

Asylum Welcome has responded quickly and effectively to the unique challenges of the year against a backdrop of an increasingly hostile and brutal environment for refugees and asylum seekers. We are incredibly proud of our clients, who continue to display remarkable strength and dignity. And as always, we are forever indebted to our volunteers, staff, and donors, without whom this valuable and urgent work would not be possible.

Thank you

If you would like to make a donation
please scan this QR code:



www.asylum-welcome.org/donate

   @AsylumWelcome

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

For a full list of our patrons, trustees and staff, please see:
www.asylum-welcome.org/about-us



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ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/23

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Never has the work and mission of Asylum Welcome been more important than it is now. 2022/23 has been our busiest year ever – we have faced unprecedented global and national challenges that have reinforced the need for a charity like ours.

We have worked hard to develop our services to respond to the growing demand across Oxfordshire. We called together organisations (including councils and community groups) and staff to mobilise support for the 2,000+ Ukrainians who have been housed across Oxfordshire. We proactively developed a timely outreach service in response to the 700+ asylum seekers being housed in hotels across the county. Alongside these unplanned developments, we continued to support the Afghans who were suddenly evacuated in 2021. Oxfordshire also became an official dispersal area for the first time, contributing to the increased pressure on *all* of our services.

In this Annual Review, you can read stories written by our inspiring clients who we have had the enormous privilege of working with this year. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our incredible staff, volunteers and supporters like you, they can face the future more hopefully.



JACK'S STORY

HOTEL OUTREACH CLIENT

“ My name is Jack; I came to the UK from Myanmar. When I came to Oxford, I was placed in hotel accommodation for asylum seekers. I sought help from many different places and didn't get any. **I came across Asylum Welcome, and they immediately helped me. They assisted me with legal support, clothes, and transport.** As a musician, I desperately needed a guitar. They got me a donated guitar, helping me to improve my musical skills and distract me from thinking about home.

I also volunteer with Asylum Welcome, helping to reduce my stress and concerns about home, practise my English and give me great skills for the future. Asylum Welcome is the world for a man like me because without their help I would have struggled to cope in a country like the United Kingdom, which is completely different from my country.”

*Without their help
I would have
struggled to cope*



Jack now volunteers with AW and supports our local campaigning efforts

FAZAL & FAMILY'S STORY

SCHOOLS ADVOCACY CLIENTS

“ My name is Fazal, I arrived in the UK from Afghanistan in August 2021 with my wife and five children. We have received continuous support from the Schools Advocacy Programme for all my children. I have been attending weekly meetings where I can raise the issues my children face regarding their technical and educational needs.

My children actively participate in their classes, they now have laptops, and continue to attend English Language classes. I have seen a significant change in my children's confidence. My children are my heroes, all of them have achieved recognition certificates in their schools and have high attendance rates. **Seeing such improvement and achievement without the help of Asylum Welcome would be impossible – my family feels lucky that we have been served by such friendly committed people.**”

I have seen a significant change in my children's confidence



Fazal has prioritised his children's education

OLENA & OLEG'S STORY

UKRAINE PROGRAMME CLIENTS

“ We arrived in England in August 2022 after Russian missile strikes destroyed our home in the Severnaya Saltovka district of Kharkiv city. Our own home was completely destroyed by shelling. At the age of 62, we had lost everything; our home, business, loved ones, books and all other personal items which made our world happy and fulfilled. **Asylum Welcome's support was timely and necessary, a lifeline for us.**

Their team helped us to integrate into the UK and solved many important issues: they got us free SIM cards, laptops for online classes, helped us with English translation at important emergency GP and hospital visits, organised employment courses, helped us to write our CVs and assisted with finding us somewhere to rent. Organisations like Asylum Welcome are essential for the world because they make it kinder and more beautiful. ”

*Organisations like
Asylum Welcome are
essential for the world*



Oleg (left) and Olena (second from right) with our Ukraine Team

AIHAM'S STORY

SANCTUARY HOSTING ADMINISTRATOR
& FORMER CLIENT

“ I first came to Oxford in 2020, waiting for my asylum decision whilst going into the second national lockdown. Luckily, I found Asylum Welcome; they made me feel reassured and hopeful despite the pessimistic national attitude. Months later, I was so inspired by their support, I wanted to volunteer with them in the Welcome Centre. Days after starting, my asylum claim was accepted and the joy I saw on the faces of my caseworkers, fellow volunteers and clients was beyond words. **I realised at that moment that I belonged to a family.** I soon became a member of staff, working first as a fundraising assistant and then as an administrator at Sanctuary Hosting, which had opened its doors to me when I was facing homelessness. Life had come full circle – I was working alongside Eden, our service coordinator, who had once been my support worker.”

*They made me feel
reassured and hopeful*



Aiham (right) now feels part of the Asylum Welcome family



Thank you

See how your
support has made
a huge impact
this year



Asylum Welcome would not exist without all of our fantastic supporters – we remain indebted to you all. For a full list of organisations who have supported us over the year, please see: www.asylum-welcome.org/thanks

In 2022/23:



We directly
helped

3,183
people

*An increase
of 38% on
last year*

106

volunteers
were recruited

*20 have experience
of displacement*



225

volunteers
gave **20,668** hours
of their time

Worth £355,112



45

staff
employed

*30 full time
equivalent*

1,995

bags of food and toiletries
were distributed to **194** people



Our services in 2022/23



Adult & Family Service (AFS)

Free, confidential, one-to-one advice and support, including outreach to asylum hotels.

