



JRS UK

Accompanying, serving and advocating on behalf of the most marginalised people in UK society – refugees

This annual review celebrates the impact of our work across the period 1st October 2018 - 30th September 2019.

Who are we?

JRS UK is a charity working to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of the most marginalised people in UK society - refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced persons.

- We are grounded in Catholic social teaching.
- We work with all refugees regardless of their faith.
- Our staff and volunteers come from many faiths and none.

We are proud to call people who came to our country in search of safety, our friends.

What do we do?

We work closely with refugee friends who become destitute during the asylum process, and those who are taken into detention. To support them, we run:

- **A weekly Day Centre**, where they can share a nourishing meal and receive essentials including a travel allowance and toiletries.
- **Creative and therapeutic activities**
- A small hosting scheme for refugees who face homelessness.
- **A legal project offering free advice and representation where we can.**

We also:

- **Provide an outreach service for people in detention.**
- Carry out research for advocacy to policy makers.
- **Raise awareness of the reality facing asylum seekers and call for more just treatment.**

Front cover image: Refugee friend receives a warm welcome to the JRS UK Day Centre.
©fotosynthesis/JRS UK



Letter from the Director

In 2018/19, more refugees turned to us for support.

In 2018/19, we added an important new strand to the support we offer our refugee friends. Our new Legal Project helps ensure destitute refugees have legal representation as they seek to navigate the UK's unjust immigration system. We can now offer specialist advice for complex cases as well as legal representation where appropriate.

By the end of 2019, JRS UK were serving over 750 refugee friends, either through contact at the Day Centre, or in immigration Detention. While the number of destitute refugee friends has increased, so too has our number of staff and volunteers, able to accompany refugee friends.

This year, we also stepped up our efforts to raise awareness of the situation facing refugee friends and to advocate for change and you will be able to read more about this in the report.

Lastly, I thank all the many supporters who made this year's achievements possible: funders, individuals, parishes and schools. We are incredibly grateful to you for your accompaniment and support of our work.

Sarah Teather

Our vision

Our vision is of a world where all who have to flee their homes are welcomed with love. We accompany refugees to affirm that God is present, even in the most difficult and tragic moments of human history. In companionship with Jesus Christ and serving his mission in the midst of refugees, JRS can be an effective sign of God's love and reconciliation.

Our mission

JRS UK has a mission to accompany, serve as companions, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. We work with all refugees regardless of their faith.

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 refugees who have been detained or made destitute by the asylum process in the UK, who are among the most excluded groups in society today. The work of JRS is rooted in a belief in the dignity of the person and justice in the world.

Our values

JRS UK is grounded in Catholic social teaching: 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, people seeking asylum and forced migrants. JRS staff are of many faiths and none.

As a work of the Society of Jesus, we are called to work with the most marginalised, drawing on the charism and principles of Ignatian spirituality. We are inspired by the love and compassion of Jesus for the poor and excluded.

Refugee friend sharing a joke with a member of their host community.



Fernand's story

“I would have been homeless if it wasn't for JRS”

“I found out about JRS three or four months ago from a friend who said maybe they could help me. I spoke to Cristina and she registered me. Everybody says that JRS does lots and they get a lot of help here. Personally, I would have been homeless if it wasn't for JRS. I had been living with a friend

for more than 8 months when suddenly he told me that I had to leave because his son was coming. It's because of JRS that I've got somewhere to stay today. If JRS were a football team, of course I would support them because they are supporting me.”

Our Day Centre: a place of warmth and welcome

In 2018/19, we saw the number of refugees attending our weekly Day Centre rise once more.

Refugee friends came to this country in the hope of finding safety. Instead they find themselves facing homelessness and hunger.

Every Thursday, we open the doors of our weekly Day Centre to destitute refugees. Not entitled to work or to any support from the state, they're left with nothing to live on - sometimes, for years.

Having nowhere to live and no money to buy food in a society that's hostile to you takes its toll physically and emotionally.

Some refugee friends are already extremely vulnerable - traumatised by the experiences that led to them fleeing their home country. Sadly, many develop anxiety and depression as a result of the isolation and hardship they endure here in the UK.

In an uncaring world, JRS UK's Day Centre is a place where everyone is given a warm welcome. Refugee friends sit down together to share a nourishing home-cooked meal in a friendly setting. Friendships grow and there is a real sense of community. And there's plenty of practical support on offer too.



