

RST

Refugee
Survival
Trust



Annual Review 2018-19

Chair's Report

2018-19 was another busy year for the Refugee Survival Trust. We continued to provide all our programmes successfully and to develop new projects whilst dealing with some difficult issues, and come out of the year in a relatively healthy position.

There continued to be very high demand for our Destitution Grants – we distributed 1,494 grants over the year with a value of over £110,000, supporting around 2,000 people. We coped successfully when faced with the serious depletion of funds for these grants and ended the year not only with a very healthy balance but with a professional fundraiser on the staff team, to focus on long-term sustainability in their funding.

The Destitute Asylum Seeker Service (DASS) project continued in its invaluable work with asylum seekers experiencing long-term destitution and again increased the number of people it worked with, by more than 25%. The research report on the project was well received; it is now being used in policy and strategy development by the Scottish Government and COSLA. We were delighted that the project was funded for a further three year cycle.

We built on our existing daily Bus Pass programme by introducing a new Bump and Baby Bus Pass scheme, through which asylum seekers who are pregnant or who have recently had a baby can apply for a 10-week bus pass.

We campaigned, among other things, in response to the threat by Serco of lock-change evictions of asylum seekers. Fortunately evictions were stalled and did not occur in 2018-19, but the threat remains very severe. Our healthy grants fund and fundraiser means we are better prepared to cope with this occurrence in future.

The Board entered a period of renewal, including a change in Chair and the recruitment of a number of new replacement trustees to strengthen governance. The Board and staff are now working with a consultant to focus on organisational sustainability, and to review and develop our strategic direction in the light of the growth in demand for grants and the



range of our projects.

Our total income in 2018-19 was £714,583, derived entirely from grants and donations. Over the same period our expenditure was £475,814. The income recognised this year included significant income for the next cycle of DASS, resulting in RST for the first time breaking the threshold that triggers the need for an audit, with its more in-depth assessment of our finances and processes.

Mick Patrick (November 2019)

Vision

The vision of RST is that all refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland receive just and respectful treatment and support appropriate to their needs.

Mission

Our mission is to do everything within our available resources and powers to achieve that vision by enabling and supporting asylum seekers and refugees in need, particularly those who are facing destitution.



RST aims to:

1. Contribute to prevention and alleviation of **destitution** among asylum seekers and refugees by meeting basic needs.

2. Increase opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to be **active citizens**.





3. Raise awareness of the issues facing asylum seekers and refugees, particularly destitution.

4. Contribute to the development of policy and good practice with reference to refugees and asylum seekers facing destitution.

2018-19 highlights

June 2018

Refugee Week events include “New Scots on Screen” including a premiere of our “Glasgow Welcome” film, and a guided walk up Arthur’s Seat in Edinburgh .with poet Helen Boden.



April 2018

Two of our supporters purchase a two bedroomed flat in Glasgow and donate it to the DASS project.

The second cohort of our Glasgow Welcome befriending project is launched.

July 2018

Serco lock change evictions start and RST sees an increase in demand for our destitution grants. We launch an emergency appeal to keep our grants fund open.

August 2018

The DASS project is awarded £110,000 from the Scottish Government, shared between RST, the Scottish Refugee Council and the British Red Cross.

Seemia Theatre puts on a play called “Evros: Crossing the River” at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and collects donations for RST.



May 2018

We organise a ceilidh for our befriending partners, volunteers and friends.

Our befriending pairs do a tour of the National Library of Scotland’s Moving Image Archive at Kelvinhall.



September 2018

After levering in more than £100,000 in donations to our Destitution Grants fund, we announce that it is here to stay!

October 2018

The Lift the Ban coalition is launched, with the Refugee Survival Trust as one of its members campaigning for asylum seekers to have the right to work
We hold our AGM alongside a photography exhibition at Townhead Village Hall.

November 2018



We receive £20,000 towards destitution grants for destitute asylum seeker families with children from the Scottish Children's Lottery.

December 2018

Our annual winter bus pass appeal raises more than £2,500 plus Gift Aid.



January 2019

Our befriending partners spend the day at a workshop in conjunction with Bikes4Good
We bid a fond farewell to our Chair Rasha, who leaves us to spend time with her family.

February 2019

We launch our Bump and Baby bus pass programme, giving 10-week passes to heavily pregnant and new mother asylum seekers.

