REFUGEES WELCOME HOUNSLOW CIO
ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Nature and constitution of Refugees Welcome Hounslow

Refugees Welcome Hounslow (RWH CIO) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation; its aims are set out in the constitution.

Aims and purposes

1. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing refugees and asylum seekers in Hounslow from becoming socially excluded, and relieving the needs of those people in Hounslow who are socially excluded by reason of their refugee or asylum seeking status and assisting them to integrate into society.

2. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum; and in particular, the experience of being a refugee on a government resettlement scheme or an asylum seeker in a hotel or dispersal accommodation in Hounslow.

3. To relieve financial hardship among refugees and those asylum seekers and their dependants in receipt of Home Office support living in the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH), by providing grants and essential items that they could not otherwise afford.

Main activities undertaken in pursuit of these aims

Refugees recently arrived under government resettlement schemes

During 2025 only one new family was settled in Hounslow under a government scheme. The family was Afghan and was housed close to the other most recent (2024) arrivals, where it was visited by RWH volunteers. Many of the efforts of RWH under Aims 1 and 3 were directed at assisting this family and the 16 other Afghan families who were settled in 2024, as well as arrivals from earlier years, to integrate socially and expand their connections and activities during 2025.

As reported last year, the 14 Afghan families who arrived simultaneously in spring 2024 were housed in close proximity. Unlike some past arrivals, many of the women from these families have been responsive to offers of befriending and assistance. Several activities have been arranged specifically with them in mind:

English class for Afghan women RWH has continued to offer the weekly class in term-time, led by a qualified and experienced teacher with assistance from other volunteers. Although not every woman attends, a sufficient number do so to make the effort worthwhile; as well as improved language skills, the class allows RWH volunteers to develop social relationships with those attending and talk a little about life in the UK. A few of the women who had better English language skills on arrival have moved on (educationally) from the class and are pursuing other opportunities.

Professionally-led social integration sessions Contact has been made with a small company which is run and staffed by Afghans with experience of life in the UK. Speaking Dari and Pashtu (the main languages spoken in Afghanistan) as well as English, they have developed workshops and classes on civic, educational and social life in the UK, helpful for other Afghan migrants. RWH has commissioned two such classes so far, for the ladies in the weekly English lesson. The subject of the first was health care and health services, run in collaboration with Hounslow Public Health; the second will concern parental engagement with children's schools and education. The recipients are

enthusiastic and asking for more; RWH proposes to run a monthly series of them, and is in discussion with the recipients about possibly inviting other Afghans outside this defined group.

Kite-making and kite-flying Two successful kite-making sessions were held in the summer (kite-making and kite-flying being a typical Afghan craft); the second was organised in Osterley Park in conjunction with Hounslow Rotary Club and included a free visit to Osterley House (National Trust) for participants, a much-appreciated opportunity.

Brentford Creative Mile Some of the kites were displayed in a RWH stall at the Brentford Creative Mile, an annual artistic event; Afghan tea was offered to those visiting the stall, and some Afghan ladies wore exquisite, hand-made, outfits. A video from a RWH event was shown (with the permission of participants). It was a useful opportunity for the general public to gain some awareness of the skills and social engagement of local Afghan refugees.

Other refugees or asylum seekers

As in previous years, RWH has continued to organise social events and outings to which all its contacts (clients, volunteers, local dignitaries with an interest) are invited.

Social lunches: three social lunches were held, with food and drink contributed by those attending. As in 2024, one was held during Refugee Week (in June) and advertised more widely than usual; live music was played by RWH volunteers, artworks by refugees and asylum seekers were displayed, and several LBH councillors expressed enthusiasm at the perceptible levels of social cohesion and skills used for the common good.

The spring event was attended by the Mayor of Hounslow, who spent a long time getting to know RWH clients and volunteers. The autumn gathering took place in Boston Manor Park Potting Shed café, handy for adult and children's outdoor play equipment, and also featured a balance board; the children took full advantage of all these opportunities.

As noted last year, these gatherings are effective in offering social contact between a range of people who may or may not share a native language. They are also a useful introduction to RWH for potential volunteers or others, such as our MPs or local councillors, or representatives of other organisations with whom we might cooperate.

