



ANNUAL REVIEW 2020/21



2020/21 A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

Asylum Welcome supports refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants to feel welcome, understand their rights, access opportunities, and develop and share their talents. Never has this mission been more important than with the extra challenges of 2020.

Over the year, we responded to an upsurge in emergency needs – providing support with food, finance, immigration, health, housing, education and employment. We were nimble and adaptable, and stood by our clients throughout the pandemic.

It was essential that we adapted and invested to make our services work more effectively, including upgrading our IT systems to improve remote working, and securing additional office space to allow safe working.

There was a slight reduction in the number of clients accessing general advice, compared with the previous year, largely because we had to limit drop-in access. However, many clients needed much more intensive support, including with issues of homelessness and domestic violence. We delivered 46% more client engagement in terms of contact hours than in the previous year.

We are proud that we could step up this support and bolster and develop our services – including building our work with Refugee Community Organisations, working with health providers to mitigate the pandemic's impact

This year, we assisted **1,351** people directly, and many more indirectly

on clients, stepping up domestic abuse support, and working as an active member of Oxfordshire Homeless Movement.

We are immensely proud of our clients for their fortitude and resilience, and so grateful to our staff and volunteers for their unwavering commitment. We are indebted to our funders and supporters who enable our work to continue and grow.

Thank you, all!

Mark Goldring
Director



Val Johnson
Co-Chair of Trustees



Tony Samuel
Co-Chair of Trustees



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER



We secured extra office space in July 2020 to create safer working conditions

The year began in lockdown. We suspended face-to-face services in March, swiftly adapting to a remote-working model. Our offices stayed open for two days per week, enabling us to provide urgent support to our most vulnerable clients. We maintained a telephone advice service and stepped up emergency assistance – increasing weekly hardship payments and delivering food bank items to clients' homes.

PERSONNEL

We lost some volunteers over the year, including some who were forced to shield. To mitigate this, we recruited 48 new volunteers, including 17 with lived experience. Staffing increased from 11 (8 FTE) to 16 (11 FTE), in response to client need.

REMOTE WORKING



We upgraded our IT systems to ensure efficient remote working for staff and volunteers. This enabled us to record information more accurately, facilitate more efficient casework, and produce better quality reports.

PREMISES

In July, we secured additional office space to reduce overcrowding and enable social distancing. We undertook a risk assessment with an external surveyor and made adaptations to allow safe working.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Over the year, we enhanced staffing across our Adult and Family Advice Service, Youth Service, and Education and Employment Service, and established a Refugee Community Organisations project. We increased support around domestic violence, recruiting a caseworker with specific experience. We also strengthened our immigration advice work, invested more in fundraising and communications, and built a successful donated laptop project.

VITAL ASSISTANCE

Asylum Welcome believes that everyone should be made to feel truly welcome.

Almost **1,400** bags of food and toiletries were distributed



WELCOME CENTRE

Our Welcome Centre is normally at the heart of our provision, providing a safe and friendly space for clients to relax, socialise, and use computers. Unfortunately, this busy drop-in was forced to close due to the pandemic. The centre will reopen when it is safe to do so.

Our premises stayed open throughout for urgent needs and where clients had to be seen in person. A triage system was established, to quickly prioritise urgent cases and determine whether clients should be seen remotely or face-to-face.

FOOD BANK

When the first lockdown started, we swiftly turned our food bank into a delivery-only service.

We delivered food and essential toiletries to 176 people (94 clients, plus their dependents). The average number of people supported each week more than doubled from 43 to 106 over the year.

Items were generously donated by Oxford Food Hub, supermarkets, schools, groups and individuals.



We continued to provide help with a range of issues, many of them urgent. These included:

- asylum and immigration
- health
- housing and homelessness
- benefits and finance
- education and employment

We also provided:

- food and toiletries
- recycled bicycles
- donated laptops
- English lessons
- two youth groups
- summer activities for young people
- volunteering opportunities
- support for refugee community groups and organisations
- support for foreign national prisoners
- help for vulnerable EU nationals to apply for Settled Status due to Brexit

We held **2,430** client advice sessions related to food and funding needs (*829 the previous year*)

HARDSHIP FUND

We developed a card payment system to transfer funds to clients remotely. Weekly payments increased from £10 to £30 per person, in response to increased need. Over the year, we paid out £93,000 in hardship grants (compared with £21,666 in 2019-20), helped by the Red Cross, supporters and funders.

These small grants enabled 145 people to pay for essential living costs.

