

# Friends Without Borders



## Annual Report and Accounts 2014

**Registered Charity Number: 1080187**

**OISC Authorisation Number: N201300064**

## Time for a Time Limit – Parliamentarians call for a 28 day maximum time limit on immigration detention to be introduced.

A cross-party group of MPs and Peers has recommended that the next government should introduce a maximum time limit of 28 days on the length of time anyone can be detained in immigration detention.

**Sarah Teather MP, Chair of the Inquiry panel and Lib Dem MP for Brent Central, said:**

“The UK is an outlier in not having a time limit on detention. During the inquiry, we heard about the huge uncertainty this causes people to live with, not knowing if tomorrow they will be released, removed from the country, or continue being in detention.

As a panel, we have concluded that the current system is expensive, ineffective and unjust. We are calling the next Government to learn from the alternatives to detention that focus on engagement with individuals in their communities, rather than relying on enforcement and deprivation of liberty.”

Cover image courtesy of Alex Cazas

Our Patron The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and Friends celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# Chairman's Report

## Welcome to the Friends Without Borders Annual Report

The year 2014 was a notable one for us:

- We celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a notable achievement for a small charity;
- Access to Justice got off the ground – also a notable achievement – we're one of the only visiting groups in the country to have such qualified legal advisers on our staff;
- We changed our name from Haslar Visitors Group to Friends Without Borders in order to better describe the wider work we do;
- Natalia Sabadas left as assistant coordinator and Frances Pilling was appointed Deputy Coordinator. The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth became a Patron;
- We prepared to say goodbye to John Bingham who is retiring as a trustee in 2015. It is largely due to John's wisdom and dedication over the last 20 years that our charity continues its work. He is continuing to volunteer so will still be around though not at the helm.

Immigration Detention continues to be a scar on the national conscience. The decision to detain men and women in immigration removal centres is an administrative one, it is not made by a judge and those detained do not know whether they will be held in prison-like conditions for days, months or even years. We call for an end to indefinite detention and associate ourselves with the Detention Forum, a coalition of about 30 organisations, which is campaigning for a time limit to detention (Britain is one of only three countries in Europe not to have this). Meanwhile we continue visiting the men detained in IRC Haslar and hope to bring them a little comfort.

Destitution among asylum seekers is also a source of national shame. Those who receive some support still cannot meet their essential living needs on £5 a day, they may not starve but cannot live like that for long. They are not allowed to work and should be allowed to do so. Those whose asylum claims have reached the end of the line get no statutory support at all, and a quarter of them are homeless. The system is utterly disempowering with people kept in administrative limbo unable to work or carry on with a normal life, sometimes for many years: the Friends Without Borders Destitution Fund is still, sadly, much needed. Our Drop-in Service, two mornings a week, hopefully brings some support and re-assurance.

Finally I should like to thank our staff, our volunteers, supporters and funders for all their concern and work. In Islam it is said that if you save one man's life you save the whole world. What is certainly true is that the world is a better place for the work we all do.

**Michael Woolley**  
Chairman

20<sup>th</sup> February 2015

# 2014 – A Milestone – 20 Years

## Co-ordinator's Report

On our front cover this year we have The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Stephen Wylie alongside clients and friends. The Lord Mayor was with us when we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year. We are delighted to have had the privilege to work with so many wonderful people from all over the world for the last 20 years. We are also grateful for the patronage of the Lord Mayor's office in this, our 20<sup>th</sup> year.

### **The Immigration Divide/Debate**

As noted by The Guardian “a subject that always provides a heated debate, immigration divides people into those who think immigration creates a richer society, both culturally and financially and those who think of it as a drain on public funds and a source of tension and mistrust.”

The latter argument is gathering political momentum. Negative comments and opinions are common in polls, in spite of most people not personally having any negative experiences with asylum seekers. Our visitor Charles Leddy-Owen, a sociologist with the University of Portsmouth has conducted research in the areas around Haslar IRC and found that many people who did not know and had not met any immigrants, nonetheless held negative views. As rationale, they cited newspaper reports and anecdotal “evidence”.