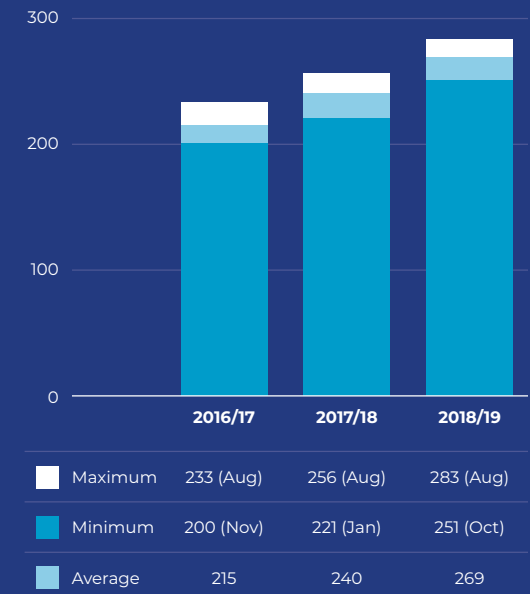
Supporting refugee friends with toiletry parcels at the Day Centre.

What we provide

- A hot meal
- A weekly £10 travel grant for bus passes
- Toiletries
- Creative and therapeutic activities, including singing and art (see page 8)
- Legal advice (see page 10)

Numbers are rising, year on year

In 2018/19, our Day Centre welcomed 269 refugee friends in an average month.



“What JRS offers you is not material. It is like family. A feeling of being alive.”

A refugee friend



Refugee friends and JRS team regularly share warmth and laughter at the Day Centre.

A community built on hope

Creative and therapeutic activities help refugees find hope and joy.

JRS UK's Day Centre doesn't only provide practical support. With input from refugee friends, we've put together a busy timetable of activities that take place in the course of the week. Some of these activities, like art, offer refugee friends a creative outlet. Others, like Pedal Power (women's cycle lessons in collaboration with The Bike Project), help them acquire useful skills.

By taking part, refugee friends feel part of a caring community. This is particularly important when, outside our doors, they often face hostility.

Creative and therapeutic activities

In 2018/19, here are some of the activities and events we offered.

- Creative Arts Space
- A community kitchen, where refugee friends share recipes and prepare food
- A choir
- Women's cycle lessons (Pedal Power)
- Therapeutic activities, including music therapy
- One-to-one English tuition for older women who are not able to attend classes
- Family days out



Finding hope

Spirituality is important to many refugee friends. In 2018/19, we saw an increase in the number of people joining our weekly prayer groups.

Although JRS UK is grounded in Catholic social teaching, our staff and volunteers are of many religions, and we work with refugees regardless of their faith.

At our prayer groups, our refugee friends have the chance to explore aspects of their own faith and others. Sharing thoughts about spirituality helps a bond to grow within the group. Together, participants find strength, resilience and hope in themselves and others, which they can take into their everyday lives.

JRS UK community (refugees, volunteers and staff) share meals together each day.



19 attended monthly Men's Reflection group



33 attended the weekly Women's Prayer Circle



A group of refugee friends took part in a retreat offered in collaboration with the Augustinian Convent, Boarbank Hall in Cumbria.



Women come together in prayer each week.

Michael and Jess joined the JRS UK in January to set-up the new Legal Project.



Launching our Legal Project

In 2018/19, JRS UK started a new Legal Project, which aims to help destitute refugees progress complex immigration cases and access legal advice and representation.

In January 2019, a new project began to provide specialist immigration legal advice to destitute refugee friends, who attend JRS UK's Day Centre. The UK immigration system is exceptionally complex and there have been numerous examples of errors and injustice.

Through the Legal Project, we want to ensure refugee friends have access to specialist legal advice and representation. Our refugee friends are now able speak to lawyers about their case and get a thorough assessment of where they stand.

The Legal Project undertakes the in depth research that allows us to advise on next steps, and progress cases either by referring to legal aid solicitors or by running the cases ourselves. The cases we are working on are about fresh claims, statelessness and family life.

About our legal advice team

Our team includes two OISC level three advisors, and three volunteers who help with interpreting, case research and accompanying refugee friends to appointments.

Support with complex cases

How we work with refugee friends to resolve their immigration status.

1 Identifying legal issues early

All new visitors to JRS UK Day Centre are registered, and this gives us the opportunity to identify legal issues and deadlines at the earliest stage.

74 new refugee friends registered

2 Assessment of cases

We work with refugee friends to understand what's happening to their immigration case and what steps need to follow.

82 people seen

3 Legal representation

Our legal advice team prepares new asylum or immigration cases for submission to the Home Office.