Nwabissa and her husband became unemployed during the pandemic; they faced eviction and were struggling to support their family. Nwabissa said, *"I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done... We appreciate everything... not to forget the money you were giving us every week which goes a long way."*



BIKE PROJECT

Twenty-nine clients received donated, reconditioned bicycles, with a helmet, lights and lock. This provided free and healthy transport, enabling clients to get to work or appointments, and explore the city – whilst reducing reliance on public transport during the pandemic. Fewer bikes were distributed than last year (68) due to difficulties in running this service during COVID-19.



RECYCLED LAPTOP PROJECT

In March, we began a recycled laptop project to reduce digital isolation. The project provides good-quality devices to clients who need IT for online learning and home schooling, to access support or resources, or keep in contact with family and friends. We distributed over 100 laptops and devices.

This scheme has led to partnerships with IT companies, schools and individuals who have donated laptops and/or helped with collecting, wiping, cleaning and PAT testing the devices.

HOLISTIC SUPPORT AND ADVICE

ADULT AND FAMILY ADVICE SERVICE

Our Adult and Family Advice Service (AFS) provided expert advice and support – helping clients navigate the UK's complex asylum, healthcare, housing and welfare systems.

The key issue for most clients is to secure asylum, to be given 'leave to remain', and to settle, work and progress with their lives. Challenges included a freezing of processes and continual delays in their asylum claims. We helped 27 people apply for refugee status; 11 were granted status.

We saw more domestic abuse cases, and our specialist caseworker provided intensive support to 11 clients.

The AFS team had over **3,700** meetings with clients from **59** countries (*an 80% increase on the previous year*)



AFS saw 322 clients (350 in 2019-20); we saw clients nearly twice as many times as in the previous year, due to the range and intensity of issues.

Asylum and immigration group

We stepped up immigration work, employing a part-time Immigration Advice Lead. The immigration group comprises OISC*-accredited volunteers who help with applications. We supported 90 clients, of whom nine got settlement or leave to remain, nine got a legal advisor, three gained recourse to public funds, and one gained citizenship.

* Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

"They gave me a sleeping bag when I was on the street, a room... I got a new life here, a feeling of safety, protection, care and love."

Housing, health and benefits

Asylum Welcome worked with Oxford City Council and others to support formerly homeless people under the COVID-19 'Everyone In' programme.

We worked with GPs and health providers to improve knowledge of COVID-19, dispel misinformation and increase vaccine uptake.

Over the year, we moved 75 people off the Hardship Fund to longer-term support, including benefits or work.

14 people were supported out of homelessness

The team helped **27** clients resolve potential or actual homelessness, helped **10** access benefits, supported **14** to access health support, and helped **19** access legal representation

YOUTH SERVICE

Our Youth Service normally includes group activities and so it was more drastically affected by lockdown than many of our other services. Early on in the lockdown, our volunteers made efforts to contact young people and keep in touch when they were at their most isolated, calling on a weekly basis.

Our youth club 'Venda' was moved online and we continued contacting new arrivals. Despite the challenges, 33 group sessions were run, and some outdoor activities took place over the summer, including walks and sports activities. Online activities included art classes and cooking sessions, with materials and ingredients delivered to our young clients' homes.



"Z and I are very grateful for your help, and for always being there whenever we need you. Thank you so much for being understanding and approachable."

We engaged 158 individuals with one-to-one advice and support and with group activities. Over two thirds of them were male, and while this reflects the refugee population in general, particular efforts have been made to establish a girls' group, assisted by extra staff capacity.

Over the year, staff and volunteers concentrated their attention on

older young people no longer under the care of the local authority – those most likely to be made homeless, along with those without status and the newly arrived. Five young people previously under the care of the local authority received help to regularise their status; all had waited for at least five years, with one having waited 12 years.

A RESPONSIVE ORGANISATION

In 2020, Asylum Welcome secured approval to amend its objects to more accurately reflect its growing work with ‘vulnerable migrants’ who have a humanitarian need for assistance in the UK, including those detained within the legal or penal system.

Approval was secured at our AGM in September 2020 and subsequently from both the Charity Commission and Companies House in October 2020.

This broader scope followed the closure of Campsfield House in December 2018, the commencement in autumn 2019 of a pilot support programme at Huntercombe Prison in Oxfordshire (exclusively holding male foreign national prisoners), the implementation of the European Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to help EU citizens gain settled or pre-settled status and stay in the UK after Brexit, and a growing caseload with the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020. We saw a steep rise in demand for humanitarian support amongst vulnerable migrants in Oxfordshire, who were facing unprecedented challenges in addition to their ongoing concerns about status, access to housing, health services and so on.