Meanwhile, Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party, has attacked political discourses around immigration and labeled it as “nasty, stigmatizing rhetoric”.

### **Further Afield – Conflict and Migrant Boats**

With conflicts on the rise, the New Statesmen described the summer of 2014 as “the summer of blood”. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the UN, himself a child refugee of the Korean War has said that “never before in UN history have we had so many refugees, displaced people and asylum seekers.”

In response to the question of whether or not the UK should have any involvement in rescue missions, the Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St John's, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, made the rather dishonourable remark that this would only encourage more people to make the journey and so lead to more “tragic and unnecessary deaths.”

In an article in The Guardian, the Chief Executive of the Refugee Council, Maurice Wren disagreed with the Baroness, stating:

*“The British government seems oblivious to the fact that the world is in the grip of the greatest refugee crisis since the second world war. People fleeing atrocities will not stop coming if we stop throwing them life-rings; ...*

...”boarding a rickety boat in Libya will remain a seemingly rational decision if you are running for your life and your country is full of flames. The only outcome of withdrawing help will be to witness more people needlessly and shamefully dying on Europe’s doorstep. The answer isn’t to build the walls of fortress Europe higher, it’s to provide more safe and legal channels for people to access protection.”

### **Haslar Visiting Project**

We continue to offer visiting services both in a small office inside of Haslar IRC on a fortnightly basis as well as in the visits room.

Over the winter months, the requests for warm clothing increases. We took one gentleman some items and found him a nice sweater to keep him warm. It was a particularly poignant moment to come out of Haslar one Friday afternoon and see him having just been released. Apart from what he stood up in, he had only a clear plastic bag (Haslar issue) with a file full of papers in it and that one sweater.

As well as responding to such requests from the office, we know that individual visitors like to help out with such requests. We would like to thank all of our visitors for all the hours of companionship and hope that they offer.

Page 8 outlines services we provided. Our thanks to the Churches Homeless Action Project in Portsmouth for their support with the Xmas phone cards for detainees.

Our thanks also to Kevin Edwards of Roadrunners Dispatch in Havant for his fine service in helping us to collect luggage.

In October 2014 there was a Parliamentary Inquiry into detention and the first transcripts are just emerging.

Some are now available at <http://detentioninquiry.com>.

On pages 10 & 11 I offer a taste of some of the submissions made.

### **All Saints Drop-in Centre**

We are seeing more people, and with multiple issues of increased complexity.

A particular case of success include someone with severe mental health problems having been sectioned and then in immigration detention and then released onto the streets of Portsmouth. They had a medical report in which we found the name of the mental health solicitor who had seen them whilst they were sectioned. A phone call established that under certain provisos of the Mental Health Act, an argument could be made for housing. We are delighted that after some months of wrangling temporary accommodation has been provided.

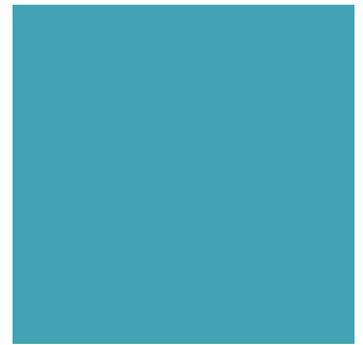
On page 9, Emmanuel tells us of how he came to study with the hope of a brighter future. However, tragedy struck and he and his wife now face a gravely uncertain future.

### **Staff coming and going**

**Goodbyes to:** Natalia Sabadas who was working part time left for a full time post. Before becoming staff, she had been a volunteer visitor at Haslar and when the call came for volunteers for the drop-in she volunteered for that too before taking up a staff post. Natalia as a Romanian national has experienced some racism in modern-day Britain and was understanding and compassionate and much loved by our clients. We thank her for her outstanding contribution to our work.

**Hello:** Our new Deputy Coordinator is Frances Pilling who works in the FWB office for 4 days a week. Frances is also an OISC accredited immigration advisor (level 3) and each Friday she works in the Access to Justice project office. Her report on the first year of the operation of ATJ follows.

