



"Coming afar
what could
I have done
without this family
– life is safe
and ongoing with this family.
Keep smiling."

*"Thank you for everything.
I'm very happy for your help.
May God bless you."*

Highlights

This year we have changed our name from 'Refugee Welcome Trust' to 'Together Now'. We feel this better represents the positive outcomes of our work. This change will also benefit our clients, some of whom were nervous travelling on tickets bearing the word 'refugee' because of the danger in their home country.

We have supported three cases through our family reunion service and two through our travel service where we've worked closely with partner agencies.

Despite continuing to rely on volunteer time we have maintained the ability to be flexible and respond quickly to the needs of our clients. This has included booking a travel service client on a flight four days after we received the initial enquiry. We would not be able to do this without the dedication and expertise of the partner agencies we work with including our travel agent, Diversity Travel.

Thanks to Awards for All we were also able to run a small pilot which enabled clients who are not yet eligible for family reunion to support their family back home.

"Family reunion. Wow. What could you do without?"



"It's been such a long time since I saw my mother."

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 or lack of support. We also aim to make the reunion process as easy as possible and improve safety during the trip, providing assistance where needed and ensuring no hardship is caused by the cost of the process.

We support the delivery of this vision through providing two core services:

- Our family reunion service provides a comprehensive means tested service for families in need of more support.
 - Our travel service offers a light touch approach for clients who are able to self-fund their family's travel or who have sourced alternative funding.
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"I wish I can change myself to powder or wind. After that I can go anywhere so I can go to Iran and visit my mother."



Income and expenditure

Total income: £5245

Restricted income: £4146

Unrestricted income: £1099

Main sources of income:

Fundraising £332

Personal donations £3333

Grants £661

Gift aid repayment £911

Total expenditure: £9829

Case expenditure: £3564

Project expenditure: £6265

Connected families

Our film project brought together refugees and asylum seekers from around Greater Manchester to discuss the theme of family. Sessions explored what family means to people, their family traditions and the separation that comes with seeking asylum. Interviews and lullabies made up a film, poetry and artwork were produced for an exhibition during Refugee Week.

"I am nothing without my family."

Demand

We have had 31 enquiries of which at least three would have been eligible for our support. We estimate that to meet this need would have cost around £4500.

The fall in eligible cases is something we have identified as an issue with people not being able to get their family reunion visas as easily and we are looking at what we can do to support people in this situation next year.



Our cases

This year three families travelled through our family reunion service including:

A Sri Lankan mother bringing her toddler to join her husband;

A small girl coming to live with her mother and sister;

Two teenage brothers joining their father in Scotland.

Two families used our travel service:

A woman bringing her five children from Gaza to be with her husband and two children already in the UK;

A father coming to live with his wife and two daughters.



Plans for the next year

Over the last year we have identified additional parts of the family reunion process that we may be able to support.

As well as continuing with the travel and family services we plan to investigate expanding our work into these new areas.

Our Connected Families project highlighted a need for parents to be able to support their dependent family back home whilst they sought asylum. As a result of this and with agreement from Awards for All we were able to carry out a small pilot for a new programme addressing this need.

We hope to be able to refine and extend the pilot in the next year.

We have also identified other areas of the visa application process we might be able to support people with and will trial this approach on some cases.

"I miss my country and my family."

Thank yous

Awards for All

Steve Burgess

Staff at Diversity Travel

Staff at the Freedom from Torture Manchester office

Manchester Council CASH grants fund

The friends and relatives of our clients who have done everything within their power to help their family members be reunited with loved ones.

"Thank you for changing our lives."

Registered charity: 1138256

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