Over 60% of those who were supported to apply to the European Settlement Scheme came from East Timor. These individuals are in the UK because they have Portuguese citizenship or the right to live there. The East Timorese population in Oxford numbers around 4,000; there are many vulnerabilities among this community, including insecure employment and inadequate housing.

EUROPA WELCOME

This Home Office funded project helps EU citizens who live in the UK to apply for settlement, following Brexit. The programme supports those who need help to apply – for example, due to reasons of language, disability or IT literacy.

We engaged with over 2,000 people through this scheme, directly helping 368 people. We produced outreach material in languages including Tetum – enabling us to reach the sizeable East Timorese community. We produced videos, advertisements and other materials, and worked closely with Oxford City Council, including training their staff.



368 people received help with their EUSS applications, and most gained a positive outcome.

PRISONER AND DETAINEE PROJECT AT HMP HUNTERCOMBE

Our Huntercombe Project builds on our extensive experience of supporting refugees and migrants held at Campsfield House. The prison population at Huntercombe includes nationals of refugee-producing countries, stateless people and EU nationals. We provide companionship to the prisoners and support for their health, wellbeing and immigration needs.

This service faced immense challenges. All external visits to the prison were suspended during lockdown and the prisoners were confined in their cells for 23 hours per day.

Contact was primarily maintained through video calls. Over the year, our multilingual volunteer team conducted over 200 virtual meetings with 45 prisoners. Just five face-to-face visits were possible; these were arranged in response to specific needs, including the need for support in other languages for vulnerable/at risk prisoners.

Feedback from the prisoners and the prison administration has shown just how crucial this service is, and the AW Board has given approval to continue this service.



BUILDING SKILLS, FOSTERING TALENT

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

This service was boosted by the appointment of a new coordinator in July 2020. Since August, the service has grown, supported by a team of volunteers – four education advisors, four employment advisors and ten new teachers (adding to the existing fifteen).

This service helps clients build and develop skills, gain confidence, and access education, employment and volunteering opportunities. We also provide in-house teaching, including one-to-one English lessons and maths tutoring.

We supported 83 clients with education and 53 with employment. Volunteer teachers (including 25 ESOL-qualified teachers) provided one-to-one lessons to 32 clients, virtually or in person. We developed a new maths programme, led by a client who is a maths professor.

The pandemic and home schooling led to increased demand for support for clients' children, and we found tutors for around 30 children. We are now considering doing more work relating to the school system: a volunteer is leading research on this.



53 clients were supported with employment, with eight gaining jobs, including the first paid work placement at an Oxford University college – this placement resulted in a permanent role for the client.

"K" was a qualified architect in her country of origin. As an asylum seeker, she could not work for 12 months, so she tried to secure a volunteer placement with an architecture firm. With her consent, we identified firms, made contact, and explained her situation. This was successful and she is now working on projects with a firm of architects. We advised the client on getting her qualifications recognised in the UK and we are supporting her to apply for scholarships to do the necessary training. She now also volunteers on our welcome desk.

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

Asylum Welcome provides many volunteering opportunities for clients, and helps clients access external volunteering opportunities. We recruited 17 volunteers with a refugee background in 2020-21.



Michael, a client, began volunteering as a food bank delivery driver during the pandemic. He helped to deliver almost 1,400 bags of food and essential toiletries to clients struggling to feed themselves and their families. Michael is part of a team of volunteer drivers who take food bags to over 40 households per week. He is also an active member of our advocacy team.

Rose first came to Asylum Welcome in 2017, when she was 65 years old. She had been refused asylum.

Rose was 'sofa surfing' for many months. She dreamed of a permanent home.

Rose felt abandoned and let down by officials. As a result, she was becoming isolated and depressed. We helped her find a solicitor, gather vital evidence, and win her appeal. We helped her access psychological support.

When the lockdown began, Rose became homeless. We supported her with weekly hardship grants and helped her access temporary housing. After more uncertainty, Rose was offered a proper room of her own.

Rose now has a wonderful home of her own and her life has changed for the better. In 2020, Rose became a volunteer on our welcome desk.

