

# Annual report 2013/14



## Highlights

Our fourth year has been about focusing on growing our work into new areas. With funding from the Coop Community Fund we have been delivering awareness raising sessions for local groups and we have received funding from Awards for All for a film project 'Connected Families' to begin soon. These projects have been designed to support our core work and maximise the benefits we can offer with our limited resources.

We have also seen one successful family reunion through our family reunion service, a young girl who had been waiting over a year to be reunited with her family, and another through our travel service.



## Our aims

Our vision is that all refugees living in the UK seeking to be reunited with their family are not prevented from doing so by financial circumstance. We also aim to ensure that no hardship is caused by the costs of the reunion and that the family are able to travel in safety.

Our core activity to support these aims is the family reunion service for refugees in the UK which provides a flexible range of support depending on the needs of the family.

Our plans for the fourth year included:

- Expanding our work into new areas.
- Continuing to build up our fundraising activities.
- Raising awareness of family reunion and our work.

## Thomas's story

Last year we were able to reunite Thomas with his wife and two of his young children. His daughter was not granted a visa with the rest of her family and it was not until February 2014 that she was able to travel to the UK so they could finally be together in safety.

'My family is settling in well. They are in school at the moment studying English. We are very safe here in the UK, living together as a family for the first time. More importantly, my wife and I don't have to be looking over our shoulders for dangers.'

'I am studying mathematics to become a qualified teacher. My wife wants to work with vulnerable children after her studies. Our children are in primary school at the moment. We are looking forward to a successful life in the UK and to catch up on all that we missed out as normal kids.'

Names have been changed to protect this family's identity.

You can read their story in full on our website:  
<http://refugeewelcometrust.org/?p=670>

We thank them for taking the time to share their story.



## Income and expenditure

Total income £8845

Restricted income £8604 | Unrestricted income £241

Main sources of income:

- Grant funding £6251
- Fundraising £298
- Personal donations £2055
- Conference income £240

Total expenditure £1104

- Case expenditure £761
- Other expenditure £343 (met by grant or unrestricted funding)

## Demand

We received 42 enquiries from people seeking to reunite their family. Of these, 14 had a visa in place and would have qualified for our family reunion service if we had had sufficient funds available.

These 14 enquiries amounted to at least 32 people travelling. We estimate that we would have needed an additional £17,000 to meet this demand.

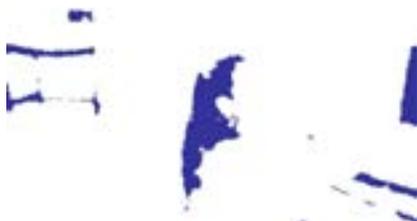
The remaining 28 had not yet acquired visas for their family but might have qualified when visas had been obtained. There has been a clear rise in people who are struggling to find free immigration advice to help them apply for family reunion visas.

These figures are despite a clear statement on our website that we have no funding to accept new applications and no promotion of our service to potential beneficiaries. We anticipate that were we to do any promotion there would be a very high demand.

## Plans for the next year

Over the next year our aims are:

- Growth of the travel service through working in partnership with other organisations.
- Development of our support offer with other partner agencies.
- Bringing in enough funding to be able to extend the service beyond the North West.
- Completing the delivery of the 'Connected Families' and the 'In their Shoes' projects.
- Continuing to develop new income streams.



## Thank yous

We would like to say thank you to the following people for their contribution over the last year  
Staff in the Freedom from Torture Manchester office.

All the staff at Diversity for their continued support and advice.

Dave Wostenholme at idhost for continuing to provide our website hosting free of charge.

Awards for All and the Coop Community Fund for the grants.

Registered Charity No: 1138256

enquiries@refugeewelcometrust.org | @refugeewelcome | www.refugeewelcometrust.org