We participate in training for teachers with WOSDEC and Refuweegee.



March 2019

From Pillar to Post, our DASS research report about destitution amongst people refused asylum in Scotland, is published.

Student volunteers launch a new restaurant-based fundraising strategy for RST in St Andrews.



Destitute Asylum Seeker Service

The Destitute Asylum Seeker Service (DASS) is a partnership project led by RST which works with people seeking asylum who are homeless and living without financial support.

This year DASS provided casework, advocacy, legal support, emergency shelter and temporary accommodation to 392 destitute asylum seekers, a rise of 27% on the previous year.

We also had our first DASS baby, accommodating a mother to be in DASS accommodation for five months before she moved into Home Office accommodation and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl.

DASS services and referrals 2018-19

11,680 nights of shelter and temporary accommodation

392 received advice and advocacy

52 referrals to specialist health services

68 returned to Home Office accommodation or support

51 individuals received Legal advice

213 referrals to food services

11 individuals granted leave to remain



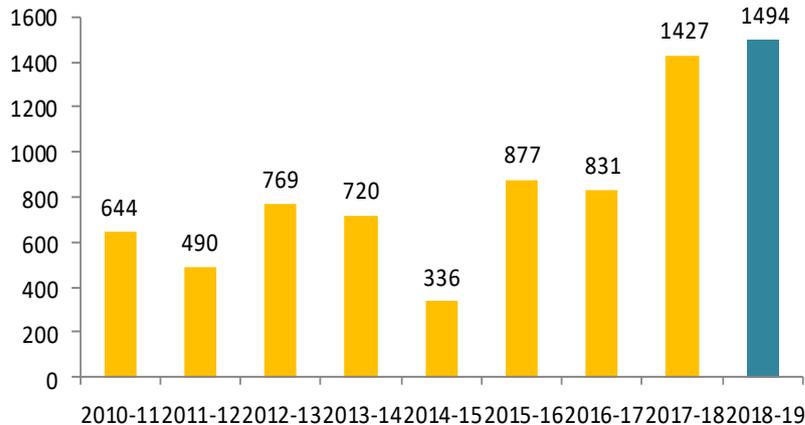
Destitution Grants

Destitution grants are given out to asylum seekers and refugees up to six months after they are granted refugee status as a last resort when they receive no other type of support. A weekly destitution grant is £36 for adults and £40 for children, which they can receive for up to two consecutive weeks.

In 2018-2019 the number of RST grants given out slightly increased from the high levels of last year's



Number of destitution grants awarded per year



record, however, the total value of grants decreased. 2018-2019 was the second year in the history of RST where the value of grants surpassed £100,000. We distributed 1,494 grants over the year with a value of over £110,000. The average grant amount was £74.75.

27% of all the grants were for travel, of which more than two thirds were for individuals in need to go to Liverpool to submit fresh claims or further evidence for their asylum case.



Bus passes

For many years, RST has distributed daily bus passes to allow individuals to attend important meetings and also to meet friends and attend community events.

In 2019 we built on our existing daily bus pass programme by introducing a new **Bump and Baby bus pass** scheme, through which asylum seekers who are pregnant or recently had a baby can apply for a 10-week bus pass. The only criteria are that the applicant is in the asylum process and that the bus pass starts up to seven weeks before or after the birth of their child.

The first 10-week pass was given out in early 2019 and from then until March a total of 18 bus passes were delivered to asylum seekers in need. Of these 18 mothers:

- 1 was homeless at the time of the application
- 13 were single parents
- 1 had a physical health condition
- 2 had a mental health condition
- 5 of the mothers had a total of 10 other children



Glasgow Welcome

This is a project in which local people living in Glasgow and surrounding areas are paired up with newcomers from a refugee or asylum background. The objective of the program is to encourage integration and reduce isolation. Participants develop and build friendships while exploring the city together, and enjoy free cultural and social events which many people would struggle to enjoy without company.

Befrienders are selected and matched by the Volunteer Engagement Officer based on a range of criteria: gender, age, interests, and availability. Befrienders (both local and newcomers) receive training and are invited to a launch event where they get to meet their matches. They sign an agreement to meet every two weeks for an hour or two and to participate in group activities. At the end of the six-month programme, they are invited to attend an end of programme celebration. They can continue their friendship after this period if they choose to.