She said: *"I decided a long time ago that I needed to help refugees the way that Asylum Welcome helped me. I understand what it feels like to be a refugee and I have a big passion to help other people."*



REFUGEE VOICES

CLIENT VOICES

Asylum Welcome is working to be more client-led. Clients play a key role, including through feedback, surveys, and focus groups. Around 20% of staff, trustees and volunteers have refugee backgrounds; we are recruiting more people with lived experience.



Clients are given opportunities to volunteer and represent Asylum Welcome. Three clients and a refugee artist showcased their impressive poetry

and art at the Ashmolean Museum's annual **One World Festival**, which ran remotely. Asylum Welcome is represented on the One World committee.

A new **client feedback system** was introduced this year. Initial responses show very high client satisfaction, with scores of 4.5 or higher out of 5, across all areas.

During 2021, we will build on our feedback systems, introducing tools to systematically monitor clients' progression towards their goals.

Eden, an Eritrean journalist, came to Oxford as a refugee in 2001, with her young daughter. They faced homelessness and knew no-one in the city.

Eden accessed support from Asylum Welcome and participated in creative writing workshops, contributing to the book *The Story of My Life. Refugees Writing in Oxford* (2005). This led to many opportunities, resulting in a career in the refugee sector and in journalism. The independent organisation Women on the Move, supported and hosted by the UNHCR, named Eden 'Woman of the Year' in 2017.

Eden told us: "Asylum Welcome is everything to me. A big door opened. It gave me hope."

Reflecting on the One World Festival, Eden said: "It was good to share my feelings and experiences with the public. It will give me courage to do more activities and publish more of my work."



Our work with RCOs directly benefited around **250** people, reached thousands more indirectly, and had a broader impact by strengthening these organisations.

SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

During the year, we were awarded a two-year grant to step up our work with refugee community organisations (RCOs). This project provides support to the many local RCOs that exist in Oxfordshire. These RCOs are often closest to the people in the greatest need but they tend to struggle with lack of funds, resources and networks.

Over the year, the project addressed the capacity and developmental needs of 15 RCOs, including through training sessions. We also shared important information with 35 RCOs, including how to protect communities from COVID-19, how to access statutory services during the lockdown, and how to contact health services – as well as information on funding, employment and volunteering opportunities.

We also distributed small grants to 12 RCOs. This included:

- helping the **Eritrean Care Leavers Association** to run a new project for unaccompanied asylum seekers and care leavers;
- enabling the **Syrian Sisters** to run exercise classes to maintain health and wellbeing, and to help older people with health conditions to do their shopping;
- supporting **Refugee Resource's Women's Group** to set up a catering business;
- helping the **Oxford Sudanese Supplementary School** to run online educational classes for young people.

"With this small grant we have managed to deliver our supplementary school teaching to 103 children and young people... We are pleased that Asylum Welcome is providing a specific capacity-building project to support our communities."

Oxford Sudanese Supplementary School

We would like to thank RCOs representing refugee groups from Syria, Sudan, East Timor, Eritrea and elsewhere. We would also like to thank faith groups and refugee support/welcome groups across the county. We are also very grateful to refugee support charities in neighbouring centres, such as Reading and Slough.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Asylum Welcome continued to work with other bodies to advocate for better conditions for asylum seekers and refugees.

OXFORDSHIRE
**HOMELESS
MOVEMENT**

We worked with Oxford City Council and subsequently the Oxfordshire Homeless Movement to successfully provide accommodation for refugees under the 'Everyone In' programme. This programme offered emergency shelter to all homeless people during the pandemic. More than 20 refugees and asylum seekers with No Recourse to Public Funds were sheltered under this scheme.

Meanwhile, we worked with health services, refugee community organisations (RCOs) and others to ensure provision of COVID-19 vaccinations for those not registered with a GP, and encouraged vaccine uptake. We arranged for multilingual doctors to contact clients, and we translated and disseminated materials, reaching our clients and at least 200 RCO members.



'N' was a vulnerable client with severe underlying health conditions, putting him at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19. During the pandemic, he was provided with temporary shelter by Oxford City Council; without this, he would have been street homeless due to his immigration status. N was very nervous about the vaccine and reluctant to take it up. Asylum Welcome, in collaboration with partners, helped to build up his confidence and he is now fully vaccinated. This was a huge relief and a great achievement.



From March 2021, we began shaping our response to the government's New Plan for Immigration. We joined the national coalition *Together with Refugees*, using the orange heart symbol to show solidarity. Refugee Week events in June 2021 included talks, market stalls and an 'alternative walking tour', giving local leaders a glimpse into the experiences of refugees in Oxford.

