to remain, often after many years of living on the margins; they were able to draw on their experience as they supported those still directly subject to the hostile environment which is explicit in government policy towards them.

The tribute which the trustees paid to Rosemary days after her death is included in this report; although dated this year, withholding it from our 2021 report would be to distort our record and recollection of events which preceded it.

Rosemary led our trustee body as a team, and I warmly acknowledge their work over the year; this must include the management of our website by Brian Homer (<https://womenwithhope.org.uk>), where our activities are recorded. My own move with my wife to her care by our family overseas means that I need to stand down (or up?) from our chair: it has been a privilege to serve over the years since our founding, and I wish our members the resilience which I hope our organisation enhances to survive and emerge as secure and settled residents of this country.

We are rightly concerned for the millions of people being violently

displaced in Ukraine at this time: their situation exposes the inherent generosity of people in this and other countries in our responses. Let us also remember that there are people seeking asylum here and now in and near to our communities to whom we can extend a hand of practical friendship and welcome.

**Anthony Wilson
Chair**

Women with Hope entered 2021 in good shape. Like everyone else Coronavirus Pandemic affected how we met. The women were delighted to start meeting face to face fortnightly at new base at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting House.

After resuming to meet face to face meeting one of the first events was the annual Picnic trip for the ladies from Birmingham to Lichfield. Also, the women having a lunch with friends of Selly Oak Quakers and arranged meet ups to celebrate the end of lock down and the isolation they felt not meeting each other in person.



The closure of *Women with Hope* and of other charitable groups in the area had a quite devastating effect on the refugee women with whom we are in contact, and in particular on those with no recourse to public funds. Prior to the lockdown many of those women survived solely by making use of several drop in centres across the week in order to gain minimal food and support.

During the lockdown we fund phone top ups from our travel budget and from other sources. Access to a phone is an absolute essential for women within the immigration system. It provides the only means by which claims for asylum can be pursued and it also enables reporting requirements to be fulfilled. In addition, it is the only means by which the women can keep in contact with

each other and their families in order to try and reduce their extreme isolation.



As well as phone top ups we have used our food and refreshments budget to support charities that are providing emergency food and other essentials to asylum seekers and refugees in Birmingham.

We have commenced meeting again in Selly Oak and this has been successful for those able to participate. Prior to the lockdown and even throughout it our numbers have steadily increased. The women who join us repeatedly affirm their appreciation of a safe place in which they can share experiences and receive support and affirmation during their lonely and incredibly difficult individual journeys.

Our meetings provide workshops on health, mental and physical. We have also spent time sharing stories, celebrating successes and hearing each other sing, read poetry and much more.

We started this report announcing the death of the founder of the charity Rosemary Crawley and Dorrell Townsend has taken on some of the responsibilities as Secretary to Trustees and Project Co-ordinator. Another change is that of the project Chair Anthony Wilson who steps down as Chair in June 2022, due to family commitments but will act as an advisor to the trustees. Trustees would like to thank Anthony for his hard work and dedication over the years.



Our thanks go to:

Brian Homer for all of his ongoing help and support with the website

Barrow Cadbury Charitable Trust for funding phone top ups

Liz Clegg & Meena Centre for continued financial support

Claire Peat

Lichfield Hope Support Group for continuing Financial support

Women for Refugee Women for all of their ongoing support both financial and practical

Jamshed for their support in delivering food parcels

The Roughley Trust and AW60 for their generous funding awards

Rhoda Wharton for generously acting as independent examiner of our accounts

Charity Information

Our charity trustees include women who have had direct experience of the UK asylum system.

Anthony Wilson (Chair), Senait Jones (Treasurer), Agnes Tanoh, Bridget Obi, Judith Tweddle, Barbara Forbes, Rosemary Crawley, Dorrell Townsend

Registered Office: C/o 4 Autumn Drive , Lichfield, Staffordshire,

Charity Number; 1186078

Website: <https://womenwithhope.org.uk>

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT
1 January – 31 December 2021

Income and expenditure statement 2021	2021	2020
Current Assets	£	£
Cash	0	0
Bank	13704.93	14,490.00
Total Assets	13704.93	14,490.00
Creditors	0	270.00
Net Assets	13704.93	14,490.00
Fund 31.12.20 byt fwd	14219.69	9033.68
Cashbook totals		
Total Income	11560.33	12510.13
Total Expenditure	12075.09	7324.12
	-514.76	5186.01
Fund c/fwd 31/12/21	13704.93	14219.69
Held in current account	10,696.28	11489.56
Held in deposit account	3008.65	3000.13
Cash	0	0
Details of Income		
Grants	9800.00	11000.00
Donations	1481.81	1375.00
Interest	8.52	0.13
Other	270.00	135.00
	11560.33	12510.13
Details of expenditure		
Travel/Top up	7286.10	3842.00
Refreshments	403.56	900.20
Volunteers expenditure	1015.00	552.39

