



# Jesuit Refugee Service UK

Annual Review 2015–2016



# Our Mission

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) shares a global mission to **accompany**, to **serve** as companions, and to **advocate** for the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. We give priority to situations of great need, where a more universal good may be achieved, and to needs others are not attending to. We work where we have expertise, can join with partners or enable others in order to become involved.

JRS UK has a special ministry to work with people who have been detained and left destitute by the complex asylum process in the UK, who are among the most excluded and vulnerable groups in society today.

Working collaboratively with other organisations, and with refugees themselves, we provide a mix of practical, emotional and spiritual support. We also work to increase understanding of the circumstances

of refugees in the UK, benefiting those we serve directly and others we do not work with.

The work of JRS is rooted in a belief in the innate dignity of the human person. Our work is based on the principles of hospitality and carried out in a spirit of compassion and solidarity, encouraging participation and community, aiming to give hope, justice and dignity to refugees and forced migrants.

“Behind the statistics are people, each of them with a name, a face, a story, an inalienable dignity which is theirs as a child of God.”

*Pope Francis*



Sr Margaret and the detention outreach team offer support and advice to those held in immigration detention near Heathrow.

## Our Context

2015 saw JRS around the globe commemorate 35 years of accompaniment, service, and advocacy; but the situation facing the almost 60 million refugees and forced migrants - among them those fleeing atrocities in Syria, oppression in Eritrea, insecurity in Afghanistan and conflict in the Congo - is not one for celebration.

The situation for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK is no less bleak, left destitute, they face a state sanctioned and increasingly 'hostile environment', where government Ministers have been given powers under the Immigration Act 2016 to impose increasingly punitive measures.

Yet at JRS UK, we remain steadfast in our mission to accompany, to serve as companions, and to advocate on behalf of refugees. We – volunteers and staff alike – regularly encounter joy and share many moments of laughter and relief. These moments of celebration come not only when one

of our refugee friends has finally (at last!) been recognised as a refugee, but during and despite the daily grind faced in coping without being able to provide for oneself, where to work is to commit a criminal offence, where one is dependent upon others, where suffering and traumas endured are disbelieved and denied by the authorities and daily injustices and insults experienced. This joy springs from the generosity of spirit and resilience that our refugee friends show us; a generosity that is humbling and constantly inspires us in our aim to welcome and offer a safe place.

## A Special Tribute



Our former Director Louise, enjoying the JRS annual summer party.

In February 2016 we felt the loss of an important member of the JRS family. Louise Zanré guided and directed our work with love and compassion for over 15 years. Louise's death was deeply felt by many of our refugee friends; she was a source of strength, comfort and inspiration for them, respected and trustworthy.

Louise left a remarkable personal legacy: inspiring a generation of campaigners with a deep concern for social justice; always showing welcome to others as neighbours rather than strangers; and a spirit of determination in the face of ever-increasing hostility.

We will miss her dearly – refugee friends, colleagues, and the wider justice and peace community alike.

Her legacy will continue to inspire our accompaniment of refugees, which is the core of our work: being there for refugees, sharing food and conversation, building relationships, and sharing their journey. It is through these encounters between refugees and volunteers, between people in detention and volunteer detention visitors, that we continue to draw energy and inspiration to advocate for change.

## Our Governance

JRS UK is a work of Jesuits in Britain, who are governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by the Provincial Fr Dermot Preston SJ. We have a close working relationship with the global work of JRS through the International office in Rome and the European office in Brussels.

We endeavour to be openly accountable for our work. We have an independent bank account, budget, and payroll. We work in partnership with other religious congregations, humanitarian organisations and with

refugees themselves, encouraging co-responsibility, communal discernment and participative decision-making.

The Jesuits in Britain delegate oversight of JRS UK to a Management Committee chaired by Fr. Paul Nicholson SJ, who is also a trustee of TRCP. Our Management Committee comprises of Jesuits, other charity practitioners, and refugees we accompany. The Management Committee report to the British Jesuit Provincial.

## The JRS UK Team

Our work is made possible thanks to over 60 dedicated and passionate individuals, who voluntarily give their love, talents and attention to each of our refugee friends. Between October 2015 and September 2016, the paid JRS UK staff team were:

**Sr Margaret Baxter SSMN**  
Detention Outreach

**Nicolette Busuttil**  
Communities of Hospitality  
Coordinator (from May 2016)

**Liliane Djoukouo**  
Day Centre & Administrative  
Assistant (from April 2016)

**Sou Huoy Lam**  
Office Administrator

**Kate Monkhouse**  
Fundraising & Communications

**Jonathan Parr**  
Assistant Director

**Sarah Teather**  
Director (from January 2016)

**Louise Zanré**  
Director, then Policy Officer  
(Until February 2016)



# Supporting destitute refugees and people seeking asylum

Our weekly Thursday Day Centre continues to provide a warm welcome and practical support to destitute refugees, asylum seekers, and those who have been forcibly displaced from their homes.