We were pleased to be joined by local MP and Shadow Chancellor Anneliese Dodds at our **virtual AGM**. We were also pleased to give a range of talks to schools, community groups and religious organisations.

Asylum Welcome supported two colleges at Oxford University to become '**Universities of Sanctuary**' – reaching out to and supporting students from refugee backgrounds and using their college's resources to help refugees in the wider community.

Later in the year, we embarked on a **communications review**, in collaboration with clients, volunteers and trustees. Surveys and interviews took place with over 50 clients and over 100 volunteers and supporters. The purpose of the review is to improve how we communicate with clients, volunteers and supporters in terms of face-to-face interactions and online communication, and through other means. This led to a revised communications strategy, including a website refresh (launching in autumn 2021), with clients involved with in-depth usability testing, as well as the creation of WhatsApp bulletins for

clients. Our aims are to increase our accessibility, reach, visibility, and income.

In March 2021, the government announced their **New Plan for Immigration**, which represents a complete overhaul of the UK asylum system. Asylum Welcome is deeply concerned by what this new legislation will mean for people fleeing persecution. Over the coming months, we will promote the voices of refugees in the public domain to help explain the devastating effect that these new plans will have on people seeking asylum in the UK.

A CHERISHED ORGANISATION

VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF – COLLABORATION, CARE AND CAMARADERIE

Our dedicated volunteers are our biggest asset!



Over the year, 125 people were active in volunteering at Asylum Welcome. The pandemic caused many challenges, both in maintaining volunteer engagement and in ways of working. We worked together to be flexible and to find remote tasks for those who were shielding, and much progress was made on providing remote IT access for volunteers. Some of these creative solutions and new ways of working will no doubt continue.

Our volunteers work across all areas of the organisation, including our food bank, bike and laptop projects, advisory and support services, and fundraising.

The volunteer and staff response to the pandemic has been incredible; individuals showed huge dedication and compassion, and went out of their way to support our clients and our work.

Khaled Esber started volunteering for Asylum Welcome during the pandemic, providing support to our Youth Service and Adult and Family Advice Service, with Arabic interpretation, and IT skills, monitoring and evaluation.



He said *“When I am at Asylum Welcome, I feel among friends who are active and working together to provide the best of what they can to help their clients. I am amazed by the dedication and energy of the staff and their determination... I feel joy and happiness every time I see the positive impact of our work on clients.”*



A WELCOMING AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

In a year like no other, Asylum Welcome benefited from extraordinary local support.

The now former Lord Mayor, **Craig Simmons**, extended his official support to Asylum Welcome for a further six months, raising both funds and awareness for us.

During the year, we established an Ambassadors Programme, welcoming **Shena Guild** as our first ever Ambassador. The scheme recognises outstanding individuals who give their creativity, passion, enthusiasm and time to help Asylum Welcome prosper and to help improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in our community.

Building on the success of the event she helped organise at The North Wall hosted by Will Gompertz in early 2020, Shena and her family helped us kick-start our **Donated Laptop Project**. They helped to source 100+ donated devices and liaised with companies including BlackRock, Wantage Mix, GigaFix and BT – enabling us to wipe, clean and PAT test devices, and to provide free internet access to our clients. Shena has also been instrumental in linking us with a number of local schools – leading to some amazing schemes, such as the delivery of gift boxes to refugee families at Christmas (providing presents for 60 adults

and 63 children), organised by the **St Edward's School community**.

Meanwhile, we received strong support from a number of Oxford University colleges, faith groups and churches, local groups, and individuals – including those who undertook fundraising challenges and/or gave to Asylum Welcome.

Asylum Welcome is delighted to have the support of our two distinguished Patrons, **the Bishop of Oxford, Rt. Rev. Steven Croft**, and our longstanding supporter **Uwe Kitzinger CBE**.

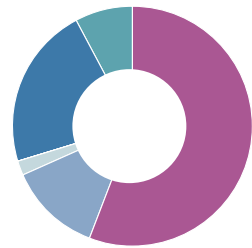
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In what was a highly unusual year, we were very encouraged that our income grew. This enabled us to step up emergency support and also to develop across a number of key areas.

We were happy to report a surplus of £146,000 for 2020-21. However, we recognise that some of the sources of funding available in 2020-21, linked to COVID-19, will not continue but much of the work that they supported will need to carry on. The reserves will enable us to strengthen our work and further support clients during the pandemic and post-pandemic rebuilding. The board has approved a budget for the year to March 2022 which will bring reserves back within the target range. Fundraising remains a priority as we go forward.