**Anne Dickinson** February 2015



# Access to Justice Project

It is crucial that asylum seekers and migrants have access to good quality legal advice at the earliest opportunity. This was becoming increasingly difficult due to cut backs in publicly funded legal services. Local access to a good, free solicitor became very limited, and many areas of immigration law receive no public funding at all. It was in response to this crisis that the Access to Justice Project was born in 2014.

We are currently open on a part time basis with two experienced advisors. We are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to advise clients up to level 3 (appeal stage). The service is available to individuals who do not have access to a free advisor.

Once a potential client has contacted us for help, they will be asked to complete a short questionnaire about their circumstances. The case is then assessed and further information gathered if necessary. A decision is then made about how the client can best be helped.

Our most successful case so far was a victim of domestic violence. She was traumatised and had no real hope that her situation would improve. She was abandoned by her parents as a child and had no home country to return to safely. She was so overwhelmed when she got the news that she could stay in the UK with her children that she ran around the building, laughing one minute, crying the next. We brought hope to that family and they are now able to live a life free from fear.

We are a small project and we will never be able to take the place of the publicly funded legal services that have been lost. What we lack in size we make up for in the commitment and determination. We will be there for those who need us, on every step of their journey.

**Special thanks** goes to John Bingham, whose tireless efforts brought the project to life, and to Lia Deyal for volunteering as an advisor.

**Frances Pilling**

Access to Justice Project Coordinator

# Treasurer's Report

The funding situation for charities remains a difficult one. In recent years we have had to ask our friends and supporters for more and more assistance.

We launched an appeal in the Autumn which netted some £14,000. We give our heartfelt thanks to all our contributors. In spite of the political debates raging out there, we are aware that there is also a great deal of goodwill. We thank everyone who has contributed in many different ways to Friends Without Borders. We are grateful for all your contributions.

Reasonably substantial grants are a rarity these days. However, we have received two medium sized grants this year and we have had to work much harder and write many more letters and fill in many more forms in order to bring in smaller grants. Our thanks to Anne Dickinson and John Bingham for their continuing efforts in this respect.

We are happy to end the year with a decent balance to carry forward.

We also extend our thanks to our Independent Examiner Philip Hudson for his advice and prompt and efficient assistance in examining our accounts.

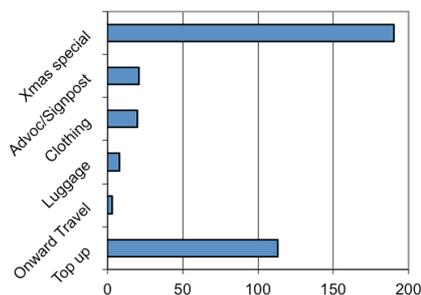
**John Bosco Nyombi**

Treasurer

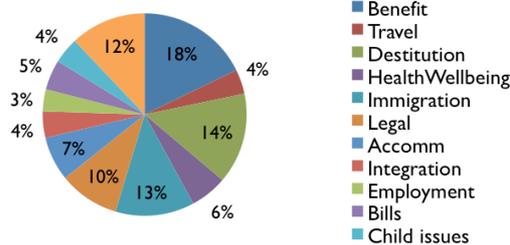
# Services provided in 2014

## People helped

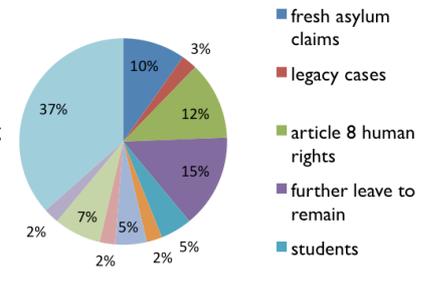
### Haslar Visiting Project



### All Saints Drop-in Centre



### Access to Justice Project



### Haslar Visiting Project

The drop-in surgeries we do in Haslar IRC bring us about 65% of our referrals. Self referrals account for the remainder. We assisted 138 people in Haslar last year and our visitors visited 77 people. The need to be in contact is of utmost concern to detainees. We gave out 113 phone top ups and at Xmas delivered 190 phone cards to Haslar IRC for distribution on Xmas Day (thanks again to the Churches Homeless Action Scheme).

