

KINGS HEATH ACTION FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales · Charity number 1200013

Details

Other names KHAR

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-08-09

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS THROUGH:A) WORKING WITH LOCAL INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS LIVING IN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION IN BIRMINGHAM AND THOSE SEEKING SAFE PASSAGE ACROSS EUROPE.B) PROVIDING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WITH NECESSARY SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND BEFRIENDING SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR OTHER PROJECTS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE WITHIN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: Kings Heath Action for Refugees (KHAR) is a community fundraising, befriending and awareness-raising charity supporting asylum seekers, refugees and those seeking safe refuge from violence and persecution.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£22,527	£18,423	-	-
2024-03-31	£14,561	£15,528	-	-
2023-03-31	£9,599	£5,439	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lucy Kenny	Chair	2022-07-01
Dr Jelena Obradovic		2022-07-01
Freyja Eve Barnard		2024-12-21
Laura Rose Bridle		2022-07-01
Sarah Lindsay Turner		2022-07-01
Steven Michael Timms		2022-07-01
Wil Francis Tariq Hutton		2024-12-21

KINGS HEATH ACTION FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1200013

Accounts

KINGS HEATH **ACTION** FOR REFUGEES

Kings Heath Action for Refugees Trustees Annual Report 2024-25



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Chair's Overview

2024/25 was another outstanding year for Kings Heath Action for Refugees, with creative fundraising campaigns, a rebrand, bigger targets than ever before for our winter packs, exciting partnerships and beyond.

We saw new partnerships like that with Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society which helped push our fundraising and volunteering numbers further than before.



Events this year included Queen's Heath Pride, where we became Queen's Heath Action for Refugees for the day, a local Pride event where we fundraised for Journey LGBTQ+ group, and of course our flagship event KHARNival, back in the sunshine of Highbury Orchard after bad weather took us inside last year. A joyful mixture of craft, music, glitter and community.



Our massive winter pack target taught us many lessons about how to streamline our process to maximise our output and the reflection after the event will shape how we manage those campaigns moving forwards.

Our merchandise and markets presence grew from strength to strength launching our No One is Illegal merchandise range with local Instagram upcycler Maisie Violet Rees, a powerful and popular range of T-shirts, totes and sweatshirts with neon and collage inspired design with Birmingham and welcome woven into its message



Most importantly our rebrand helped to shape our direction for the future of KHAR, and bring to light our core brand values.



Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Account for the Period of 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2025		
Income		£
Donations		6,647
Merchandise & Events		15,577
Other		303
Total Income		22,527
Expenditure		
Donations		3,686
Merchandise & Events		12,268
General		2,469
Total Expenditure		18,423
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		4,104

The bank balance on the 31 March 2025 of £12k was supported by a surplus of £4k in the the financial year which was attributable to nearly £7k of donations from, amongst others, the Migrant Helpline (£3k) and a local sponsored event (£1,300).

There was also over £3k of profit from sales of merchandise. On the expenditure side, there were contributions of £3.7k to local projects and £2.5k of running costs for the charity.

Our AGM 2025

KHAR hosted its AGM on 26 January 2025. The AGM was a half day event, attended by committee members and an external facilitator, who joined us as a volunteer on the day. The purpose of the event was to hold a review of our activities and capacities, and to carry out planning for the coming year.

We had also invited a representative from Migrant Help, to share information on the current situation regarding hotel accommodation in Birmingham and the key issues facing resident asylum seekers. At the time of our AGM, the situation regarding Home Office hotel accommodation was fluid, as hotels were due to close, with other hotels receiving new residents. Hearing an update from the Migrant Help representative was crucial in helping us learn more about the key concerns of asylum seekers residing in hotels, and understand better the key challenges and opportunities of supporting the different hotels.

The external facilitator led the discussion in which we identified our core strengths, what we do well as an organisation, and our priorities for the forthcoming year. We had extensive time for discussion through smaller break out groups.

Key planning items included our 10th birthday celebrations and how we could weave that into our work, how to launch our rebrand.