In 2018-19, 28 volunteers were matched with a befriending partner. They also participated in group activities, such as a workshop in partnership with Bike for Good.



Gisella and Natasha

Befriending pair Natasha and Gisella got on so well. Natasha said she was looking forward to being in the same boat with Gisella exploring the city she had always known and was new to Gisella. Both of them chose to continue their friendship beyond the six months. The story of their friendship is featured in our new video 'The Same Boat'.

Internship programme

In 2018-19 we received funding from Impact Funding Partners to continue our internship programme for the next three years.

Through the programme, we welcome asylum seeker and refugee interns into the office for seven-week placements.

Seventeen interns completed office placements during 2018-19. They got involved in all aspects of our work, including participating in meetings, school talks and events. Many also participated in blog writing workshops, led by talented volunteer Patrick, and then wrote social media content for RST.



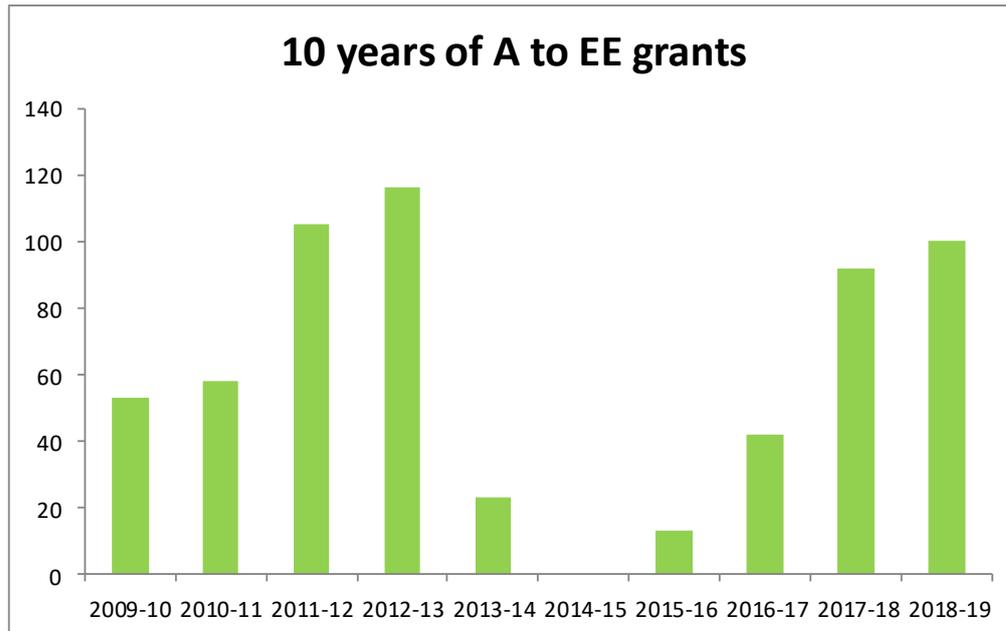
Access to Education and Employment grants

Refugees and asylum seekers who want to study or work can apply to RST for an Access to Education and Employment grant of up to £150 to overcome any barriers to starting a course or a job. Such costs might include: translation of qualifications, course materials, exam fees or travel to college or interviews.

In 2018-19 we awarded 100 grants to a total of £11,094.99 to 59 women and 41 men from 29 different countries. The range of courses and jobs accessed was very wide, including Accountancy, Beauty Therapy, Construction Plant

Training, Door Supervision, Electrical Engineering, English as a Foreign Language, Farming, Forklift Driving, Health and Safety, Health and Social Care, Law, Lifeguarding, Medicine, Mental Health, Nursing, Pattern Drafting, Pharmacy, Phlebotomy, Religious Education, Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps, Social Science and Software Development.

In total, we have awarded more than 600 grants over the past 10 years of the programme.



Fantastic fundraisers

Are ye dancin'?

Our ceilidh in May at Kinning Park Complex was a first experience of Scottish dancing for many of our befrienders and a brilliant time was had by all!



The amazing Ceilidh Collective once again chose us as a charity partner for their Harvest Ceilidh in October, raising more than £1,500.

Food for thought ...

Libby and Stanley, students at the University of St Andrews, started a partnership with local restaurant Blackhorn Burgers, through which profits from a vegetarian wrap and burger are donated to RST.



The BlackHorn Refugee Project
LIBBY AND STANLEY

Runners and hikers



Andrew ran the Great North Run for RST, raising £410.



