

The Refugee Survival Trust is a small charity that provides grants and integrated support services to asylum seekers and refugees living in Scotland.

These grants and services alleviate poverty and destitution, or help refugees and asylum seekers to access education and employment.

RST uses the information and experience gained to lobby for improved conditions for asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland.

Stay in touch:



@RefugeeSurvival



Refugee Survival Trust

www.rst.org.uk

Please read this newsletter and pass it on to spread the word about our work.

Prefer to receive email updates?

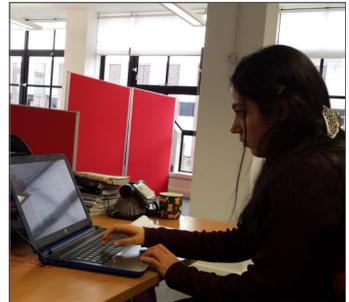
Send us your full name and email address and we'll update your contact preferences.

Interns in the office!

In January we started a new internship programme, in partnership with Glasgow Clyde College. We offer asylum seekers and refugees studying at the college a six-week unpaid internship in our office, which is a great opportunity for them to get some work experience and a reference from a UK organisation. Meanwhile, they help us a great deal and we've learnt an awful lot from all of them!

"I have not done volunteer work before, so I think this opportunity will be great for me and I'm sure that my skills will be improved later on. I'm studying a science course so I'm quite good at doing reports and statistics."

Doaa, Iraq



"I have interest in volunteer work and I did a lot of activity in South and West Sudan with Red Cross organisation for 10 months. I hope my skill will be helpful in the organisation"

Fadol, Sudan

"I loved the people here they are very helpful and taught me many things. It was useful volunteering here I did quite a good things translating, filing and other office tasks."

Walid, Syria



Introducing... Rasha Tindal

We are delighted to introduce Rasha Tindal, who has recently been appointed as the new chairperson of the Refugee Survival Trust.

Rasha is currently working for Glasgow Clyde College as the ESOL Employment Officer.

Rasha has worked with asylum seekers and refugees for the last 10 years. Initially, she worked in a frontline services position with asylum seekers and refugees at the Scottish Refugee Council as an asylum and integration advisor offering support, immigration advice and sustained advocacy.

Throughout her career, she has always worked to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are aware of their rights and entitlements in the U.K.



It's not an easy ride...



Our coordinator Zoe will be participating in the 1400km London—Edinburgh—London cycle ride at the end of July.

The event, which will have more than 1,000 participants, takes place every 4 years and there will be participants from all over the world!

Zoe is looking for extra motivation and would appreciate any:

- Training partners
- Supporters (especially those with cake) along the route, and
- (Most importantly) sponsorship, which will go to RST:

<https://localgiving.org/fundraising/zoerides1400>

New partners in Edinburgh!

Asylum seekers and refugees living in Edinburgh will now find it easier to apply for the Refugee Survival Trust's grant programmes, as two organisations in the city have become referral partners.

Staff at The Welcoming Association and Saheliya will be able to distribute one-day Lothian bus and tram passes to destitute asylum seekers, as well as to submit applications for Destitution Grants and Access to Education and Employment Grants.

Until now, the vast majority of our grant recipients were living in the Greater Glasgow area. Glasgow is currently the only area in Scotland that refugees are officially dispersed to and so traditionally the majority of refugees and asylum seekers live in the city. However, in recent years more refugees have moved to different cities in Scotland, and an increasing number are choosing Edinburgh as their home.



The Welcoming's community meets Nicola Sturgeon



Saheliya's staff from Edinburgh and Glasgow



A weekly conversation café at the Welcoming

Refugees or Asylum Seekers in Edinburgh requiring support can visit:

- **The Welcoming Association** (20/1 Westfield Avenue, EH11 2TT) Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- **Saheliya** (125 McDonald Road, Edinburgh EH7 4NW) Monday to Friday from 9am to 4:30pm (women only)

Fundraisers galore!

Thank you to everyone who has already organised fundraising events this year! These events are a huge opportunity to raise awareness about destitute refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland, as well as raising funds for our work. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please contact Katherine on Volunteer_Coordinator@rst.org.uk. We're particularly looking for more fundraising volunteers in Glasgow.



Katherine , Shyar and Walid at the ELREC Cycle for Refugees

The Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council organised the 'ELREC Cycle for Refugees' event at the end of March. The event was great fun and raised a total of £1001!

Dates for your diary...

• **21** •

JUNE

RST International Concert: an evening of music and international food
Lauriston Hall, Edinburgh
7pm

• **23** •

JUNE

Global stories, local action: echoes from home
3 films and conversation
CCA: Glasgow, 6pm
globaljustice.org.uk/echoesfromhome



Kinross Parish Church held a collection and raised more than £1,100 towards our grants programmes.