Volunteers

Our volunteer onboarding process continued to be streamlined. Through collaborating with a local team of solicitors, we gained significant volunteer capacity, as employees kindly offered their time to support our events. Volunteer lead (Sarah) took a break from KHAR from October, whilst spending time abroad, but ensured that a useful handover was provided. The onboarding process continued to be used, involving monitoring for requests, directing to google forms, and making appropriate follow up actions (e.g. adding to relevant whatsapp groups, sending briefing documents). Lucy (chair) took over committee volunteering requests.

After careful consideration of the changing landscape of initial accommodation processes, we decided to stop running welcome walks for local refugees for now, and focus our efforts into our main fundraising events. We understood that we could make a great impact through our partnerships with local charities offering more grassroots support, via fundraising. However, as always, the two most significant volunteer opportunities included our yearly festival, KHARNival, and the Winter Packs campaign. KHARNival 2024 was held on the 21st July at Highbury Orchard and we provided a volunteer briefing meeting, and document, to ensure this ran smoothly. Our volunteers and supporters made the day a huge success. Roles included ushering, organising entertainment acts, manning the merchandise stall or welcome desk, supporting craft activities, and face glittering in our 'shimmer shack'. In December, our Winter Packs campaign was our biggest yet: we collated and distributed 765 gift packs of essential items to refugees in initial accommodation. This involved a significant effort for volunteers on the packing day!



There were also ongoing opportunities to represent KHAR and sell our merch to fundraise at local markets across our city. Finally, our volunteers have been essential in raising awareness about campaigns/merchandise/events and fundraising initiatives. Word of mouth and sharing social media posts enables us to build support and fundraise, so we ensure to maintain communication with volunteers within our channels and appreciate their efforts.



Partnerships and Stakeholders

We continued working with our existing partners and stakeholders, whilst also creating new partnerships. This year, we partnered with the following organisations:

- **Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society:** This year we were selected by BTSS to be their charity of the year. This meant we worked with the committee on designing volunteering opportunities to help the early career solicitors give back, attend events and fundraise for our work.
- **Migrant Help:** Migrant Help supports people living in Home Office initial accommodation, and are a key liaison between KHAR and hotels. They support our access to hotels for our winter pack campaign, for instance. Migrant Help also attended our AGM and provided a briefing update on the situation in the hotels.
- **Birch Community Hosting Network:** we continued our partnership with Birch, who are another key liaison between us and hotel residents. For instance, Birch supported our December 2024 welcome walk in Digbeth by highlighting our event to hotel residents.
- **Journey LGBTQ+:** we also continued our partnership with Journey LGBTQ+ group, who support LGBTQ+ migrants in Birmingham. We partnered with Journey to host a stall at our local Queens Heath Pride festival in July 2024, and we supported their fundraising at the festival through the sale of our merchandise and through our Shimmer Shack glitter stall.

- **Future Days Festival:** Future Days Festival promoters are a partner in our fundraising activities. They host KHAR at their music festival in Digbeth. We received donations from ticket sales, hosted a market stall, and collected additional contributions at the events.

We regularly sell our merchandise at local artisan and craft markets, including Kings Heath Artisan Market, Cocomad, Paperdolls, and Stirchley Community Market, all of which kindly offer us free spaces or preferential rates as a charity.

Local artists and performers have continued to support us by donating their time at our events, including KHARNival, and fundraising on our behalf.

Markets & Merchandise

In 2024/25 KHAR took part in 24 independent traders markets around south Birmingham. Sales at these markets fund our other events and activities throughout the year. Markets are also an opportunity to develop volunteering opportunities within KHAR, and for volunteers to meet in person for a cause. In 2024, 16 different volunteers kindly gave their time to help out on markets.



We had a line of 14 different kinds of products, including clothing, stickers and stationery, badges and patches, art prints, and the ever-popular tea towels. We always price tea towels at £5 to ensure that they are always popular and affordable, and require several stock re-prints every year. Because Birmingham is a global community, our tea towels now appear in kitchens in Canada, Cairo, Karachi, and hundreds right here in Kings Heath.