We advocated for/or signposted in 21 cases such as age disputes, medical examinations, referring to Criminal Case Review Commission etc. (The 21 instances referred to above excludes referrals to our own Access to Justice.)

### All Saints Drop-in Centre

People come for advice and to socialise. We saw 254 individuals for one to one advice. Many of these 254 people come often and hence we made 2,662 interventions for these people. The ratio of female: male is marginally higher (129:125). Our more confident customers used our phones 287 times to sort out their own issues themselves.

In the pie chart above, travel refers to help given to attend medical and legal appointments. Immigration and legal refers to liaison with Home Office and solicitors. Integration refers to people who have Leave to Remain needing help in opening bank accounts and verifying their photos for driving licences, etc. Child issues refers to helping parents understand things like school letters to parents, etc.

### Access to Justice Project

44 clients registered for help in 2014. Currently we have 10 legal files and 6 support files open. Support files are for those who do not need us to make an application, but who still need some legal support. We also have 10 cases under assessment.

#### Outcomes

18 files have been closed or concluded

Of our detained cases: 6 people were removed from the UK; 2 were granted temporary admission and 2 were granted bail.

Of our community cases: 7 received one-off advice and 1 was granted status in the UK.

# Emmanuel and Grace

## Dashed hopes and dreams



When I was in Zambia I was a Minister of Religion. My church wanted to open a college and I came to UK in 2003 to do a degree so I could teach at the proposed college.

As a student I could only work 20 hours per week. The fees for an international student are high. I thought it would help if my wife Grace was here. On a spouse visa she could work full time. She came in mid March 2005 and was ready to start work. A friend was going to meet her and introduce her to someone from a cleaning company. It was 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005, the day the London bombings happened. The meeting point had been near to but not at the place of the bombings. She had not met her friend due to all that confusion on that day and I went to pick her up. She was very quiet but I did not think anything was wrong.

In the next few days I noticed Grace was talking in her dreams and screaming about bombs and buses. That gave me an idea that although she was not talking about it, she must have seen something. Then she started refusing to get in buses fearing they would blow up. If we got in a train or a bus she would be very anxious and keep trying to get off and would start shouting. I thought it would pass. At the point when she tried to run out of the house naked, I realised this wasn't going to pass and it was a very serious issue. I phoned my brother who lived in Portsmouth and he came straight away. We decided to take her to the hospital on 27 July 2005.

She was transferred to a specialist mental health hospital who sectioned her for 3 days. After 3 days, she was sectioned for 1 month. After one month she was not better and I felt like she was a mental case. I wasn't even sure if she recognised me. I couldn't go to college any more or work the 20 hours, I went to visit her every day. They then kept her for a further 6 months.

My brother had been sending money to me. He couldn't continue and in 2007 he suggested we come to Portsmouth to stay with him. My brother and his family were helping and I was then able to continue my education. I went on to do a Masters and a PhD which I completed in 2011. My brother and my mother who both live in the UK have been very gracious in sitting with Grace and in helping us throughout our difficulties.

In 2011 I applied for a post study visa and I didn't hear from the Home Office. On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 they came to my brother's house and said according to our records you have overstayed your visa and as such are an illegal immigrant. I was taken to Haslar IRC in Gosport.

That was the lowest point in my life. I didn't understand what was happening to me and I was worried about Grace. It was very traumatic for me. They told me I was going to be deported – but what about my wife? It was humiliating in every sense. I was told where to be and what to do and how long I should be in x location. There was no self determination. I had no control over anything, I felt as if I was owned. My life was not mine. Everyone had to hide the details of where I was from Grace.

When I came out it was obvious that they wanted me to go back home. This was difficult for us. We had been in UK for 10 years or more at that point. Due to Grace's condition I had not been able to save money. Here they didn't want us – back home there was nothing. I felt like I was kind of trapped in no mans land. I felt like my mind was tortured. I didn't know where to turn.

Cntd. Overleaf.

In Zambia people with mental health issues are stigmatised. Recently in 2013 some women were burnt to death because they were thought to be witches. There is little treatment. People with mental health problems are mistreated and abused.

