

BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
(Formerly Holding Refugees and Human Rights in Mind)

ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st March 2008

Company Registration No 5669208

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**BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31st March 2008**

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The Management Information pages do not form part of the Financial Statements.

**BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31st March 2008**

The directors present their report and financial statements of the company for the Year ended 31st March 2008

LEGAL STATUS

The organisation became a company limited by guarantee on 9th January 2006 Company Number 5669208

REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS

St Nicholas of Tolentino
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

OBJECTS

The Objects of the Company are

To relieve the needs of asylum seekers and refugees by the provision of information, advice and support

To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of asylum seekers and their dependants and those granted refugee status and their dependants

To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum

To provide facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities

To promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by all or any of the following means -

- relieving need among the victims of human rights abuse
- conducting research into human rights issues
- educating the public about human rights
- raising awareness of human rights issues
- promoting public support for human rights
- promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The past year has been busy and successful Bristol Refugee Rights has consolidated work started in 2006 on both practical and campaigning work in support of people who seek sanctuary in the UK. We have many people and groups to thank for contributing to our success.

In August 2007 we officially changed the name of the project from 'Holding Refugees and Human Rights in Mind' to the more succinct 'Bristol Refugee Rights' and this is the name by which the project is now widely known

Last summer saw the start of the Human Rights arm of Bristol Refugee Rights in accordance with the stated aims and objectives of the project. A group of trustees and volunteers are developing ideas around public education and campaigns on human rights issues for asylum seekers and refugees. This invaluable work dovetails with support for individuals at the weekly drop in centre.

THE WELCOME CENTRE

Finding a home

In August 2007 St Nicholas of Tolentino Church began an extensive building programme, we kept our office there but moved the drop in to its present home close by in the Congregational Chapel Hall Rev David Thomas gave us a warm welcome and put at our disposal the large hall and a number of smaller rooms.

Numbers grew rapidly and we are grateful for the space the Chapel offers and the friendly welcome from the Minister and staff. In April, alongside the congregation, we were shocked and saddened by the death of the Rev Thomas A delegation from Bristol Refugee Rights attended his funeral.

Service users

We now see an average of 40 service users on Wednesdays and 80 to 100 on Thursdays. We have over 500 registered service users from 34 different countries. About two thirds of these are men, and one third women A large majority are under 30. 50 are children

Staffing

The Centre Coordinator, Caroline Beatty, continues to coordinate the Welcome Centre and its success owes a lot to her hard work and dedication. In October 07, we appointed Sue Scott to coordinate the ESOL classes, which remain highly popular and well attended. We would like to thank both staff members for their hard work and energy.

We have a group of 50 regular volunteers who bring many skills and without whom the centre could not function About a quarter of these first came to the centre as service users themselves Volunteers' generosity, good humour and commitment make the centre a real place of welcome.

We have provided placements for 5 students, from Bristol University and UWE social work courses, and City of Bristol Community Volunteering course.

Classes and activities

- ESOL Classes run at five levels and each class now has its own room. Attendance is high with an average of over 30 learners per session.
- Excursions have been made using Bristol Community Transport to @Bristol, Blaise, the Zoo, The Cube Cinema, an evening at the Colston Hall, and summer trips are planned to Weston, the Harbour, and St Fagan's
- The volunteer led advice service is much in demand and urgently in need of further resources. We are grateful to Victoria Long and Beth Cooper, both from the Law Centre, for their professional input.
- Service users produce powerful work in weekly art sessions. Two displays were contributed during Refugee Week to the Pierian Centre and to the Easton Arts Trail.
- A Maths class, introduced at the request of service users is led by a qualified teacher, who is herself seeking asylum
- The creche is staffed by 3 qualified workers. It is well used and supports parents to join in centre activities

Involvement in the Community

- Supported by volunteers, service users work regularly in the Trinity Centre community garden, and are now also using the computers in the Trinity Centre
- Service users contributed to the King Costa show in Colston Hall, and to the Queen Square day in Refugee Week
- 10 service users and volunteers took part in a three hour radio workshop at BBC studios, designed to support people to tell their stories.