This year also saw the release of four new popular lines of merchandise. In May 2024, we released a new line of All Together Brum pin-badges. We also worked with a local artist to create our No One Is Illegal design, which was then printed on T-shirts, tote bags, and sweaters for release in June 2024. Then in October we began selling sticker packs,

celebrating each of our four major design lines in recent years. Finally, in November 2024 we launched a range of unisex socks, which have been incredibly popular.



KHARNival - 2024

KHARNival 2024 was thankfully a lot less rainy this year. It took place in July and we were thus able to take our family festival outside again. We had performances from local choirs, acoustic sets, singalongs, and our crafts table and famous shimmer shack were busy all day. As always, we collaborated with local food vendors to provide a range of delicious food. It was a great day with a wonderful atmosphere raising over £1500 to support summer holiday activities for families. We used the money raised to buy mobile phones for residents in local initial accommodation centres, following an identified need from our local partners.



Winter Pack Campaign - 2024

The 2024 Winter Pack campaign was once again the largest that we have delivered to date, expanding the operation beyond the Britannia hotel to reach more than 600 residents across five hotels. This led to an initial fundraising target of £6,750, which we surpassed by fundraising more than £9,000.

Fundraising

- **Continued presence of Winter Packs at market stalls** - creating a 'sample' winter pack and having this displayed at markets allowed potential customers to understand the campaign rather than donating to an abstract concept. We offered only one purchase value this year, making it simpler for people to donate.

- **Partnerships** - Future Days Festival continued to feature KHAR as their charity partner, donating a portion of ticket costs to us. We also received additional funds from other partnerships, including a substantial amount from Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society (BTSS) and Sew Brum.
- **Social Media** - utilising social media to reach our audience, we posted a number of 'behind the scenes' posts to drive purchases, including the packs being put together. A last minute push on social media was also successful in gathering additional funds.

Purchasing

- **Utilising wholesalers** - Building on the ease of using wholesalers for tote bags in 2023, we used further wholesalers to bring down costs per pack.
- **Cash for Kids** - This year we were recipients of donations from Cash for Kids, which allowed us to provide additional toys in children's packs at no cost to ourselves.
- **Local businesses** - We sourced toiletry products from the Bullring Rag Market, supporting local businesses whilst also receiving wholesale cost.

Packing

- **Venue** - we were again able to use a large hall space at The Old Print Works to pack.
- **Volunteers** - on the day, we had 20 volunteers, including 4 members of the committee.
- **Method** - this year we switched to a production line method, with volunteers adding one item to each pack rather than creating an entire pack each. This made sure each pack had every item in and was more efficient than previous years.
- **Wrapping** - an additional challenge brought by the Cash for Kids donation was to sort presents into age groups and gift wrap them. The volume of toys exceeded expectations and therefore this took more volunteer resource than anticipated.



Distribution

- **Location** - it was a logistical challenge to arrange packs for multiple hotels, but made easier by the fact that we had numbers for each hotel in advance. This meant we could deliver to each hotel as soon as the correct number of winter packs were ready.
- **Transport** - We were very fortunate to have two volunteers with a van facilitate delivery for us. This ran far more smoothly than the previous year's taxi adventure, and having volunteers dedicated specifically to delivery meant that this could happen on a rolling basis rather than all at once.



KINGS HEATH ACTION FOR REFUGEES

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Kings Heath Action for Refugees

**Kings Heath Action for Refugees
Trustees Annual Report**

2023-24



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Chair's Overview

2023/24 was another outstanding year for Kings Heath Action for Refugees, with creative fundraising campaigns, a newly invigorated welcome walks project and our first ever indoor KHARNival.



KHARNival 2023 took place on a wet and stormy day in July and provided the volunteer team with the challenge of how to fit a sprawling orchard based festival into the Grade II* mansion house and former residence of Joseph Chamberlain. It was a great day with a wonderful atmosphere raising over £1000 to support summer holiday activities for families.

After a tricky start to the year which saw our long held partnership with a local accommodation centre disappear after it's closure; the latter half of the year saw a revival of our welcome walks in a new city centre venue with an even bigger hotel.