Day outing to Littlehampton: this was held on 1st September and much enjoyed by those who attended despite the indifferent weather (which has become traditional!). Only one coach was needed due to lower attendance than last year.

Other individual support: Advice and support to refugees and asylum seekers continued to be offered, to the limited extent that volunteer resources could manage, in response to need; this was often by advising the enquirer about other services and resources that might be appropriate. As for some years, contact and support for asylum seekers lodged in a local hostel continued, and they were again among the most talented volunteer cooks serving the large social gathering during Volunteer Week.

However, in December all the current hostel occupants were given notice to move out, as the (private) owners of the building planned to sell it. RWH volunteers worked with LBH staff to relieve somewhat the anxieties of impending homelessness and potential harm to the women and children; at the end of the year many occupants had been relocated to East London, with no possibility of travelling to the children's current schools (which included a much-valued place in a Special School).

Other occupants were technically homeless. This was a distressing episode and its destructive effects on social integration and wellbeing continue.

Raising public awareness of the needs and contributions of refugees and asylum seekers, and building wider community support

Liaison with LBH: As in previous years, close cooperation is maintained with councillors and staff of LBH who have any responsibility for refugees or asylum seekers. This includes alerting them if services for vulnerable people are failing to provide adequate protection. The efforts of RWH are recognised and appreciated; one demonstration of this was a Mayoral Service Recognition Award to Shelagh Allsop in March, which was considered by all other RWH Trustees, volunteers and clients to be thoroughly well-deserved.

Another testament to the Council's confidence in RWH was the granting to the latter (after some delay) of the requested £5,000 from the Home Office allocation to LBH to assist the resettlement of refugees on government schemes (see Financial Review below). A separate LBH grant of £700 to fund the Refugee Week lunch enabled the latter to be held.

Relations with other community groups and institutions: As in previous years, RWH is recognised by many other organisations. During 2025 particular contact or cooperation took place with representatives of Hounslow Friends of Faith, Hounslow Rotary Club, Brentford Manor House, Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust, Brentford Creative Mile, Chiswick Pier Trust, the Afghan and Central Asian Association, and many religious organisations (especially Muslim, Christian, Sikh).

West London Citizens (local chapter of Citizens UK): Membership by RWH was renewed for 2025. Various Trustees and volunteers of RWH continued (in their private capacity) to be involved in Citizens; in particular a number of RWH volunteers attended a meeting organised by Citizens at West Thames College in the autumn on the subject of community organisation and action. One speaker was Ruth Cadbury MP, who is also a much-appreciated RWH supporter of long standing.

Volunteers: recruitment, training, support: As every year, several new volunteers offered themselves and, if accepted, were suitably trained, and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks are carried out if appropriate. A register of volunteers is maintained; there were ??? active ones at the end of 2025. In the autumn, all active volunteers were asked to complete an online training course in safeguarding which is especially intended for volunteers supporting vulnerable refugees; some, but not so far all, volunteers have completed it and reported positively on it.

Four volunteer meetings were held during the year, all well-attended. A record of hours spent on RWH-related activities was kept; the total for the year was over 1,200 hours though this is known to be an underestimate as some people did not manage to keep a record.

Management and communications

Annual general meeting: this took place on 13th May 2025. Business included the formal conclusion of the previous RWH organisation, which had been replaced at the turn of the year by the RWH CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The Treasurer (Claire Briffaut) resigned as a Trustee and was replaced by Nazir Hussain; Brigitte Faubert offered her resignation as a Trustee (in accordance with the RWH Constitution) and was reappointed. All these matters were confirmed by vote of the members present.

Meetings of Trustees: four meetings of Trustees were held in 2025. Topics addressed included applications for funding, for which see Financial Review below.

Policies and procedures due for revision or re-approval were examined. Among them, a substantially revised of the Data Protection policy was approved and made available on the RWH website, as was the Complaints policy. The Safeguarding Policy and the Guidelines for Befrienders were revised and approved, as were the Guidelines on the management of finances.

Trustees also agreed that the Executive Committee of the previous RWH organisation should become the Management Committee of RWH CIO, with its existing composition; four meetings of the committee took place during 2025.