58 cases started

3 fresh claims submitted
1 discretionary leave to remain granted



Bishop Paul MacAleenan and the JRS UK Detention Outreach Team on a pastoral visit to Heathrow detention centre.

A snapshot of our Detention Outreach work in 2018/19

27 victims of trafficking supported in detention

42 people receiving visits

148 people getting support with their case

1324 interactions with people in detention

Supporting refugee friends in detention

Supporting refugees held in detention centres is an important part of our work.

Many of our refugee friends live with the constant threat of being taken into detention. The UK's detention centres are among the darkest places in our society.

Denied their freedom, vulnerable people are forced to endure inhumane conditions - not knowing how or when their detention will end.

Many refugees describe being in detention as the most isolating experience they've ever faced, and we're determined to ensure they don't endure it without support.

JRS UK provides practical support, including liaising with solicitors, and assisting in booking appointments.

As part of our mission to accompany refugees, we also visit men held in detention at Colnbrook and Harmondsworth, and women in the short-term holding facility at Colnbrook. Our volunteers are there to listen, provide emotional support and to show that someone cares.

We are visiting an increasing number of victims of trafficking in detention.

About our team

Volunteers play a huge role in our work to support refugee friends in detention.

- Two fulltime staff
- Around 30 volunteers

A new initiative

Some refugees are taken into detention for a period of time only to be released into UK society - destitute once more. In October 2018, we began a new small project, facilitating peer-to-peer support for those leaving detention.



© Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

At Home: hosting refugee friends

Many of our refugee friends face homelessness. Through our At Home scheme, we provide placements with hosts.

Denied the right to work or any support from the state, refugees face homelessness. Some of our refugee friends stay with friends – sleeping on the floor or sofa. They know that at any time they may be forced to move on. We have worked with refugees who have sought shelter on night buses or slept out on the streets.

We run a small hosting scheme called At Home to help refugee friends facing street homelessness. After registering at our Day Centre, we work with them to arrange three or six month placements with hosts.

Our hosts are primarily religious communities, but families and couples are also part of the scheme.

JRS UK supports hosts with regular meetings and reflection mornings

Plans for the future

We hope to expand this important area of our work in 2019/20.

Next year, we hope to open a house in south London offering longer placements for refugee friends who face street homelessness. A building has been secured. Funding is in place. The planning process is under way.



Naomi, our hosting scheme co-ordinator, supports one of our volunteer hosts, Nora.

“I knew straight away that it was a manageable situation because her smile, straight away [...] she’s got that lovely smile and I thought, oh, that’s ok.”

Nora, a host in the At Home scheme, speaking about the moment she first met the refugee friend she was to host

Volunteer’s story

Volunteer hosts make a huge difference in the life of a refugee, offering a home and expecting nothing in return. Nora hosted Charita (not her real name) for 5 months and spoke to our At Home Coordinator, Naomi, about what she has gained from the experience.

Charita quickly became part of the home, and she and Nora have enjoyed sharing simple moments, like embarking on food shops together and attending Mass together in Nora’s local parish.

When Charita went away with her own church for a few days, Nora surprised herself at how much she missed her, saying: “I suddenly felt the house had lost a spirit. I really was sad the first day.

“I was amazed. I realised that at that stage she obviously had become part of my life. It wasn’t just a matter of renting a room up to somebody or giving a room to something, actually she was part of the house and heart.”

For both Nora and Charita, the union that hosting offered has brought a sense of hope and enduring companionship, no matter what the future entails.



A snapshot of our work in 2018/19



20 refugee friends facing street homelessness were hosted.



3,765 nights of accommodation were provided.

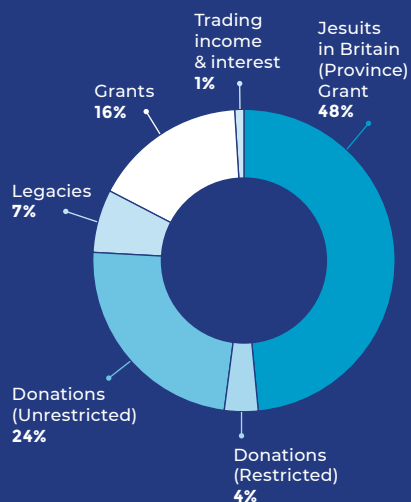
At Home hosts came together for a reflection morning to share their experiences hosting a refugee.

© Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

Income & Expenditure 2018/19

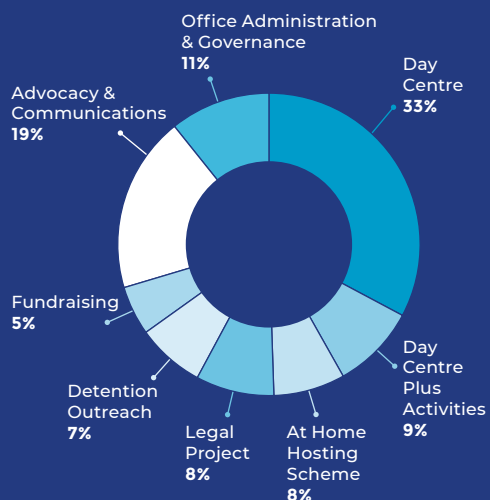
Income

Jesuits in Britain (Province) Grant	£362,809
Donations (Restricted)	£26,910
Donations (Unrestricted)	£177,919
Legacies	£50,500
Grants	£122,737
Trading income & interest	£7,380
Total income	£748,256



Expenditure

Day Centre	£330,409
Day Centre Plus Activities	£91,249
At Home Hosting Scheme	£77,066
Legal Project	£84,366
Detention Outreach	£73,305
Fundraising	£53,043
Advocacy & Communications	£190,200
Office Administration & Governance	£108,328
Total Expenditure	£1,007,966



A copy of full audited accounts are available on request.



Governance

JRS UK is a work of Jesuits in Britain, who are governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by the Provincial, Fr Damian Howard 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 work in partnership with other religious congregations, humanitarian organisations and with refugees themselves, encouraging co-responsibility, communal discernment and participative decision-making.

We endeavour to be openly accountable for our work. We have an independent bank account, budget, and payroll. 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 the Jesuits in Britain. Our Management Committee includes Jesuits, other charity practitioners, and refugees we accompany. The Management Committee reports to the British Jesuit Provincial.

The Jesuits in Britain are The Society of Jesus Trust (of 1929) for Roman Catholic Purposes. Registered as a Charity in England & Wales (230165) and Scotland (40490).

Some of the JRS Team celebrating International Women's Day.



A big and heartfelt thank you

All too often, refugees who came to the UK in search of safety meet with hostility. To everyone who supports JRS UK, thank you for being different.

Every year, we face a huge struggle to raise the funds needed to do our work. Without your compassion and kindness, we couldn't continue. We're extremely grateful to you all - to the people and families who send donations; to the faith and community groups who come together to support us; and the foundations who provide grants.

Thanks to your generosity and kindness, we can accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum.

JRS Community preparing for the London Legal Walk.



Thank you to everyone who supported refugee friends in 2018/19.

Kind supporters include:

Catholic Women's League	LPC Law
Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Blackheath	Marist Sisters
Congregation of Jesus	Methodist Church Fund for Human Need
Cuckoo Hill Trust	National Lottery - Awards for All
Daughters of the Heart of Mary	Porticus Foundation
FareShare	Principal
First Love Foundation	Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux
Hands On London	St Dunstan's Catholic Church, Woking
Husseys Butchers	The Bernadette Charitable Trust
LDS Charities	The Hygiene Bank
Little Company of Mary	The Pret Foundation
London Churches Refugee Fund	Vera Outhwaite Charitable Trust
London Faith and Belief Awards	Waitrose & Partners Wapping
London Legal Support Trust	



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.

Help us support refugees

Donate:

On our website:

www.jrsuk.net/donate

Call us: 020 7488 7310

Raise awareness:

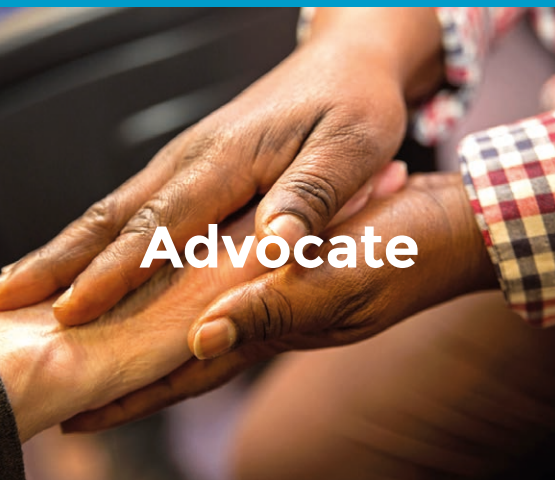
Follow us: @JRSUK

Like us: /jesuitrefugeeserviceuk

Subscribe: 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