Events this year included a film screening with screen B14 and being the charity partner of a local music festival, whilst attending local festivals such as Kings Heath Street Festival and CoCoMad

Our merchandise and markets presence grew from strength to strength launching new ranges including keyrings, iron on patches, Christmas cards, tote bag and an A3 print and a number of merch collaborations with local partners such as Journey LGBTQ+ Asylum Group and Stirchley Printworks.



Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Account for the Period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Income	£
Donations	2817
Merchandise & Events	11058
Other	686
Total Income	14561
Expenditure	
Donations	3417
Merchandise & Events	10309
General	1802
Total Expenditure	15528

The bank balance is now £8k driven by a deficit in the year which was attributable to over £3k of donations which were mainly to the Holiday Club (£1500), Journey Asylum (£950) and £500 to St Chads.

However there was profit from the sale of merchandise and winter packs of nearly £2k and 2 grants from Asda Foundation and cooperative £1650 towards the production of a cookbook.



Our AGM 2024

KHAR hosted its AGM on 27 January 2024. The AGM was a half day event, attended by committee members and an external facilitator, who joined us as a volunteer on the day. The purpose of the event was to hold a review of our activities and capacities, and to carry out planning for the coming year.

We had also invited a representative from Migrant Help, to share information on the current situation regarding hotel accommodation in Birmingham and the key issues facing resident asylum seekers. At the time of our AGM, the situation regarding Home Office hotel accommodation was fluid, as hotels were due to close, with other hotels receiving new

residents. Hearing an update from the Migrant Help representative was crucial in helping us learn more about the key concerns of asylum seekers residing in hotels, and understand better the key challenges and opportunities of supporting the different hotels.

The external facilitator led the discussion in which we identified our core strengths, what we do well as an organisation, and our priorities for the forthcoming year. We had extensive time for discussion through smaller break out groups.



As a result of this discussion, we identified the following priority areas:

- KHAR branding, logo and brand packs. As our charity has grown and changed, we felt that our original logo did not work across all of our activities. For instance, merchandise has become an important source of fundraising for us but the logo did not work in a smaller printed format. We also needed to move away from the 'sea' theme of our logo as it held negative connotations for many asylum seekers. We also wanted to have a brand pack to enable consistent branding and visibility for our charity but likewise to have a downloadable pack that our supporters could use if they wanted to fundraise for us.
- Identifying capacity. We identified having capacity but also identifying capacity as a priority. We discussed asking volunteers to identify their key skills and capacities that could be helpful in the work that we do, for instance, speaking multiple languages. We also discussed the potential of hiring specialists for paid work where required, and where we could not get volunteers or had no capacity, such as design work.

We have made progress in these areas in the reporting period.

- We started to identify potential designers we could work with for the branding and logo, looking at the work of local designers. In our subsequent committee meetings, we also started identifying some branding priorities and themes.

Volunteers



A key priority for us that emerged from AGMs and committee meetings, was to streamline and refine our volunteer onboarding process. Much of this work began in January 2023 and continued into the following year. We developed a Standard Operating Procedure for volunteer onboarding, and have practiced in line with this to ensure our volunteers get a positive and supported welcome into our charity. As part of the process, this year we implemented 'reflection sessions' whereby volunteers meet with trustees/committee members roughly quarterly. This has enabled volunteers to come together, connect, learn about committee activities, plan events, ask questions, and raise concerns. We hope this has created more connection and transparency between our committee and volunteers, by creating a space for mutual feedback. 3 reflection sessions were run this year, with positive feedback from our volunteers.



Overall, our volunteers have engaged in a variety of activities. Between April 2023 and March 2024, we ran monthly Welcome Walks, including a special Iftar celebration for those practicing Ramadan. Welcome Walks require volunteers to collect residents from local hotels, and to support providing a meal and activities at a local community space. One of the highlights of our year for volunteers is our family: KHARNival. Despite a last-minute change of

venue due to bad weather, our volunteers and supporters made the day a huge success. Roles included ushering, organising entertainment acts, manning the merchandise stall or

welcome desk, supporting activities, and face glittering in our 'shimmer shack'. Our volunteers have also supported our market stalls, selling our merchandise to fundraise. Another of our larger events is our Winter Pack campaign: we collect and distribute gift packs to residents in local hotels. These often include toiletries, warm clothing, games and chocolate. Our volunteers contributed to the largest distribution yet: they supported packing and delivering 317 packs to local refugees. Finally, our volunteers have readily raised awareness about campaigns/merchandise/events and fundraising initiatives. Word of mouth and sharing social media posts hugely supports us to fundraise and raise awareness, so we ensure to maintain communication with volunteers within our channels and appreciate their efforts.