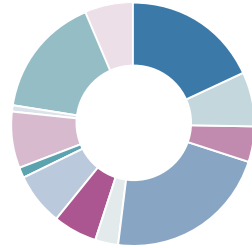
Income increased by **78%** whilst our expenditure increased by **49%**

2020/21 INCOME: £747,000



Trusts & foundations:	£418,000
Statutory grants:	£93,000
Faith organisations:	£14,000
Colleges & schools:	£2,000
Individuals & legacies:	£163,000
Partnerships & community organisations:	£57,000

2020/21 EXPENDITURE: £601,000



Food services:	£18,000
Education and employment service:	£35,000
Volunteer recruitment and management:	£43,000
Syrian resettlement:	£7,000
Europa Welcome:	£45,000
Advocacy:	£6,000
Raising funds:	£96,000
RCO project:	£38,000
Adult Advice Service:	£109,000
Youth Service:	£43,000
Detainee support:	£29,000
Refugee rights:	£132,000

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Our Europa Welcome service reached over **2,000** people, directly helping **368** individuals

We directly assisted **1,351** people



5,500 hours were spent directly working with refugee and asylum seeking clients



145 people received emergency hardship grants



176 individuals and families received **1,400** bags of food and toiletries



We recruited **48** new volunteers
They speak **20** languages



17 of our new volunteers originally came to the UK as refugees



100+ electronic devices were distributed

125 volunteers gave over **9,400** hours, amounting to a value of over **£162,000**



How our work has changed in the last year:



LOOKING AHEAD ADAPTABILITY AND INNOVATION

COVID-19

We have learned a lot and made many adaptations. Asylum Welcome will stay responsive and adaptable. Our clients will remain at the heart of everything we do. We will continue working with Oxfordshire Homeless Movement and partners to facilitate longer-term housing solutions for those facing homelessness. We will keep working with health providers to ensure that clients are safe, healthy and well-informed about COVID-19.



SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

We will bolster and develop services. As this goes to print, we have recruited additional staff across AFS and advocacy. They include an Advice and Casework Officer who also works for Refugee Resource, providing a key link between the organisations and better support to clients.

We will continue building our reach and visibility, diversifying funding streams, and partnering with local universities, schools, groups and organisations.

Europa Welcome will continue until 30 September, unless the government extends the scheme, and we will develop our Huntercombe Prison Project. We will bolster our Education and Employment Service, developing a schools' service to help parents engage with the education system and a 'Job Hub' for enhanced employment support. Our laptop project will offer greater digital support to clients and volunteers. We will develop our immigration work.

WORKING 'WITH' NOT 'FOR' REFUGEES

We will raise the participation and visibility of refugees and asylum seekers, strengthen work with RCOs, and host a Refugee Assembly in 2022. Our new website will launch; it will be easier to navigate, with translations in multiple languages that will enhance accessibility.

Check out our new website at
www.asylum-welcome.org



ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

We will challenge aspects of the Nationality and Borders Bill that we believe to be harmful to people fleeing war and persecution. We held several events in April 2021, in multiple languages, to shape our official response.

In October 2021, we expect to welcome 'Little Amal' to Oxford, a 12-foot puppet of a refugee girl that is being walked from the Turkish/Syria border to the UK (see photo above). The puppet's visit, secured by The Story Museum and Asylum Welcome, will be accompanied by educational events aimed at raising public awareness.

We will strengthen partnerships, notably with Refugee Resource. This may lead to a move to joint premises, to provide complementary support to a shared client group in a more cohesive way.

Asylum Welcome will continue striving for a more welcoming and humane response to refugees.

OUR PARTNERS 2020-21

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Aspire
Citizens Advice Bureau
City of Oxford College
Connection Support
Crisis Oxford
EMBS (Ethnic Minority Business School)
Key 2 Housing
OAAST (Oxford Advice Agencies Stronger Together)
OAF (Oxford Advice Forum)
ODAS (Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services)
Open Door
Oxford Against Cutting
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford Business College
Oxford City Council
Oxford Food Hub
(formerly Oxford Food Bank)
Oxford IT Bank
Oxfordshire Community Foundation
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire Homeless Movement
Oxfordshire Social Services
Oxfordshire Youth
OxPAT (Oxford Poverty Action Trust)
Red Cross, Thames Valley
Refugee Resource
Ruskin College
Sanctuary Hosting
Somerville and Mansfield Colleges,
University of Oxford
St Edwards School
St Mungo's
The Ashmolean Museum
Turpin and Miller Solicitors