Networks and links

As essential part of BRR's work is in making links with other groups, to extend our support out into the community and help to create a robust and flexible service

- The drop in provides a contact point for organizations that work with new arrivals and new refugees, including Red Cross, NHS services, Single Parent Action Network, the Refugee Support Project, Refugee Women of Bristol, Bristol Defend Asylum Seekers Campaign, Womankind.
- We have regular contact and support from the Law Centre, Refugee Action, Bishopston Bread Store, the Bike Guru, Sustainable Frome and Time Together.

We would particularly like to thank our partner organization St. Nicholas of Tolentino, Father Richard McKay and Sister Liz Ferrie for their continued support.

Political engagement and wider membership

Kerry McCarthy, MP for Bristol East, visited in April and, spoke with 3 destitute Somali women whose claims were refused 5 or more years ago, but who have not been returned. She expressed concern about their plight. She has taken up cases of individual service users living in her constituency. Roger Berry, MP for the Kingswood area, is regularly approached by service users living in South Gloucestershire, and visited the centre in July.

Cllr Havvock and Cllr Malik visited the centre to discuss the work we are doing. We are grateful for their continued support

Membership of Bristol Refugee Rights continues to grow and we plan to develop regular communication to keep members, friends and other interested parties abreast of developments.

Challenges for the future

The need for the drop in centre is well demonstrated by its growing usage over the past 2 years.

- The centre now opens for 2 days – there is a strong call to open more days.
- The advice service urgently needs resourcing
- Our volunteers merit more support in the form of a volunteer coordinator

Human Rights Campaigning

Through daily contact with people in the drop in we have come to understand directly and in a very personal way the asylum process and its effect on people's lives. Our experience accords with many of the findings of the 4 excellent reports of the Independent Asylum Commission, published in summer 2008.

Matters of particular concern to us

1. 75% of asylum claimants are refused asylum here – they all face destitution. As we get to know people we understand how the asylum system lets down those who desperately need it.
2. The final tier of support – Section 4 – available under certain conditions to those who would otherwise be destitute. This requires people to live on the shockingly low weekly sum of £35 – issued not in cash but in the form of supermarket gift cards.
3. Detention of children. Two young children in our 'family' at the Welcome centre were detained for 9 weeks between them over the past few months. This has given us some shocking first hand information on the treatment of families in Yarl's Wood removal centre.
4. We firmly support the IAC recommendation that anyone whose case has taken more than 6 months to determine, should have the right to work to maintain themselves. This should also apply to those who have been refused but not removed.

These concerns will form the basis of our campaigning work over the coming year.

CONCLUSION

It has been a busy and exciting year which has seen rapid development as well as consolidation of earlier initiatives. With so much help and support from such a wide range of people and organizations it has not been possible to mention everyone. A list of our funders is provided below. Without this help Bristol Refugee Rights would not have flourished to the extent that it undoubtedly has, and shows that the project is much needed.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our funders for their generous support during 2007/08

Bristol City Council

Redland Friends

Church Urban Fund

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Local Network Fund (administered by Quartet)

Quarterdaze

Thinking people

Numerous personal donors and supporters of our greetings cards fund

We are also grateful for the support from Evaluation Trust funded by the Office of the Third Sector (Improving Reach programme)

DIRECTORS

Damaris Le Grand

Co Chair

Naomi Roberts

Co Chair

Andrew Edgington

Treasurer

Linda Polden

Kate Oliver

Eric Jay

Robert Porteous

Lilian Kaneza

James Holden

appointed 6/11/07

Mohammed Elsharif

appointed 6/11/07

Company Secretary

Damaris Le Grand

BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

Company law requires the Management Committee to prepare accounts for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the income and expenditure of the Company for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Management Committee is required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and to prepare the accounts on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue operating

The Management Committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable it to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and breaches of law and regulations.

PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985

Signed on behalf of the directors

C. J. E. J. A. D. LeGrand

Approved by the directors on 15th September 2008

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have prepared the attached accounts from the books and records supplied by the company without carrying out an audit, together with information and explanations given to me.