Our Day Centre and Day Centre Plus activities help to reduce the social isolation that harsh government policies create and increase peer support between destitute refugees. The small travel grants allowed many to attend essential medical and legal appointments, to access the justice that is their right. Referrals and navigation to other services resulted in increased psychological, legal and educational support for destitute refugees.

Highlights this year included a new series of photography workshops, collaborating with Fotosynthesis, a set of public speaking workshops collaborating with the Migrant Resource Centre, and the introduction of bicycle lessons for women, collaborating with The Bike Project.

Men4Men reflection group and the Women's Prayer Circle offer companionship and accompaniment – they provide mutual support and bolster resilience through sharing in each other's faith.

Our activities may be small, but in common with each individual gesture of generosity, they are signs of the Kingdom of God breaking in and of oppression being challenged; they show others a way forward that will make our societies better places for all of us – refugees and host communities alike.

## Thank You!

The generosity and support of our donors this year enabled JRS to:

- **Increase the travel grant we are able to give to our destitute refugee friends**
- **Introduce freshly cooked, hot, nutritious meals at the Day Centre, designed and cooked by our refugee volunteer chef**

## Quick Numbers



**170 refugees** were warmly welcomed by name to JRS each month throughout the year.

Over **2000 essential toiletry packs** were distributed.



Over **4000 grants for bus passes**.

**214 exceptional hardship grants** were made.





A volunteer hosts welcomes a refugee friend into his home for a three month placement.

## Welcoming The Stranger

We collaborated with CAFOD and Caritas Social Action Network to lead a Lampedusa Cross action, inviting the catholic community to send a message of hope to refugees as part of the year of mercy. As part of this, we took part in a Refugees Welcome prayer service and march across London, that was attended by over 10,000 people from across the UK. One of our refugee friends, Victoire, powerfully shared her personal journey to over 100 people gathered for the prayer service.

## Creating Communities of Hospitality

One of the greatest challenges faced by those caught up in the complexities of the UK asylum system is safe and stable accommodation. Destitute refugees are often forced to seek respite on night buses, rely on friends who might host them for a night or two, or else find a nook where they can bed down for the night.

In May 2016, as part of the pan-European project Communities of Hospitality, we welcomed a new member of staff to co-ordinate our At Home hosting scheme, encouraging parishes and religious communities to create their own communities of hospitality by housing and welcoming destitute refugees on a short-term basis.

At Home puts the relationship between the host community and the refugee guest at the heart of the placement, and we have seen the transformative effect hosting makes to the host and the refugee guest alike.

Between May and the end of our financial year in September, we provided 4 street homeless refugees with safe and secure accommodation, and provided ongoing support for host and guest.

“I have seen how a placement like this can make a refugee so radiantly happy. Three months of welcome, security, warmth and food means so much to them in what otherwise must be a very bleak life.”

*Mike, a volunteer host*





Our volunteer detention outreach team gather outside Heathrow in preparation for visiting those held in immigration detention.

## Detention Outreach

JRS continues to accompany those held indefinitely in immigration detention at the two Immigration Removal Centres at Heathrow – Colnbrook and Harmondsworth – which have the capacity to hold just under a thousand men at any one time.

Within the context of immigration detention which has no time limit, and the heightened anxiety this in itself causes, our dedicated volunteers have accompanied over 500 individuals held in immigration detention; offered pastoral support, solicitor liaison services, and referrals to specialist services; treating each detainee with dignity and respect. We distributed phone top-ups, enabling detainees to keep in contact with friends and family,

and three of our volunteers attended the Detention Visitor Support group in Brussels.

By its very nature, detention is often transitory. This is particularly apparent in the Sahara Unit: a small temporary space for women to be held either immediately prior to removal or en-route to a female detention centre. Our volunteers offered pastoral care and support to around 3 women each week.

“JRS gives me visitors. They are helping me very much. A month ago, I was very stressed. In detention, you don’t know if you’re going to be released at some point, or deported. One of my visitors brings me movies, it helps to relieve my stress.”

*Paul, Harmondsworth*



Women gather together in prayer at the weekly Women’s Prayer Circle.



# Advocating for the rights of refugees

A central pillar of our mission is to advocate for the rights of refugees and those who have been forcibly displaced.

Over the past year, we have:

- Held a European conference discussing public perceptions of refugees and the media.
- Spoken at 28 different events including parishes, universities, schools, church groups, and larger lectures; raising awareness of the situation affecting refugees.
- Shared our experiences and the needs of refugees through feature articles in the Catholic Times, The Tablet, Justice Magazine, and Jesuits and Friends.
- Continued to be an active part of coalition networks fighting for the rights of refugees, those seeking asylum, and those detained.



“I advise others who are coming to JRS to ‘go for it’ as well, not just coming to get bus fares and food. It is good to do something for the community as a way to help yourself.”

*Souleyman, refugee and anti-detention campaigner*

# Thankyou!

We are incredibly grateful to the wonderful people whose donations make the work that JRS does possible: to our dedicated volunteers, who freely give their time, energy and compassion to accompany our refugee friends; to our supporters who give regularly and when they can, enabling us to continue to serve our refugee friends; and to the religious communities and parishes who help us to raise awareness of the situation facing refugees, and advocate for positive change in their lives.