It also affected the work I had planned to do. I was told indirectly that I was not fit to look after the church back home because of my wife's condition. People with mental health problems are regarded as being possessed by demons and they could not have a pastor whose wife was "possessed". My options at home were closed.

I came to know about Friends Without Borders in 2013. We had no money and have felt that we have become a burden on our family and it has been a strain on all of us. I leave home and come to the drop-in and socialise. Grace can be demanding and it gives me a break. Your support has also helped me make a contribution towards the household. It makes me feel a lot better and as though I am not a total burden.

I have now had to opt for voluntary return but I cannot go without my wife. The process got stuck over the whether or not she can make her own decisions about "voluntary return". This went on for about five months.

When the Home Office asks Grace to fill in an application for return, I don't know what she will do. If she says no, will they return me without her? After 32 years will we be separated? If we both return, how will I manage to work and look after her and ensure she isn't harmed?

Other 7/7 victims have received compensation and help. We are also victims of this. Both our lives have been destroyed. Yet the destruction keeps on happening. There is no help for us. I feel some of the laws are unfair and biased against immigrants. It is not easy being an immigrant in the UK. I don't know how this story will end. I fear for me and for her.

## Points of view – Immigration Detention and Legal Aid cuts

**Shami Chakrabati of LIBERTY** "The treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in this country in recent years is probably one of the biggest human rights scandals in the country. One of the ways in which it has worsened is the increase of the use of detention. Its now become routine, where once it was really exceptional. In short, too many people detained, including vulnerable people; detained for far too long, detained under circumstances where it isn't necessary because removal is far from imminent. It is often suggested but not always the reality.

Legal advice is not readily available and bail hearings are not automatic; and in a country like ours, that ought to care about the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms – ours ought to be a country where we care about human rights, particularly those who have fled lesser democracies and non-democracies and bail hearings and legal advice ought to be automatic and routine and not something people have to fight for.

I am reminded that 28 days is the maximum pre charge detention time limit detention limit for terror suspects and that these people are not suspects of any crime. So to detain them for even 28 days is a long time."

## Points of view cntd

**Jerome Phelps of Detention Action** “It’s an individual low level civil servant who makes that non-judicial decision to detain someone. **There’s no automatic judicial scrutiny at all.** So the decision to detain has very little oversight and is often arbitrary. Other countries have automatic bail hearings. In France you have to brought in front of a judge within two days to review whether your detention is appropriate and lawful, no such safeguards here.”

Evidence given to Parliamentary Inquiry into Immigration Detention 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Shami Chakrabati of LIBERTY** “Terror suspects, and all criminal suspects are within a regime which means there is automatic judicial scrutiny. A magistrate will demand of police and prosecutors why this person is still being held on remand and that should be the position for these people who are not accused of any criminal offence, but who are potentially conventional refugees and are inherently vulnerable people. They are being subject to administrative detention, not accused of doing anything wrong, not getting automatic bail hearings, nor automatic access to legal advice to make a proactive bail application. **That’s really quite scandalous for the land of Magna Carta. ...**”

**Jerome Phelps of Detention Action** “There’s been a series of very strong High Court rulings around the treatment of people with very serious mental health problems where the High Court six times in the last three years called them **inhumane or degrading treatments of people in full psychological collapse in detention** who were simply not taken seriously by the Home Office and not taken seriously in any case by the contracted health care staff who were meant to be looking after them”.

**Dr Katy Robjant of The Royal College of Psychiatry and The Helen Bamber Foundation.** “The important thing to note is that being in captivity is a traumatic event. **So no matter how nice you make it if you’re being held against your will in a captive environment then that will be traumatic for anybody.** More so for people who have experienced terrible things. Our clients often report hearing screams of other detainees as triggering flashbacks as that’s what they have heard before under conditions of torture, seeing guards in uniform, hearing doors closing.. In our clinical experience, what we see time and time again is people find detention itself an incredibly shaming experience.”