Partnerships and Stakeholders

Kings Heath Action for Refugees continues to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations, working with existing allies while forging new connections with organisations and groups supporting refugees in Birmingham. This year, we partnered with the following organisations:

- **Birch Community Hosting Network:** Birch has played a key role in our relationship with Home Office accommodation, liaising with hotel management and residents on our behalf. They have also accompanied hotel residents to our events when needed. In return, we provided funding for bus travel through Birch, enabling families to attend various cultural events across the city.
- **Migrant Help:** We collaborated with Migrant Help to organise joint events for hotel residents and worked together on our winter pack campaign.
- **Journey LGBTQ+** Are an organisation supporting LGBTQ+ Asylum seekers and Refugees in the Birmingham Area, we partnered with them to produce a rainbow coloured version of our "All together Brum" tote bag with all profits going to the group.
- **Future Days Festival:** The promoters of Future Days Festival, a biannual all-day music event in Birmingham city centre, selected us as their charity partner. We received donations from ticket sales, hosted a market stall, and collected additional contributions at the events.
- **ScreenB14:** We once again partnered with local cinema group ScreenB14 for a fundraiser screening of *Limbo*, a comedy-drama about asylum seekers in a remote Scottish village. The screening was hosted at Kitchen Garden Café, which generously provided their space.
- **Stirchley Printworks:** Designed and screen-printed a limited-edition "*Safety is a Human Right*" print for us to sell. We also produced an iron-on patch featuring the design.
- **Megan Reddi:** A talented local illustrator donated four beautiful Christmas card illustrations, which we printed and sold at our markets in the lead-up to Christmas.



We were also supported by several local restaurants and catering businesses—including Eat Vietnam, Change Kitchen, The Earlybird Bakery, Grace + James, Loaf, and Lil's Parlour—who donated food for our Welcome Walks and KHARNival.

Highbury Hall remained an important partner for our KHARNival event. Due to poor weather, we were especially grateful to be able to host this year's event inside the hall.

We regularly sell our merchandise at local artisan and craft markets, including Kings Heath Artisan Market, Cocomad, Paperdolls, and Stirchley Community Market, all of which kindly offer us free spaces or preferential rates as a charity.

Local artists and performers have continued to support us by donating their time at our events, including KHARNival, and fundraising on our behalf. Birmingham band *Goodnight Berlin* even released a Christmas single, donating all proceeds to our winter pack campaign.

Markets

Markets form an integral part of the work KHAR does as a charity. Firstly, they are one of the most effective ways in which we raise revenue to support our work. In 2023/24, KHAR took part in seven community markets in and around South Birmingham, as well as selling merchandise at two partnership events. Through these, we raised over £5,100 in funds and sold hundreds of items of branded merchandise.

As well as raising money, markets play an important part in developing our local reputation and working with the community. A regular presence at a market means that our products become recognisable and popular, helping to spread awareness of our projects. When we sell items in person, this is an opportunity to promote our projects with the local community, encourage donations to appeals, or advertise forthcoming events.



Markets are also an opportunity to develop volunteering opportunities within KHAR. Volunteers are vital to how we work, and markets are a way for our incredible volunteers to meet in person, develop skills, and see the benefits of their generosity firsthand. In 2023, eight different volunteers kindly gave their time to help out on markets.

From a merchandising perspective, the greatest success in 2023 was the release of our Birds of One Sky tea towels. The stylish design and affordable prices meant that we sold hundreds of tea-towels and had to re-print new items in two separate re-stocks. These tea-towels have been gifted to hundreds of homes, meaning that KHAR merchandise can be found in North America, the Arabian Gulf, and right here in Birmingham.



