

together now



Annual report 2016/17



"We are now together at home,
just like your organization
TOGETHER NOW. I really
appreciate you."

Highlights

It has been an exciting year with our partnership with Miles4Migrants allowing us to significantly increase our capacity. This programme has allowed us to support an additional 21 clients, people we'd otherwise have had to turn away.

This new partnership has allowed us to meet our objective of providing support for additional parts of the family reunion process by freeing up some funding. Grants within this programme have included passports, travel and visa costs. We have prioritised higher needs cases for this service predominantly where there are children currently living without either parent.

"I can't describe my feelings when I saw them especially my lovely daughter - she was just 5 weeks when I moved."

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 minimising any financial hardship.

We support the delivery of this vision through providing two core services; family reunion travel and additional support.



“I plan to settle well in UK and get enrolled in higher education to do my masters in civil engineering and get a job so as to contribute to the UK development and my family.”

Income and expenditure

Total income: £11,151

Total expenditure: £13,505

Restricted income: £10,371

Unrestricted income: £780

Main sources of income:

- Fundraising - £6931
- Personal donations - £3439

Breakdown of expenditure:

- Case expenditure: £12,649
- Fundraising: £856

All fundraising costs were met by unrestricted income from this year and 2015/16 not donations.

Need

Through our Miles4Migrants we've been able to meet almost every request from people who qualify for our service.

We still receive many requests from people who require support in making the application for their family's entry visas or legal fees but this is something we are still unable to provide.



“When she first arrived in London she felt relieved and excited and happy at meeting me and reuniting again in a safe and secure country.”

Our cases

In 2016/17 we supported a record 39 cases; nearly as many as the previous six years put together. Almost 100 individuals have benefitted from our services through travel being provided or other support with the family reunion process.

Breakdown of cases:

- 10 cases through our travel services
- 21 families travelled to the UK through our partnership with Miles4Migrants
- 8 families received other forms of support

The top three countries our clients come from are Sudan, Iran and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Support with reunion: Juste's story

Juste is a father to three children and a torture survivor. Having sought and successfully been granted asylum in the UK he is now trying to bring over his children to join him. The children's mother, Juste's wife died as a result of being tortured and the children are living without either parent.

A charity working with Juste applied to us for the costs of the passports his children need to be able to put in a visa application. This was over £500 and without them they'd have no chance of being reunited with their surviving parent.



“I am very happy to see them again. I missed my son for the long time I didn’t see him. He is in good health. In the future I want to live with my family in peace away from the war and fighting.”

Plans for the future

We hope to build on our relationship with Miles4Migrants alongside growing our own income streams.

We’ve developed our vision and set out what we’d like to achieve by our 10th anniversary in 2020 including having reunited 200 families and over the next year we’ll be working to put in place the structure to allow us to deliver this.

Thanks

Friends and relatives of clients, who give up their time, day and night to act as interpreters, pass on messages and provide support throughout the process.

Steve Burgess for help with accounting.

Staff from the British Red Cross who have helped us support their clients.

Everyone who has donated or fundraised on our behalf.