## Magna Carta – we need those rights back

This year marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta. It enshrined a principle of British justice that recent governments of both parties have treated with some contempt. Article 20 stated “A free man shall not be amerced (=punished) for a trivial offence except in accordance with the degree of the offence....but not so heavily as to deprive him of his livelihood....and none of the aforesaid [punishments] shall be imposed save by the oath of reputable men”. Articles 38 to 40 are a firm commitment to due process, asserting the right to legal representation, to know the charges in advance, to be able to contest them before equals, and then only to be sanctioned if found guilty by independent equals.

These rights have been whittled away by successive recent Governments. The principle of proportionality has been lost, the number of acts that can be called criminal have been multiplied enormously and rights to legal aid are denied to many of those for whom it was designed. An unaccountable rash of government agencies administers a vicious arbitrary regime that denies rights and benefits and the bare means of survival to the most vulnerable.

We are bombarded by mis-information about the Human Rights Act by politicians and others who should know better, but have their own agenda and want to restrict our rights even further.

If we are to have a new Great Charter, it must be one that re-asserts the rights and liberties of those who live increasingly insecure lives, re-states their right to protection from state-authorised arbitrary decisions and restores access for all to due legal process. The Human Rights Act is not a charter for others. It is essential to maintaining and restoring our rights and we must protect it at all costs. **John Bingham**

# Detainee Voices

## Our family and detention, Henry Ebede

Henry also wrote a piece for “detention unlocked blog” <http://unlocked.org.uk/blog/under-detention-they-think-youre-criminal-henry-speaks-out-from-haslar/>



Immigration detention is the worst that can happen to any human being. The particular reason, apart from losing freedom, is that of not knowing what will happen the next day and if or when you will be released. This causes the worst trauma to the family you leave behind. Also the threat of knowing you may be separated for life from your wife and kids is something that has damaged so many lives and almost damaged mine.

I spent a practically unbearable 10 months in which I was stripped of my dignity, my freedom and reduced to absolutely nothing. My family suffered terribly. My wife had already been diagnosed with depression before my incarceration. She became so bad she could not at times take our son to school – this made me feel really suicidal. My son for his part, couldn't understand why Daddy wasn't coming home.

Initially I thought that the Home Office would see sense and release me but as the days and weeks and months passed, I realised that the Home Office was not listening and that the nightmare was a constant. It is an experience that could easily make you break down mentally and physically. I think I will always feel scarred by it. Even now, after getting bailed 2.5 months ago, I wake up sometimes wondering if I'm still there or if I'm really at home. At times it seems to me that I am daydreaming and I am really still there.

The intervention from Friends Without Borders was the best thing that happened to me. The moral support, the constant regular visits, the phone top ups and the help I have had post detention have been way beyond what I had hoped for. Their friendliness, professional ethics and their spirit of care was beyond what I had expected or could have hoped for. I began to believe there was life at the end of the tunnel. As the days and weeks and months went by I regained my strength and my voice. I then felt strong enough to stand up and fight back. I went and applied for bail which I got the second time around.

I believe that the Home Office has been most unfair and prejudiced against me. They have lied constantly against me and when a Judge remarked on it, they referred to it as “human error”. The Home Office also said that I could communicate with my 5 year old son by telephone and email for the rest of his life.

Sometimes I wonder if the staff at the Home Office would be happy to have the same judgement passed on to them and their little ones. I have come across detainees detained for 4 years and their partners have left them and they don't get to see their British born children. It's so unfair, so many lives wasted.

**Henry Ebede** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015

# Detainee Voices cntd



## Henry's Wife:

I felt like my whole world was falling apart. When is he coming out? What is going to happen to him? The doctors had to give me pills for depression. I didn't want to talk to anyone. I didn't know what to tell people. I isolated myself and stopped answering calls and didn't open the door. To be honest I used to cry every night. I avoided other parents at the school gate. I was always lying to our son who used to constantly ask where Daddy was and why he wasn't coming home. I had no answers, I felt like I had failed him.