Winter Pack Campaign - 2023

The 2023 Winter Pack campaign was the largest to date, with around 300 residents at the Britannia Hotel. This led to a fundraising target of £3,300.

Fundraising

- **Increased presence of Winter Packs at market stalls** - creating a 'sample' winter pack and having this displayed at markets allowed potential customers to understand the campaign rather than donating to an abstract concept.
- **Partnership with Future Days Festival** - the festival chose KHAR as their charity partner, donating a portion of ticket costs to us. We also had a merch stall at the event, where the winter packs were displayed alongside our wider merch offering.
- **Social Media** - utilising social media to reach our audience, we posted a number of 'behind the scenes' posts to drive purchases, including the packs being put together.

Purchasing



- **Costco** - with a charity Costco membership we were able to purchase items such as socks and shower gel in bulk. This was quite an undertaking.
- **Utilising wholesalers** - this year, we decided to put the Winter Packs in reusable tote bags that would be useful for recipients. An order was placed in bulk which allowed us to save cost.

Packing

- **Venue** - we were able to use a large hall space at The Old Print Works to pack, which was incredibly helpful and allowed us to create assembly line style packing methods and increase speed.
- **Volunteers** - on the day, we had 20 volunteers, including 4 members of the committee. This meant that we were able to create 317 packs in around 6 hours.



Distribution

- **Location** - delivering packs to only one hotel meant we only needed to liaise with one set of staff. However, the Britannia's location in the City Centre was difficult due to the large crowds visiting the Christmas Markets
- **Transport** - due to both the city centre location and number of packs, we took 4 taxis with two volunteers in each to the city centre. This was not ideal travelling from The Old Print Works narrow entrance at the same time, and the taxis then had to stop on Stephenson Place amongst crowds of the public.



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Accounts

Kings Heath Action for Refugees

**Kings Heath Action for Refugees
Trustees Annual Report
2022-23**



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Chair's Overview

The year 2022/23 was a landmark year for Kings Heath Action for Refugees, it saw a return to form for many of KHAR's activities post pandemic.

The biggest highlight and change for the team was in August we were successful in our application to become a CIO, a change to our legal status and a commitment to the longevity and the work of the team both looking back and moving forward.

A big feature of the year was a return to in person events, from team favourites like our Welcome Walks, the locally renowned Cocomad, our much loved *Shimmer Shack*, our own community fundraiser KHARNival and even attending markets both old and new with our fundraising merchandise and awareness raising.



KHARNival 2022 on one of the hottest days of the year saw us back in Highbury Park Orchard and thanks to the Chamberlain Highbury Trust including KHARNival in their successful bid to Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games celebrating communities fund, we were able to make the event bigger than ever before across the orchard, the mansion and the lawns.

Our monthly Welcome Walks went from strength to strength with more volunteers attending than previously before and a really strong relationship built with the Initial Accommodation Centre (IAC) we work with, highlights include our first even Iftar, external trips to Think Tank and the Nature Centre and visits from circus company flying seagulls.

Following on from the success of 2021 we fundraised for and delivered over 70 tailored winter packs for sanctuary seekers living in the IAC including hats and gloves, toiletries, chocolates and activities.



We held a new style of event with authors Gulwali Passarlay and Dina Nayeri discussing their work and experiences as asylum seekers, we held it with support from Aston University who also chaired the discussion for us.

We had a hugely successful winter market season attending 7 markets and the launch of our first ever sweatshirts which needed a reprint after selling out.



September 2022 saw our 7th birthday and in January we held our first ever externally facilitated AGM as a charity which was part of a wider team planning day for the committee with a guest speaker to help us focus our aims and ideas for the coming 12 months and allow us to understand our ambitions. These include plans for applying for funding, developing ideas for new events and partnerships, looking at our methods of communications and in house structures to improve volunteering.

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Account for the Period of 9 August 2022 to 31 March 2023

Income	£
Donations	4,550
Merchandise & Events	4,963
Other	85
Total Income	9,599

Expenditure

Donations	1,737
Merchandise & Events	3,093
General	610
Total Expenditure	5,439

The bank balance is now over £9k due to strong merchandise sales and nearly £6k in donations and grants received, resulting in a surplus in the year of over £8k.