Signed J. Trowbridge date 16th Sept 08

Joanne Trowbridge MAAT
Bristol Community Accountancy Project
The Park
Daventry Road
Knowle
Bristol
BS4 1QD

**BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
BALANCE SHEET
Year ended 31st March 2008**

	Note	£	£ 2008	£ 2007
CURRENT ASSETS				
Current Account		21526		1693
Cash in Hand		188		118
Debtors		375		1252
		<u>22089</u>		<u>3063</u>
 CREDITORS Amount falling Due within one year	 3	 (2008)		 (1598)
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
 TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			 20081	 1465
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
REPRESENTED BY:				
Restricted Funds	1 4	15911		(310)
Unrestricted Funds	1.3	<u>4170</u>		1775
			 20081	 1465
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The directors are satisfied that the Company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 (the Act) relating to the audit of the accounts for the year by virtue of section 249A(1), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 249B(2) of the Act.

The directors have acknowledged their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985

The directors have acknowledged their responsibilities for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the company and of its profit for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 226 of the Companies Act 1985 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to this company.

These financial statements were approved by the directors on the 15th September 2008

and are signed on their behalf by

C J Edgill
.....
Director

D Le Grand
.....
Director

The notes on pages 9 form part of these financial statements.

**BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT
Year ended 31st March 2008**

	£ 2008	£ 2007
	Note	
INCOME	56474	14228
Administration Expenses	(38011)	(12755)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)	18463	1473
Interest Receivable	428	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
PROFIT/(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	18891	1482
CORPORATION TAX	(275)	(17)
 RETAINED PROFIT BROUGHT FORWARD	 1465	 -
 BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	 20081	 1465
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit/loss for the above financial period.

None of the Company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above financial period

The notes on pages 9 form part of these financial statements

BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31st March 2008

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2 The Company has taken advantage of exemption from preparing a cash flow statement conferred by Financial Reporting Standard No. 1, on the grounds that it is entitled to exemption available in Sections 246/247 of the Companies Act 1985 for small companies.

1.3 **Unrestricted Funds**

Unrestricted funds are donations, sponsorship and other income received or generated for the objects of the company without specified purpose and are available as general funds.

1.4 **Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are funds given for a specific purpose as laid down by the donor.

2 Operating profit (loss)

Operating profit for period of £18890 after charging auditors remuneration £375.

The calculation is

Operating profit for the year prior to audit	19265
Accountancy	(375)
	<hr/> 18890

3 Debtors

	£
Donation	266
Repayment of Expenses	109

4 Creditors and Accruals

	£
Amounts falling due within one year:	
Salaries + Tax & NI	1358
Accruals:	
Accountancy	375
Corporation tax	275
	<hr/> 2008

4 Members' liability

The Company is Limited by Guarantee. In the event of a winding up of the Company, members are required to contribute to the assets of the Company such amounts as may be required, but not exceeding £1 per member.

BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Year ended 31st March 2008

The following pages do not form part of the statutory statements.

**BRISTOL REFUGEE RIGHTS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
Year ended 31st March 2008**

	£	£	£	£
INCOME	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2008	Total 2007
Donations	-	1655	1655	5605
Grant	51482	-	51482	7971
Bank Interest	-	428	428	9
Sale of Cards	-	1591	1591	652
Fundraising	-	877	877	-
Repayment of Hardship loans	-	60	60	-
Repayment of expenses	-	109	109	-
Art Exhibition	-	700	700	-
	<u>51482</u>	<u>5420</u>	<u>56902</u>	<u>14237</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Cost of cards	-	645	645	571
Room hire	5535	340	5875	3871
Catering	6423	-	6423	5166
ESOL materials	990	-	990	255
Art materials	453	-	453	116
Materials for other activities	276	202	478	112
Volunteer expenses	408	-	408	16
Interpreting	685	-	685	25
Gross salary	14786	-	14786	1442
Employers' NI	934	-	934	78
Salary administration	171	-	171	40
Staff training & recruitment	130	-	130	229
Photocopying/Postage/Stationery	866	34	900	125
Insurance	280	-	280	235
Memberships	145	-	145	95
PO Box	-	-	-	56
Creche	1065	-	1065	-
Hardship Fund Payments	40	779	819	30
Miscellaneous	85	50	135	43
Accountancy	375	-	375	250
Telephone	75	-	75	-
Transport	252	-	252	-
Equipment & Furniture	1289	-	1289	-
Art Exhibition	-	700	700	-
Corporation tax	-	275	275	17
	<u>35263</u>	<u>3025</u>	<u>38286</u>	<u>12772</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	16221	2395	18616	1465
Balance Brought Forward	(310)	1775	1465	-
Balance as at 31/03/08	15911	4170	20081	1465