Since he came out he has had a tag. Someone saw him signing and found out he had a tag. They told me only criminals have tags. So knowing this is the gossip out there, I feel so down. The curfew limits our life as a family. I am happy he is here now, but we can't enjoy an evening out. When there was a Xmas party for the kids, it was just getting started and we had to leave. It's a limited freedom. I never really imaged the state could take my husband away for 10 months. I still find that really shocking.



Banner image courtesy of the Detention Forum | <http://detentionforum.org.uk>

# One year of visiting

## A visitor's perspective

I volunteered in January 2014 and since then have visited eight individuals in Haslar. My first visits were to a young man from the Horn of Africa who had arrived in Britain via the coast of Lampedusa and a spell sleeping rough in Calais. He was quiet, frustrated and depressed prior to his successful bail application. Next was an East African who could barely have been more different – outgoing, confident and loud, but falling the wrong side of immigration law. His priority was to get out - either through bail or deportation - prior to the start of the World Cup.

The next person I tried to visit was moved to another centre during my ferry ride from Portsmouth to Gosport.

The following week I visited someone who had lived in Portsmouth for several years longer than I have and who kindly gave me some useful tips for interesting things to do in the city.

Next I met someone who left Nigeria over thirty years ago, has had two children in Britain, who had written a book whilst in detention, and who was eventually granted bail – though only after much threatening and highly distressing shuttling between removal centres and airports. My most recent visits were to a man from a place that many would regard as an idyllic holiday island, full of self-pity for his situation and desperate to be deported, and a West African who obtained bail (after the apparently customary trip to the airport for a deportation that never took place) in time for Christmas.

Getting to know these individuals and hearing their stories has taught me that the two-dimensional stereotypes relating to 'asylum seekers' or 'illegal immigrants' that we hear or read about in the media and from politicians cannot do justice to the limitless diversity of these individuals' lives. Even the outlines above are barely more than simplified caricatures of highly complex lives and situations.

Whilst I have spoken to people who have experienced tragedy and tremendous sadness – not least due to detention itself – what has most struck me is their sheer ordinariness. We discuss food, football, family, work, the weather, current affairs and so on. I would suggest that if Home Office officials spent more (or any!) time speaking to individuals face-to-face rather than maintaining a strict distance then this might lead to more concern for detainees' emotional and mental wellbeing.

In contrast, Friends Without Borders provide much needed social interaction and moral support for detainees, and I have received a considerable amount of thanks from those I have visited for making them feel cared for during a difficult period of their lives.

11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Our local Zimbabwean committee re one of their members who was detained: "I don't know how to thank you. Without your help, we didn't think it was going to be possible. The support you gave us was great - really unbelievable thank you again. J's story was a real challenge – can't believe we conquered. Thank you for your hard work".

"Just want to say thank you to you and your team for your support and your encouragement during my stay at Haslar. I was bailed on the 19th of December. Once again very big thank you to you for the good work you are doing for the needy people like us. May God richly bless you and strengthening you and your entire team". Kind regards.