Rebecca ran the Great Scottish Run and raised £818.50.



Mick made it up all seven hills of Edinburgh, raising £150.

Raffle

Uta's Joolz in Edinburgh celebrated their birthday in October by holding a special raffle for RST, with some of their beautiful jewellery as prizes.



Do us a favour...

Our amazing volunteer Erin and her husband Chris donated to RST on behalf of every guest at her wedding! What a lovely idea!





Warm welcome in schools

We were delighted to restart our school talks programme in January 2019. We recruited a number of our office interns as talks ambassadors—they are able to draw on their own experiences of asylum and migration to create engaging and interactive sessions for the school children. Thank you to Auchenlodment Primary School, St Fillan's Primary School and Highpark Primary School for hosting us!

Volunteers

Volunteers have played a huge part in RST's work this year - everything from organising events and writing grant applications to contributing guest pieces for the blog and representing the organisation at community events.

Behind the scenes a small, dedicated group of volunteers have been supporting our crucial destitution grants by updating and checking databases. We've also had amazing volunteers supporting our social media campaigns and grants applications to bring in essential extra funds. Others have written guest blog pieces or helped to analyse and communicate statistics about destitution to a broader audience. Our befriending volunteers have brought so much fun to the project, and have enthusiastically shared their culture with new friends. It's been a joy to work with so many fantastic volunteers this year - a huge thanks to every single one of you!



Staff

Our staff team continues to work tirelessly to improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland. This year we saw an expansion to our work on community engagement and policy, as well as strengthening our core work.

Thank you to: **Alaric, Andrew, Azita, Caroline, Cath, Dodee, Katherine, Mahdi, Mhairi and Zoe** for all of your contributions in 2018-19.



Hundreds of destitute asylum seekers forced to travel from Scotland to Liverpool

759 views

Torture victims and vulnerable women were among hundreds of asylum seekers forced to make 400-mile round trips from Scotland to England to make fresh claims for sanctuary in the UK.

Over the past two years, a Scottish charity helping destitute asylum seekers called Refugee Survival Trust (RST) has given out 570 grants to people in desperate financial situations, so they can travel from Scotland to Liverpool for appointments with the Home Office.

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Immigration and asylum

This article is more than 1 month old

Halt 'inhumane' Glasgow asylum seeker evictions, Serco urged

Housing provider is expected to enter first premises and change locks in next few days



▲ A refurbished night shelter for asylum seekers in Glasgow has space for 22 people, but 300 could be affected. Photograph: Jonathan Brady/PA

A coalition of refugee and housing charities in Scotland is urging Serco to halt the "inhumane" eviction of hundreds of refused asylum seekers, days before the private housing provider is expected to enter the first premises in Glasgow and change the locks.

Libby Brooks Scotland correspondent
Tue 9 Jul 2019 18:13 BST

285

THE NATIONAL
THE NEWSPAPER THAT SUPPORTS AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

NEWS POLITICS COMMENT CULTURE COMMUNITY SPORT BUSINESS SHOP 10,000 STEP

NEWS
5th June

Calls to lift working ban on 'highly skilled' asylum seekers

By Karin Goodwin | Karin_Goodwin Reporter



Phiona and her husband Michael Hattou set up Ractant and Bringer

4 comments

RENEWED calls to lift the ban on asylum seekers working in Scotland have been made by charities, as research highlights the majority have a high level of skills and education that could help them contribute to the economy.

tfn Third Force News: the voice of Scotland's third sector

Funding & Finance Management Environment & International Regeneration & Housing Families & Young People Social Po

Refugees face shocking levels of destitution



Refugees are struggling to eat, having to walk miles every day and are being stuck in exploitative relationships, a study has shown

RST in the News

We believe that media coverage is one of the most effective ways of sharing information about our work, and the issues faced by our beneficiaries, with a wider audience.

To that end, we regularly produce press releases and statistics and share with a wide range of press and media contacts, as well as responding to ad hoc demands from contacts.

Influencing policy

“From Pillar to Post” - DASS Research

Published in March 2019, the DASS project’s “From Pillar to Post” report evidenced the barriers faced by people who have been refused asylum to access services and support, including health, housing, transport and education. The report calls for the Scottish Government to develop human rights based strategy against asylum and migrant destitution, which is now underway. It generated press coverage throughout the UK and was well received.