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Advice UK
ASAN (Asylum Support Advice Network)
ASAP (Asylum Support Appeals Project)
Asylum Matters
Asylum Support Advice Network
Asylum Support Appeals Project
AVID (Association of Visitors of Immigration Detention Monitoring Group)
BiD (Bail for Immigration Detainees)
BlackRock
Children's Society
Citizens Advice Bureau
City of Sanctuary/University of Sanctuary
Clinks
Coram Children's Legal Centre
Detention Action
Detention Forum
FareShare
Freedom from Torture
HMP Huntercombe
Immigration Law Practitioners Association
Job Centre
Migrant Help
Mind
Refugee Action
Sainsbury's
St Mungo's
Tesco
The British Red Cross
The Home Office
The Refugee Council
Victims First Specialist Service

A HUGE THANK YOU

Asylum Welcome could not exist without our superlative team of 125+ volunteers and the unwavering support of our local community, members, supporters and donors. There is not space to list everyone but we are truly grateful and all are equally valued. Thank you to you all for your compassion, support, solidarity, and collaboration, in what has been a highly challenging year.

Former Lord Mayor of Oxford,
& Councillor Craig Simmons

STATUTORY FUNDING

Department for Digital,
Culture, Media & Sport
Her Majesty's Prison and
Probation Service
Home Office – UK Visas &
Immigration for our EUSS
Europa Welcome work
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

29th May 1961 Charitable
Trust
AB Charitable Trust
ARM Trust
ASDA Foundation
Barrow Cadbury Trust
Beatrice Laing Trust
Bishop of Oxford's Fund
Charities Aid Foundation
Hale Family Fund

Henry Smith Charity
John Ackroyd Charitable Trust
Key2 Futures
Leigh Trust
Lloyds Bank Foundation
Marsh Christian Trust
Martin Lewis
National Lottery Community
Fund
North Street Trust
OCVA and Community First
Oxfordshire
Odin Charitable Trust
Oxford City Lord Mayor's
Charity
Oxfordshire Community
Foundation
Pennington Manches Cooper
Foundation
Persula Foundation
Pye Charitable Settlement
Society of the Holy Child Jesus
St Michael's and All Saints'
Charities

Swan Mountain Trust
The Bromley Trust
The City of Oxford Charity
The Ian Mactaggart Trust
The Mactaggart Third Fund
The Old Stables Charitable
Trust
The Roundton Trust
The Sisters Trust
The Tambour Foundation
The Tolkien Trust
The Westward Trust

COLLEGES & MUSEUMS

Ashmolean Museum
Balliol College
Brasenose College
Christ Church College
EMBS
John Ruskin College
Keble College
Lady Margaret Hall
Lincoln College
Mansfield College

Oxford Business College
Pitt Rivers Museum
Somerville College
St Cross College
The Story Museum
Trinity College
Wolfson College

SCHOOLS

Chandlings
Cherwell School
Dragon School
Magdalen College School
Oxford High School (with
special thanks to Amia
and Ellie!)

St Edward's School
Windmill Primary School

FAITH GROUPS

Bath Street Mosque
Central Oxford Mosque
Christ Church Abingdon
Church of the Holy Family
Convent of the Incarnation
Cowley St John
Cumnor URC
Eynsham Baptist Church
High Street Methodist
Church
Holy Family Church
Holy Trinity Church
Medina Mosque
New Road Baptist
Church
Oxford Diocesan Board
Oxford Jewish
Congregation
Oxford Mosque Society
Oxford Quakers –
OxFAP
(Oxford Friends Action
on Poverty)
Portsmouth Diocese
Quakers of Oxfordshire
St James' and St Francis'
Churches
St Margaret's Church
St Mary's Church Iffley
St Mary's Cogges Witney

St Michael and
All Angels
St Michael at the
North Gate
St Peter's Church
Wolvercote
St Swithun's Church
The Emmanuel
Church
The Methodist Church
Trinity Church
Abingdon
Wantage Methodist
Church

Wheatley URC

Woodstock Methodist
Church

COMMUNITY GROUPS

All our JustGivers
Brightwell Supporting
Refugees

Charlbury Refugee
Action Group
Chipping Norton
Amnesty Group
Highfield Residents'
Association
Iffley Fields Residents
Association
Kennington Refugee
Welcome
Open Door
Shipton Hub
STAR Oxford (Student
Action for Refugees)

MUSIC GROUPS & ARTISTS

Anne-Marie Dupré
Eden Habtemichael
Hasan Bamyani
Muradi Bakir
Rana Ibrahim
Tom de Freston



The **Food Bank** would like to thank all the individuals, community and faith groups, and primary schools for their generous donations. We are also immensely grateful for our partnerships with Oxford Food Hub, Tesco in Magdalen Street, and the shoppers who donate to collection points in Sainsbury's at Temple Cowley and St Clements.