Data and communications: As planned (and started) during 2024, a second data holder was enabled to access the confidential records, including the RWH membership list and various circulation lists. Two issues of the RWH newsletter were produced, and circulated by email to supporters, interested organisations, and refugees and asylum seekers known to RWH.

Financial review

The RWH accounts for 2025 are detailed below on pages 7 – 8 and have been independently inspected. Funds are held in a Metro Bank account that was opened in November 2024.

Grants applied for or received

London Borough of Hounslow: At the beginning of 2025 the limited income attracted during 2024 was restricting RWH activities and initiatives. In response, Shelagh Allsop (RWH Chair) approached LBH towards the end of 2024 with a proposal that £5,000 per annum of the dedicated funding from the Home Office to the local authority for re-settlement should be diverted to RWH, since the latter was engaged in assisting the social integration of those whom the grants were to benefit. After some months, this proposal was accepted, and an extra £700 was added to fund the Refugee Week lunch (already mentioned). The transfer of funds is intended to cover the financial year, April 2025 to March 2026. The Trustees have written to LBH pointing out that plans for 2026 are difficult to make without knowing whether a fresh transfer will be made for the 2026-7 financial year; no response has yet been received.

Network for Social Change: Contacts at the Network for Social Change, a previous RWH donor, take a continuing interest in our work and invited RWH to apply for a further grant. This application, for £5,000, was successful.

Other income arose from smaller donations.

Reserves

RWH has no formal reserves policy, since it has no specific financial commitments and no regular expenses except an annual insurance premium; other expenditure is always conditional upon the availability of RWH funds to meet it.

No funds are held by RWH or its trustees as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Additional plans for pursuing RWH aims during 2026
These include:

- continue to put the case to LBH for a transfer of Home Office funds for future financial years, similar to that made for 2025-26
- all volunteers to complete a course on approaches to trauma sufferers
- organise a Thames boat trip, when the Chiswick Pier Trust is able to make good an offer to RWH of a free trip for 100 people (postponed in 2025 due to boat repairs required)
- organise a football tournament or a sports half-day for refugee children, near to where the 14 Afghan families live
- commission or lead more social integration classes for Afghan women
- find ways of interacting with Afghan men, with a view to their greater social integration
- create a RWH stall at the 2026 Brentford Creative Mile, with a fresh artistic vision
- hold a special lunch with a wider invitation strategy, for Refugee Week 2026
- organise a post-Eid party for primary-school-age children of asylum seekers at St. Giles Hotel, Feltham; consider a similar exercise at other such hotels in the borough

Names of Trustees

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 was considered by the Trustees on 31st March 2026.

The names of the Trustees on that date were as follows:

Shelagh Allsop (Chair)
Janet Barton
Brigitte Faubert
Nazir Hussain
Bernadette O'Shea

Secretary: Rachel Stuchbury

Names of Management Committee as at 31st December 2025

Shelagh Allsop (Chair)
Jane Andrews
Janet Barton
Divya Din
Jennifer Dziurzynsky-Watson
Sanaa Haloul
Nazir Hussain
Alavari Jeevathol
Shibra Khan
Radwa Na'emh
Bernadette O'Shea
Mary Short
Rachel Stuchbury (Secretary)
Alison Tsang

Address: % Shelagh Allsop, 19 Wolseley Gardens, London, W4 3LY

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Refugees Welcome Hounslow CIO	1202634

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Jan-25		31-Dec-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
London Borough of Hounslow Grants	5,700	-	-	5,700	-
Other Government Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Other Grants	5,064	-	-	5,064	-
Donations from Individuals	177	-	-	177	-
Other Donations	642	-	-	642	-
Fundraising Events & Other	50	-	-	50	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	11,633	-	-	11,633	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,633	-	-	11,633	-
A3 Payments					
Direct Support for Families	556	-	-	556	-
Fundraising events	277	-	-	277	-
English Lessons	218	-	-	218	-
Cultural Events	1,938	-	-	1,938	-
Administrative Expenses	528	-	-	528	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,517	-	-	3,517	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,517	-	-	3,517	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,116	-	-	8,116	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	778	-	-	778	-
Cash funds this year end	8,894	-	-	8,894	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	8,894	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,894	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Shelagh Allsop	31.3.2026