Extra special thanks go to:

**Diocese of Arundel & Brighton**

**Aloysian Association**

**Jesuits in Britain**

**Mill Hill Missionaries**

**Daughters of the Holy Ghost**

**Daughters of the Heart of Mary**

**Society of the Holy Child of Jesus**

**The Bike Project**

**Fotosynthesis**

**In-Kind Direct**

**London Churches Refugee Fund**

**Pret A Manger**

**St Vincent de Paul Society**

**Wrap-up London**

**Catholic Womens League**

**Little Company of Mary**

**Servite Sisters**

**Congregation of Jesus**

**Charitable Trust**

**Congregation of La Sainte Union**

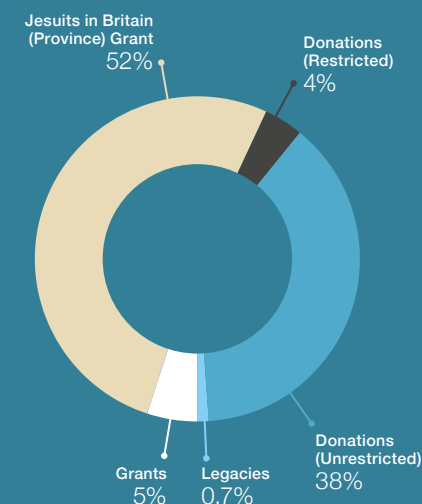
**National Justice & Peace Network**



# Income & Expenditure 2015/16

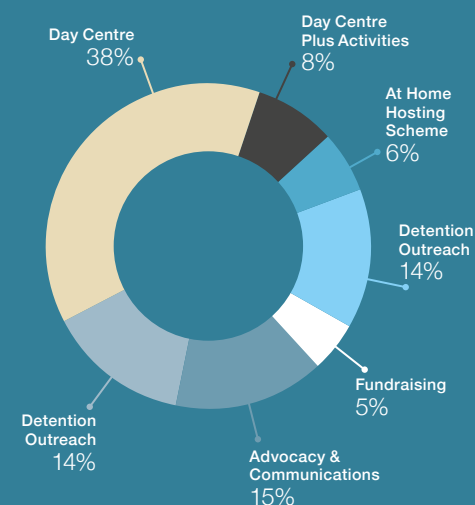
## Income

Jesuits in Britain (Province) Grant	£267,162
Donations (Restricted)	£21,674
Donations (Unrestricted)	£198,046
Legacies	£3,679
Grants	£25,675
Trading income & interest	£629
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£516,865</b>



## Expenditure

Day Centre	£147,636
Day Centre Plus Activities	£30,222
At Home Hosting Scheme	£25,291
Detention Outreach	£54,340
Fundraising	£18,351
Advocacy & Communications	£59,880
Office Administration & Governance	£55,090
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£390,811</b>







## Accompany

## Be part of our community

JRS wouldn't be who we are without the special people who dedicate their time, energy and passion through volunteering. Volunteers support a range of our work – from fundraising and supporting the Day Centre, to packing toiletry packs and visiting people in detention.

Interested in volunteering?  
Contact **uk@jrs.net** or call  
**020 7488 7310** to find out more.

## Help us to support refugees

### Donate:

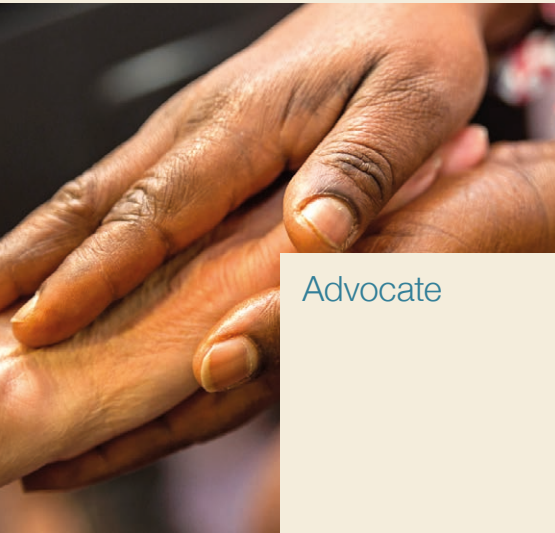
On our website: **[www.jrsuk.net/donate](http://www.jrsuk.net/donate)**  
Call us: **020 7488 7310**

### Raise awareness:

Follow us: **@JRSUK**  
Like us: **/jesuitrefugeeserviceuk**  
Subscribe: **[www.jrsuk.net/subscribe](http://www.jrsuk.net/subscribe)**



## Serve



## Advocate

Jesuit Refugee Service UK  
Hurtado Jesuit Centre  
2 Chandler Street  
London E1W 2QT

**020 7488 7310**  
**uk@jrs.net**  
**[www.jrsuk.net](http://www.jrsuk.net)**