# Summary of Accounts

for the year ended 31  
December 2014

| <b>INCOME</b>  | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>funds</b> | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2013</b>    |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Gift Aid recovered                                     | -                             | -                           | -              | -              |
| Grants and donations                                   | £40,302                       | £22,245                     | £62,547        | £47,140        |
| General Fund   | £16,906                       | £-                          | £16,906        | £11,958        |
| Destitution Appeal                                     | -                             | £4,520                      | £4,520         | £4,847         |
| Bank Interest  | £18                           | -                           | £18            | £19            |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                                  | <b>£57,226</b>                | <b>£26,765</b>              | <b>£83,991</b> | <b>£63,964</b> |
| <b>DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</b>                   |                               |                             |                |                |
| Destitute Asylum Seekers                               | £10,032                       | £6,848                      | £16,880        | £14,965        |
| Drop-in costs  | £1,981                        | £1,244                      | £3,225         | £3,410         |
| Mobile phone costs                                     | £235                          | £1,325                      | £1,560         | £920           |
| Volunteer Expenses                                     | £249                          | £-                          | £249           | £1,068         |
| Subscriptions  | £100                          | £-                          | £100           | £100           |
|  | <b>£12,597</b>                | <b>£9,417</b>               | <b>£22,014</b> | <b>£20,463</b> |
| <b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>                               |                               |                             |                |                |
| Staff costs  | £25,603                       | £18,479                     | £44,082        | £38,758        |
| Office and sundry costs                                | £9,775                        | £100                        | £9,875         | £8,941         |
| Access to Justice project costs                        | £471                          | £4,000                      | £4,471         | £-             |
| Fundraising Costs                                      | £656                          | -                           | £656           | £204           |
| Purchase of Equipment                                  | £                             | £                           | £              | £500           |
|  | <b>£36,505</b>                | <b>£22,579</b>              | <b>£59,084</b> | <b>£48,403</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PAYMENTS<br/>(DIRECT + OTHER EXPENDITURE)</b> | <b>£49,102</b>                | <b>£31,996</b>              | <b>£81,098</b> | <b>£68,866</b> |
| Net receipts for the year                              | £8,124                        | £(5,231)                    | £2,893         | £(4,902)       |
| Bank accounts at 01/01/2015                            | £26,693                       | £17,048                     | £43,741        | £48,643        |
| <b>Bank accounts</b>                                   | <b>£34,817</b>                | <b>£11,817</b>              | <b>£46,634</b> | <b>£43,741</b> |

**OUR THANKS FOR THE GENEROSITY OF:** Our individual donors and our loyal supporters who help us with a regular monthly donation and the following foundations, trusts and funds; A B Charitable Trust, The Allen Lane Foundation, the Bishops Discretionary Fund, Churches Homeless Action, Co-operative Community Fund, Edith Maud Ellis Charitable Trust 1985, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust, Lloyds Foundation for England and Wales, Jill Franklin Trust, The Oakdale Trust, The Persula Foundation, The Swan Mountain Trust, The Stewardship Trust.



# People need your support

## Here's how you can help

### Donate

We are very grateful for all donations. We spend all money wisely to help people like those highlighted in this report.

If you can afford a standing order with gift aid that would be especially helpful, as it provides the certainty of a regular income.

To make a standing order please use the multi-purpose form below and fill in the relevant sections.

Your generosity really will touch the lives of others.

### Volunteer

If you have some spare time you may consider volunteering. Our volunteer visitors are central to the support the charity gives to detainees. People who are detained often have no other contact with the outside world and feel completely forgotten. Volunteering can be extremely rewarding, is a new challenge and an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life. If you would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities please contact the office (details overleaf).

### Leave a Lasting Legacy

Remembering Friends Without Borders in your will can make a lasting difference by affording us the security to go on helping to relieve the financial hardship, isolation and distress of asylum seekers and immigration detainees. If you are kind enough to think of Friends Without Borders in your will please remember that needs change and it is important to request that the "money is to be used at the absolute discretion of the trustees". If you need further information, please contact us (details overleaf).

#### Friends Without Borders Registered Charity Number: 1080187

**Name**

**Address**

**Contact Number  
Email**

#### Gift Aid Certificate

Donations from taxpayers are supplemented by a grant from the Treasury. We will make a claim but we need the donor to read and sign the declaration below, if appropriate.

I want Friends Without Borders to treat this donation of £.... And all future donations as qualifying for Gift Aid. I understand that I must pay Income and Capital Gains Tax in any year at least equal to the tax reclaimed by any/all charities (currently 25p in the £1) for which I have existing Gift Aid declarations.

Signed:

Date:

#### Standing Order

To the manager: please pay Friends Without Borders the sum below by standing order until further notice.

Friends Without Borders account details are:  
Lloyds TSB: Sort Code: 30-99-20 A/c no 00985875

Monthly amount in figures:  
And in words:  
Date of first payment:  
Bank and branch address:

Sort code:  
Account number:

Signature:

Date:

## IN MEMORIAM

Christopher Barford.

Chris was a visitor to Haslar for over 10 years.

As a retired pilot, he had a wealth of international experience to draw from. He was a source of great comfort and support to men from all over the world who were detained in Haslar IRC. His memory lives on in many hearts in many different countries.

R.I.P.





20 years 20 photos