£3K of this was due to a generous donation from a local resident keen to support the work KHAR does.

There was £1200 from a bake sale partnership with the Old Post Office Space and Women in Hospitality in June 2022 and a further £1,100 of contributions from Andrew Souter, GB partnerships and Forum Auctions.

There was also over £4.7k of profit from various events over the year of which KHARNival was the highlight, as well as merchandise sales being strong throughout the period, especially during the Christmas market season.

The largest donations given by the charity over the year were to St Edwards Catholic school (£911) to support the school with activities such as school trips, breakfast clubs and other assorted costs due to the high numbers of Asylum seeking children in the school and earthquake appeals due to the Turkish/ Syrian earthquake, to Molham Team (£600)



Our AGM 2023



KHAR hosted its AGM on 28 January 2023 bringing together committee members and supporters for a half-day review and planning event. We invited a representative from Migrant Help to share information on the hotel and accommodation picture and specific challenges facing new migrants awaiting Home Office processing in Birmingham. As part of an externally facilitated strategic, creative exercise, four priority actions were identified for the year ahead:

1. To improve volunteer engagement through enhanced onboarding, training, briefing and support
2. To further nurture our supporter community and connections through enhanced communications and information sharing
3. To further develop partnership working and connections in Birmingham as part of coordinated refugee support initiatives
4. To increase funding through submitted bids
5. To grow schools outreach and awareness raising in our local community

Significant progress has been made across these priorities during the reporting period as outlined in this report. Of note, in response to the AGM aspirations, KHAR has:

- Introduced a new onboarding and formal training framework to welcome volunteers and a regular bi-monthly support meeting held virtually.
- Created a new monthly e-newsletter distributed to volunteers and supporters and is seeing strong engagement.
- Increased social media content for regular and varied posts to keep followers informed of our work and grown its online following and engagement as a result.
- Connected regularly with other charitable organisations including Birch, Journey and Migrant Help, which has brought significant benefit in establishing new relationships

to support residents at Initial Accommodation new to KHAR in 2023, as well as helping KHAR to effectively invest its fundraising for impact in both community and individual support initiatives (travel sponsorship, housing furnishing, event support)

No new nominations were made for trustee positions due to the newly confirmed constitution and charity status.



Volunteers



We have had a brilliant year with our volunteers and have appreciated their efforts and support greatly. As has become a notable pattern within our work, the international context and news coverage has increased interest in volunteering at points across the year, for example in response to the war in Ukraine. However, the pandemic impacted our ability to offer volunteering opportunities, meaning we had to reinvigorate volunteer interest and capacity. We made efforts to re-engage our committed volunteers and build up new capacity. We have onboarded 11 new regular volunteers, with even more interest. We appreciate the skills and diversity within our volunteer group, from a range of backgrounds and experiences. During volunteer week, we were able to celebrate some of our volunteers

using a media spotlight on our social channels: we shared their photos, some information about them, and the work they contribute to KHAR.

A priority for us emerging from our January 2023 AGM was to streamline our onboarding process for new volunteers, to enable them to understand their role, what is expected, and our overall mission as a charity. We began to make progress towards this, by revising/creating onboarding documents. The first is an overview of our charity, including our history, aims, the type of work we do, and introductions to committee members. We also created a Welcome Walk briefing document. This explains the activity and establishes expectations for the role. Finally, we updated the Befriending briefing document, sharing the core skills associated with befriending, suggested tips for conversing with those we support, cultural considerations, and boundaries of the role.

Overall, our volunteers have engaged in a variety of activities. Between April 2022 and March 2023, we ran monthly Welcome Walks, including a special Iftar celebration. These require volunteers to collect residents from local hotels, and to support providing a meal and activities at a local community space.



Kings Health Action for Refugees 22 ، نحن متطوعون من منظمة
وستضيف مأدبة إفطار في غروب الشمس الليلة ، أبريل
العشاء سيكون في كنيسة المسيح ، طريق بيرشور (5 دقائق
سيراً على الأقدام من فندق كينسينجتون). ستكون في فندق
لنقل السكان من الفندق إلى مكان العشاء. يمكن Kensington
أداء الصلاة في مكان العشاء.