779
clients

An 85% increase



Afghanistan Resettlement Hotel Programme

Provides intensive support for Afghans evacuated from Kabul and housed in hotels in Oxfordshire.



Youth Service & Youth Clubs

Supports young unaccompanied asylum seekers and migrants with advice and intensive practical & emotional support.

250
clients

from 21 countries



Advocacy

Campaigns to improve national and local policy.



Immigration Advice Service

Helps people to access legal advice on immigration matters. Part of the Thames Valley Immigration Alliance.

369

clients in Oxford



Education & Employment

Language lessons, employment support, CV building, interview practice and referrals to schools and colleges.

205

education clients

122

employment clients



Ukraine Programme

Works with councils & community groups to provide holistic support to Ukrainians living in Oxfordshire.

1,200

guests & hosts supported



Health Access Project

Briefs asylum seekers and refugees about health access and rights, as well as providing guidance and supervision to external agencies.



Food Bank & Hardship Fund

Supports people in immigration limbo who have *No Recourse to Public Funds* and would otherwise be destitute.

108 people supported with regular payments



UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) Project

Intensive mentoring and material assistance for new arrivals who have received refugee status.

17 families helped
1:1 support



Europa Welcome

Post-Brexit support for vulnerable EU citizens, providing advice on regularising settled status.

526 clients



Huntercombe Project

Volunteers visit foreign national offenders in Huntercombe Prison, providing complex advocacy and practical and emotional support.

140 inmates supported



Sanctuary Wheels

Provides free refurbished bikes, helmets, lights, and locks for refugees in Oxfordshire.

225 bikes supplied



Schools Advocacy

Targeted support for families to navigate and engage with schools. Regular English language sessions, educational workshops and a weekly advice clinic.

30 families supported across 15 schools



Digital Inclusion Project

Distributes free refurbished laptops, electronic devices, Wi-Fi passes and provides personalised IT training and support.

240 laptops & devices
450+ SIM cards



Part of AW since December 2022.

Sanctuary Hosting

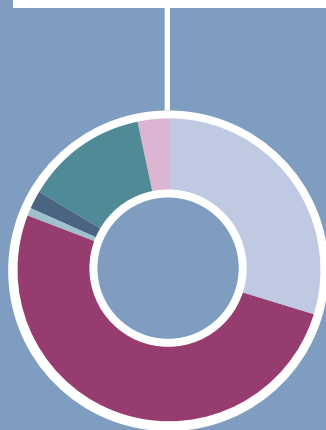
Supports refugees and migrants at risk of homelessness with hosted homestays.

26 guests supported

Money matters

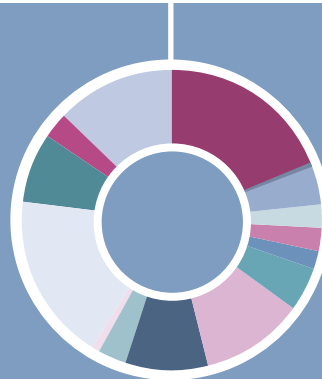
Asylum Welcome's income across 2022/23 increased by 45% in comparison to 2021/22, reaching £1,827,295. Our reported income of £2,015,552 includes the transfer of Sanctuary Hosting's reserves (£188,257) following our merger. Our expenditure rose by 66% (£703,000) ending the year at £1,770,620 in total.

INCOME: £1,827,295



- Trusts & Foundations: **£543,285**
- Statutory grants and contracts: **£935,351**
- Faith Organisations: **£16,693**
- Colleges and schools: **£35,823**
- Individuals and legacies: **£237,499**
- Partnerships & other community organisations: **£58,644**

EXPENDITURE: £1,770,620



- AFS, Outreach, Refugee Rights and Foodbank: **£332,358**
- Fundraising + Advocacy + Comms: **£159,574**
- Sanctuary Wheels: **£8,250**
- Youth Service: **£74,261**
- Education and Employment: **£46,362**
- Schools Advocacy: **£43,182**
- Huntercombe: **£36,207**
- Europa Welcome: **£81,381**
- UKRS: **£195,394**
- Fundraising + Advocacy + Comms: **£159,574**
- Volunteer Management + Welcome Centre: **£53,257**
- Digital Inclusion Project: **£16,957**
- Afghan hotel support: **£315,519**
- Thames Valley Immigration Alliance: **£135,202**
- Sanctuary Hosting: **£49,869**
- Ukraine: **£222,847**

I would like to support Asylum Welcome

I would like to donate:

☐ £20 ☐ £40 ☐ £70 ☐ £150

☐ My own amount £

☐ I enclose a cheque, postal order or CAF voucher made payable to 'Asylum Welcome'

☐ I am making a BACS payment
(Asylum Welcome, Account no. 65026773,
Sort code 08-92-50)

Thank you!

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

We will not share your details with others.

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

giftaid it

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

PLEASE RETURN TO: Asylum Welcome, Unit 7, Newtec Place, Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RE