Rent & Admin	2002.55	633.88
Entertainment	365.00	817.03
Bank charges	58.48	11.71
*Miscellaneous	944.40	566.91
Total	12075.09	7324.12

***Break down of miscellaneous expenditure for
WwH - 2021**

Zoom charge	£143.88
Speaker for use with Zoom	£36.99
Admin supplies	£206.98
Identity checks	£25.50
Emergency food during Covid	£255.00
Additional support costs	£149.10
Annual report	£84.00
Gift card	£42.95
Total	£944.40

WOMEN WITH HOPE

England & Wales - Charity number 1186078

Accounts

Annual Report of Women with Hope for the Year 2020

Women with Hope entered 2020 in good shape. For the first time for many years we had settled into a permanent home for our weekly meetings at Selly Oak Quaker meeting house.

Another first was that we held sufficient funds to meet our needs for the year ahead, although, as it turned out, not quite in a way that we had anticipated.

After the usual post-Christmas lull, attendance increased steadily throughout January. One of our earlier activities was a round the table consultation event on our long planned-for website. Together we envisaged how it might look and what we wanted it to include. On the strength of that event our consultant Brian Homer was able to begin the task of building and developing the site. We were well supported financially in this by Women for Refugee Women (WfRW) and by the end of the year we had a WwH website that was ready to go.

Our next hopeful and forward looking task was to plan for a WfRW conference, to be held in Birmingham for the first time. As the Birmingham based group within the WfRW network



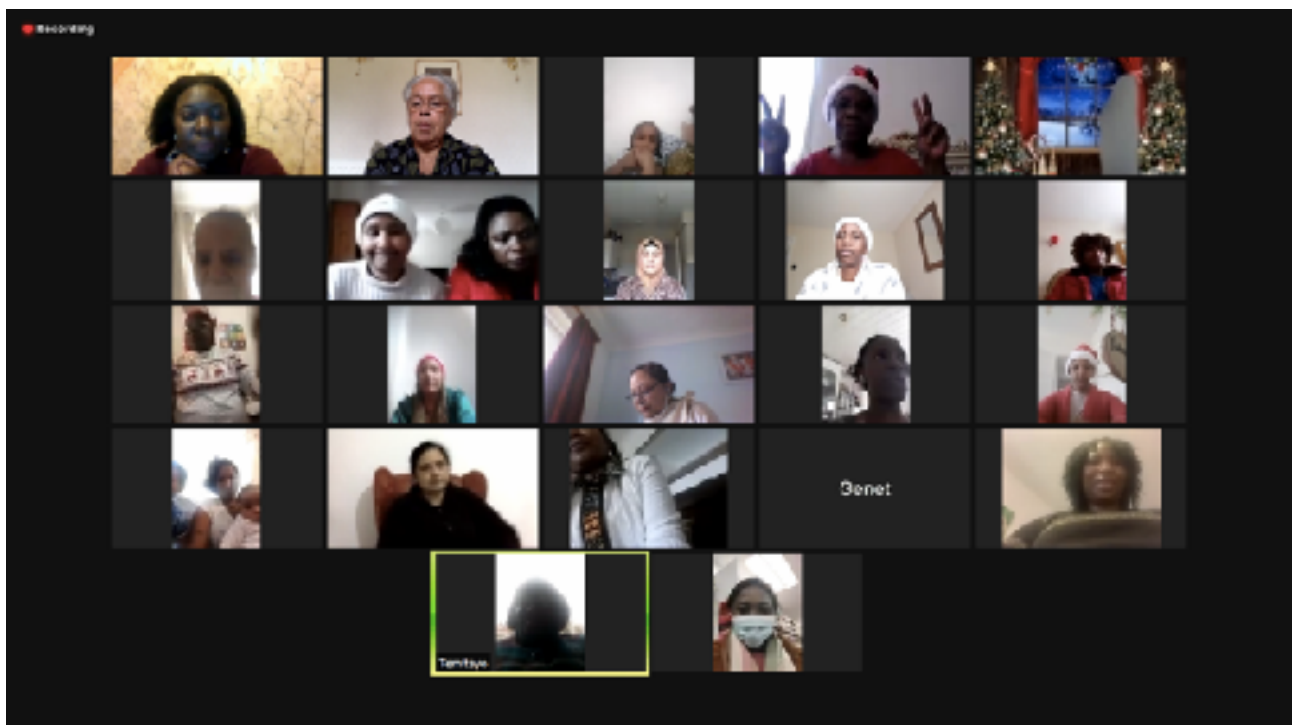
we at Women with Hope were honoured to be asked to host the conference.