الأطفال مدعوون للحضور
أكل شيء مجاني، الجميع مرحب به

رابطا إفطار قبجو
CHRISTCHURCH
5 min
المحلات
KENSINGTON
HOTEL
PERSHORE ROAD
WALKING

وجبة إفطار

8.20pm
الليلة

خال

We ran our yearly family festival again, KHARNival, for the first time after the pandemic, and volunteers were very pleased to be able to do this again. Roles included ushering, organising entertainment acts, welcome desk, merchandise stall, supporting activities, our 'shimmer shack'. Our volunteers have also supported our market stalls, selling our merchandise to fundraise. A huge part of our volunteer work is also spreading the word about campaigns we are running/new merchandise we are selling/fundraising initiatives. For example, our winter packs campaign. Word of mouth and sharing social media posts hugely supports us to fundraise and raise awareness, so we ensure to maintain communication with volunteers within our channels and appreciate their efforts.

Partnerships and Stakeholders

KHAR continues to work with existing partners whilst also forging new relationships with organisations and groups supporting refugees in Birmingham. This year, we worked in partnership with the following organisations:

- **Birch Community Hosting Network:** This year, Birch has supported us in setting up our relationship with the Home Office accommodation, Britannia Hotel after our nearest accommodation site shut down. Birch supported us in obtaining access to the management and introduced us to the residents. We work with Birch on an ongoing basis as they, for instance, accompany hotel residents to our events when needed.



- **Migrant Help:** we collaborate with Migrant Help on running joint events for hotel residents, such as our welcome walk to the Birmingham Wildlife Park.
- **Flying Seagulls:** Flying Seagulls is a charity supporting refugees through play and performance. We have partnered with the Flying Seagulls for several of our Welcome Walks.



- **Local business partnerships:** we continue to work with local businesses who support us through in-kind donations or support in facilitating some of our projects or both. For instance, we are supported regularly by a co-working venue. The Old Post Office, who regularly donate their space as well as support our fundraising efforts.

We are also supported by a number of local catering and bakery businesses such as Loaf, Damascena, Grace and James, The Early Bird Bakery and Change Kitchen, who regularly donate items for our Welcome Walks and KHARNival. We also have regular stalls to sell our merchandise at local artisan and craft markets, such as Kings Heath Artisan Market, Cocomad, Paperdolls and the Stirchley Community market who give us free spaces or preferential rates as a charity.

- **Local artists and performers:** we are supported by local artists and performers who donate their time to our events, especially KHARNival. This includes local performers such as Andrew Souter who has also fundraised for KHAR through his Christmas single in 2022.

KHAR also continues to network and engage with other organisations in our area. We attended the Birmingham Migration Forum in December 2022, taking part in discussions on activities supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Birmingham. We also took part in an informal network of groups supporting the Home Office accommodation, Kensington Hotel, whilst the hotel was open.

Events & Markets

It was fantastic to return to fundraising and community events post pandemic in 2022. In June, along with Refugee Support Europe, we hosted Dina Nayeri and Gulawli Passarlay to talk about their journeys as refugees as told in their respective books *The Ungrateful Refugee* and *Lightless Sky*.



In July we were able to hold our annual KHARNival event once again in Highbury Park. For the first time we worked in partnership with Highbury Hall aided with funding from the Commonwealth games “Celebrating Communities” fund, this meant the event not only occupied Highbury Orchard as it had previous years but also Highbury Hall and the

surrounding grounds. We displayed locally crafted “Birds of one sky” throughout the woodland, provided food donated from local independent businesses, hosted musical performances, craft and fitness workshops, lawn games, bicycle donation drop off for Birmingham Bike Project, and stalls including our merch and Shimmer Shack.



We had a great year attending various local markets, including Paperdolls, The Kingsway and Cocomad, with our “Shop with love” stall selling cookbooks, cards and screen printed merchandise. whilst also promoting the work that we do. Our “all together brum” t-shirts and sweatshirts as well as new pin badges were especially successful in the run up to Christmas.