DISTINGUISHED PATRONS

Professor Uwe Kitzinger CBE
Right Reverend Dr Steven Croft,
Bishop of Oxford

STAFF

Mark Goldring CBE, *Director*
Almas Farzi (Navid)
Services Director
Dr Clara Della Croce, *Huntercombe
Prison Project Coordinator*
Dr Gilberto Estrada Harris
*Fundraising, Development and
Communications Manager*
Helena Cullen
*Youth Services Manager and
Immigration Advice Lead*
Jackie McDowell
Finance and Contracts Manager
Saeed Noaman, *Office Manager*
Rosia Curtis, *Fundraiser*
Simon Dawson, *Adult and Family
Advice Service Coordinator*
Hannah Underwood
*Volunteer and Communications
Coordinator*

Nicky Barnettson, *Education and
Employment Service Coordinator*
Caritas Umulisa, *Family Support
and Youth Worker*

Rhiannon Lovell, *Europa Welcome
Team Administrator*

STAFF WHO MOVED ON

Nazan Ozgur, *Europa Welcome Casework
Coordinator* (April 2021)
Fazil Kawani, *Refugee Community
Organisation Support Coordinator* (July 2021)

NEW STAFF

Jess Beagant, *Advice and Casework Officer*
(April 2021)
Siân Rogers, *Europa Welcome Coordinator*
(May 2021)
Dr Hari Reed, *Policy and Advocacy
Coordinator* (May 2021)
Nuha Abdo, *Refugee Community
Organisation Support Coordinator* (July 2021)

TRUSTEES

Tony Samuel, *Co-Chair* (from April 2020)
Valerie Johnson, *Co-Chair* (from April 2020)
Thomas Espley, *Treasurer*
Abdoul Ma Aly Diallo, *Company Secretary*
Clare Miller
Dr Tina Leonard
Linda Guma Bond
Susan Ní Chríodáin
Dr David Levy (from 2020)
Lucy Keating (from 2020)
Marcus Thompson (stood down as Chair in April 2020)

Jan Penrose
(stood down as Company Secretary in October 2020)

I'd like to support Asylum Welcome

I would like to donate: £

MY DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

☐ I'd like to support Asylum Welcome regularly by standing order:

Please speak to your bank, *Asylum Welcome – Co-operative Bank plc, Salford M5 2QP*
and give them our bank details: *Account number: 65026773 Sort code: 08-92-50*

☐ I'd like to be a member of Asylum Welcome:

Membership is free, simply tick to show you agree with the following statement:

I subscribe to Asylum Welcome's vision for asylum seekers, refugees and detainees:

- they feel welcome, respected and understood as members of a caring community
- they live in dignity with hope for the future: they can exercise their rights and have their cases fairly considered,
- they can access services to meet their needs, and have opportunities to develop and share their talents.

As a member of Asylum Welcome I will do what I can to achieve this vision, to promote these values, and to support Asylum Welcome's activities as a donor, volunteer, fundraiser or advocate.

I'd like Asylum Welcome to claim Gift Aid on my donation:

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made ☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future (*Please tick all boxes you wish to apply*). I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature _____

Date _____

☐ I consent to occasional mailings from Asylum Welcome. Details will not be shared with third parties without written permission.

Donate online:

www.asylum-welcome.org/donate



Asylum
Welcome

Asylum Welcome, Unit 7,
Newtec Place, Magdalen Road,
Oxford, OX4 1RE

Tel: 01865 722082

Fax: 01865 792582

Email:

office@asylum-welcome.org

www.asylum-welcome.org



@AsylumWelcome

Photos by Asylum Welcome staff and volunteers.
Design: www.goodthinkingcommunications.net

Asylum Welcome is a registered charity,
no.1092265, and company, no.4361627.

Please return this form to:

Asylum Welcome, Unit 7,
Newtec Place, Magdalen Road,
Oxford OX4 1RE

Thank you!