Lift the Ban - campaigning for asylum seekers to have the right to work

As a member of the Lift the Ban coalition, RST has been actively campaigning for asylum seekers to have the right to work. Our Policy and Research Officer undertook a survey of 50 asylum seekers in Glasgow, and the results of the research were released in June 2019.



Statistical analysis

We collect an incredible amount of data through our different programmes, which provide an invaluable insight into the extent and causes of destitution amongst refugees in Scotland. We use this analysis to provide evidence for our research, updates for our partners, stories for our press releases and as feedback for our own work and how we can improve our current services.

Partnership working

All of our work is rooted in strong partnerships, including the DASS project, and our grants programmes, which are all delivered via partners.

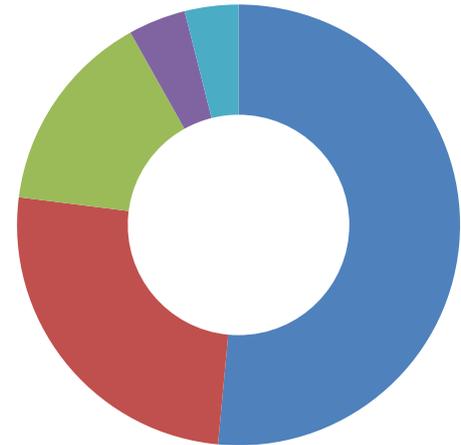
We continue to be active members in a range of local, national and UK wide networks, including the Glasgow Asylum Action Network (GLADAN), the Scottish Asylum Stakeholder Forum Group (SASF) with the Home Office, the Third Sector Forum with asylum accommodation provider SERCO and the UK wide NACCOM (No Accommodation) Network.

We often link in our activities to wider events and campaigns. This year we organised events as part of the Refugee Festival Scotland and Challenge Poverty Week campaign.



Income 2018-19

	£	%
Oak Foundation	367,881	51%
Charitable Trusts	182,420	26%
Donations and events	106,282	15%
Scottish Government	30,000	4%
British Red Cross	28,000	4%
Total	714,583	

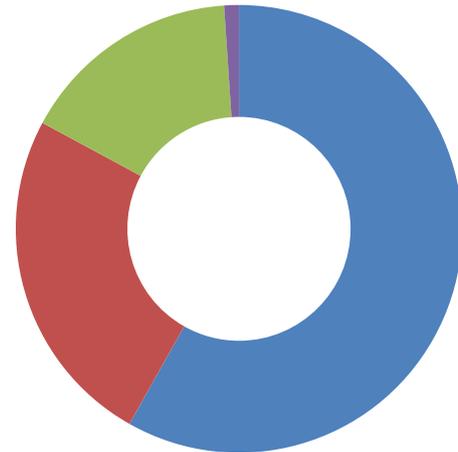


- Oak Foundation
- Charitable Trusts
- Donations and events
- Scottish Government
- British Red Cross

Expenditure 2018-19

	£	%
DASS Project	276,768	58%
Grants to individuals	117,448	25%
Other charitable activities	76,521	16%
Governance	5,077	1%
Total	475,814	

Net income	238,769
Funds brought forward	150,833
Funds carried forward	389,602



- DASS Project
- Grants to individuals
- Other charitable activities
- Governance

Funders 2018-19

AB Charitable Trust

Baillie Gifford

Bellahouston Bequest Fund

Binks Trust

British Red Cross

Chance to Flourish

Guardian Grants

KPE4

Impact Funding Partners (formerly
Voluntary Action Fund)

Newby Trust

Oak Foundation

Robertson Trust

Scottish Government

Seedbed Trust

...and those that wish to remain
anonymous.



OAK
FOUNDATION



A message to our partners and supporters

Thank You!

To all our partners and supporters- you are too many to mention individually but we thank each and every one of you for your solidarity, encouragement and willingness to share your time and knowledge with us.

We couldn't do it without you!





Refugee
Survival
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Refugee Survival Trust

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Refugee Survival Trust is a Registered Scottish Charity SC024328 and Company SC274440

Isa

I learned how many
people die during
the way to safety

Rose,

I learned that many
refugees go through
alot just so they can
be safe.

Isira

I learned how
refugees feel and
how they travel.

Isa

Edwin

I learned that refugees
travel in dangerous
ways like mountain
climbs, sea and gorges.

Edwin

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