It took place on the 14 February in Carrs Lane Centre and was a hugely successful and joyful event, with women attending from across the country. Thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of Margaret Mary Bamilekuu and Fuh epse Tandu Emeline Lem and our old friend Elizabeth Leather, the Women with Hope choir performed quite spectacularly on the day, singing *Shosholoz* and *Amen*. Audio tapes of the performance can be found on our website. Others of us spent our time dispensing drinks and biscuits to the apparently never-ending stream of conference participants.

WfRW used the occasion to launch *Sisters not Strangers*, a new network, and also an important new report *Will I ever be safe: Asylum seeking women made destitute in the UK*.

In March everything came to an abrupt and unexpected halt with the first lockdown of the Coronavirus Pandemic. During the early weeks of closure we, like others, found ourselves at a loss to know how to move forward. During that time we kept in touch through letters postcards and telephone calls until eventually, in May we were able to start to meet again by Zoom.

Our Zoom meetings evolved gradually and we are grateful to a range of speakers and workshop leaders who were ready and willing to join us and contribute. The meetings have often been informative, sometimes uplifting, sometimes tearful but always supportive. Those attending stressed time and again how important the meetings became for them, emphasising the sense of family and belonging that they gained from attending



Throughout the Pandemic we made use of our funds in different ways to support migrant women:

- 1) We devoted our travel budget to providing women with top up vouchers for mobile phones, in recognition of the important role of phones in the lives of our members. They provide a means, sometimes the only means, of remaining in touch with friends and families, and with supportive organisations. They are also essential for continuing to receive immigration and health advice and to comply with Home Office and other official requirements.
- 2) We donated our refreshments budget to other community organisations that were able to provide specific Pandemic related services that we, as a charity without paid staff or a regular presence, were unable to provide. In this way we supported charities providing emergency food and toiletries to migrant women in Birmingham.

Our programme of phone top ups was augmented by generous grants from Women for Refugee Women, and the Barrow Cadbury Trust. The generosity of these organisations enabled us to provide very much more than we would have otherwise been able to afford.

During October when there was a brief respite in lockdown regulations, a small group of women enjoyed a day out in Warwick. Organised by Agnes Tanoh and Mary Bamilekuu this was the only occasion that women were able to meet physically during the year, and despite the fact that the weather was far from friendly, it was a good day out.

We ended the year with a joyous online Christmas party with singing, dancing, music and a quiz. Everyone entered into the spirit of Christmas, and, as was the case throughout the entire difficult year there was no word of complaint about what might have been.

**Women with Hope
Financial Account
1 January - 31 December 2019**

Income	
Opening Balance	4,000.00
Donations received	1,530.00
Grant income	7,216.00
Operational income	224.00
Total	12,970.00
Expenditure	
Travel	2,015.00
Food & refreshments	177.52
Volunteer expenses	160.00
Premises rental	807.00
Entertainment	310.00
Insurance	240.80
Admin & Legal	226.00
Total	3,936.32
Closing balance held at The Reliance Bank	9,033.68

Notes

1. Women with Hope developed out of Hope Projects Women's Group and has been in existence for a number of years.

2. Women with Hope was inaugurated as an independent organization on the 20 February 2019, though this account covers the full year of 2019.

3. Women with Hope gained charitable status on 31 October 2019 and shortly thereafter Hope Projects transferred the balance of funding held on its behalf into the Women with Hope Bank account.

4. Donations received comprise:

Meena Centre	£1,000.00
Lichfield Hope Support Group	£300.00
Niamh Bryan	£230.00

5. Grant income comprises:

AW60 Trust	£216.00
Roughley Trust	£7,000.00

6. Operational income is derived from sessions by Women for Refugee Women for research purposes.

7. Women with Hope does not yet have a Reserves Policy. In accordance with our Financial Controls policy adopted in September 2019, this will be reviewed in the first Trustees Meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

The surplus of £9,033.68 shown at the end of 2109 is analyzed as follows:

Grant income for 2020:	£7,216.00
Donations:	£1,530.00
Total	£8,746.00

Against budgeted expenditure for 2020 of £8,220.00 this creates a surplus of £813.68 to carry forward.

Treasurer: Senait Jones
Independent Examiner: Adrian Martyn