STAR — University of Edinburgh group organised a Festival of Cultures in aid of the Refugee Survival Trust, raising more than £400.

• **26** •

AUGUST

*Surviving in Scotland for 21 years: an evening of art, poetry and music
Just Festival, Edinburgh*

• **3** •

OCTOBER

*Refugee Survival Trust
Annual General Meeting
City Chambers, Edinburgh,
5:30pm*

DASS Evaluation results

The DASS project is now in its third year and is continuing to support long term destitute people in Glasgow. We recently completed our Year 2 evaluation. DASS staff, service users and external stakeholders were interviewed by independent evaluators Helen Baillot and Elaine Connelly. Thanks to everyone who took part. Here are some of the findings:

- In year two, a total of 191 people benefitted from the Destitute Asylum Seeker Service.
- The majority (75%) were men, with 40% of people falling in the 25-34-year-old age range.
- People from 36 different countries were assisted.
- More people than projected have been able to benefit from advice.
- Partners reported that they felt they were working more effectively together.
- Some elements of the service have been able to expand with the recruitment of an accommodation support worker and a research and policy and advocacy officer at the beginning of Year 3.



FOUNDATION



LOTTERY FUNDED



Foundation Scotland

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*Funded by Foundation Scotland
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The evaluation provided an insight into the experience of destitution and how people cope:

- Just over half of the people who used the service were recorded as having been destitute for less than a year, although many people had been in and out of destitution over many years.
- Most people relied primarily upon friends for shelter and food while they were living in destitution.
- Living in destitution was widely described as being humiliating and sometimes dangerous. People felt hopeless and scared about the future.
- Five of 12 service user interviewees had considered suicide.

A number of recommendations were made for improving the DASS service, including improving data collection and the need to develop more accommodation services. Feedback from service users was particularly welcome:

"I have some hope because I have a private space and I can think about it and I can do some activities to relax myself and speak to friends and something. At the moment I am really coping. Sometimes I feel depressed but I can get out from that depression because I have an appeal and I have a space to stay"

After final adjustments, the evaluation will be available to read in full on the RST website.



Refugee Veg Pledge!

In May, we started an appeal for our shopping budget programme, through which we give small amounts of cash to help refugees with their weekly shop.

The destitute asylum seekers we work with have no form of income. We help them to register for the food bank, but the supply of fresh food is limited and variable. We give each asylum seeker £10 per week to buy nutritious essentials like dairy products and fresh fruit and veg.

Donate now at: <https://localgiving.org/appeal/vegpledge/>

Funding successes

We've been delighted to be awarded a number of grants already in 2017, including:

- £500 from the James T Howat Charitable Trust
- £2,000 from the MEB Charitable Trust
- £300 from the Marsh Christian Trust
- £20,000 from the AB Charitable Trust
- £3,000 from Langside Community Budgeting
- £3,000 from the Swan Mountain Trust
- £500 from the RKT Harris Charitable Trust
- £12,000 from the Allen Lane Foundation
- £2,000 from the Trades House of Glasgow Commonweal Fund
- £500 from the Thirkleby Trust
- £3,500 from the Endrick Trust
- £400 from the Split Infinitive Trust
- £2,500 from the Robina Goodlad Memorial Trust
- £2,500 from the Leigh Trust
- £490 from the Scottish Refugee Council Creative Communities Fund



Katherine and Mick receiving a grant for £2,000 at the Trades House of Glasgow Commonweal Fund Awards



Refugee
Survival
Trust

We rely on help and support given by people in Scotland. Thanks to you we are able to help hundreds of vulnerable and destitute people each year.

But it's getting harder - harsh legislation and an often ineffective asylum system force more people to rely on RST funding to survive, we need your help more than ever.

Encourage friends or family to join us: pass on this newsletter and ask them to make a donation, become a member or volunteer their time.

New ideas? Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to organise an event, collect sponsorship or volunteer with us!

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Charity no: SC024328

Please make a donation to help us to continue our essential work.

Please contact info@rst.org.uk if you would like to set up a regular donation.

You can also donate online: www.rst.org.uk.

Title: Full Name:

Full address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone: Email:

- I would like to make a donation of £ and enclose a cheque/postal order payable to the Refugee Survival Trust for this amount.
- Gift Aid Declaration** (please tick): *I want all the donation I've made since 6th April 2010 and all donation in the future to qualify for Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p tax for every £1 that I donate. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal the amount of tax that RST, all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs I donate to, will reclaim in the tax year.*

I would like to receive updates via email via post

I would like to become a member of RST

Please return to: **Refugee Survival Trust, Robertson House, 152 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4TB**