

**Bristol Refugee Rights**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 MARCH 2011**

**Company Registration Number 5669208**  
**Charity Number 1126646**

# **Bristol Refugee Rights**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**

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# Bristol Refugee Rights

## Reference and Administration details of the charity and its advisors

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

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### Status

Bristol Refugee Rights is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 5669208) incorporated on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and granted charitable status by the Charity Commission under number 1126646 on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

### Trustees

Andrew Edgington	Chair	
Damaris Le Grand	Company Secretary	
Malcolm Jenner	Treasurer	Appointed 12 October 2010
Claire Stern	Vice Chair	
Abdihakim Mohamed Yusuf		Appointed 12 October 2010
Daahir A Mohamed		Appointed 12 October 2010
Kate Oliver		
Christopher Orlik		
Judeline Ross		
Robert Porteous		
Linda Polden		Resigned 30 April 2010
Eric Jay		Resigned 12 October 2010
Dr Jitendra Shantilal Shah		Resigned 17 November 2010

### Co-opted

Sonal Barot	Appointed 7 November 2010
Eva Gell	Resigned 27 April 2010
Delphine Guillemoteau	Resigned October 2010

### Company Secretary

Damaris Le Grand

### Registered Office

St Nicholas of Tolentino  
Lawfords Gate  
Bristol  
BS5 0RE

### Independent Examiner

Bristol Community Accountancy Project  
The Park  
Daventry Road  
Knowle  
Bristol  
BS4 5D

### Bankers

The Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 101  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

# **Bristol Refugee Rights**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**

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The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2011.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### ***Organisation***

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### ***Risk Review***

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

#### ***The Directors***

The Board of Directors, who are Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### ***Objects of the Charity***

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 dependents.

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.

### **Achievements and performance**

Bristol Refugee Rights was set up as a voluntary organisation in 2005 to uphold and champion the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees. We provide a place of welcome in Bristol where asylum seekers and refugees can meet and be helped to play a full part in the life of the wider community. We also campaign more widely for the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers. Bristol Refugee Rights aims to deliver a 'user-led' service that addresses the practical and psychological needs as well as the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers by:

- welcoming people into a safe place
  - empowering people to achieve an independent and productive life
-

# Bristol Refugee Rights

## TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

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- enabling social inclusion
- focussing public attention on the need to reform the asylum system to remove the abuses of human rights experienced by our service users.

If you would like to find out more about us you can log on to our website:

[www.bristolrefugeerights.org](http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org).

### Chair's report

2010/11 was another year in which we successfully established ourselves in Bristol as a leading provider of important services to refugees from an ever growing number of countries.

Sadly, there are still far too many places in the world where people are faced by violence and cruelty. New areas of unrest, conflict and crisis are increasing the number of people in danger. In seeking refuge in this country, people face further injustice in many aspects of the current asylum system. We strive to give people a warm welcome, to respond to their needs and to campaign on their behalf, often in partnership with other organisations with whom we share aims and interests.

During the year we said goodbye to two trustees – Eric Jay and Jitu Shah. Eric has had a lifelong devotion to justice and human rights, and led much of our campaigning and public education work, for which we are grateful. Jitu provided warmth, wisdom and energy, and chaired the Evaluation Subcommittee to great effect. We shall miss them both and wish them well.

The Board has been joined by Sonal Barot and Daher Mohamed.

Our fundraising success has continued, with a recently announced Awards for All grant to cover three years of work around the development of the Advice and Information Desk (AID), and a project to build on and consolidate our work around volunteering and engaging with the community in Bristol – Volunteering and Community Engagement (VOICE). We have also been successful with several smaller specific grants, thanks to the sterling efforts of our staff and volunteers. This success means that all of our initial service aims as set out in our first business plan have been realised.

The Board approved a new business plan in the spring of 2011, drawn up through a wide consultation process involving members, volunteers, staff and trustees. This will guide our development and future fundraising. We are conscious of the challenges that lie ahead. Competition for funds is growing more fierce as public sector spending reductions take effect. We know that several of our funding streams will run out during 2012/13 and have started to plan accordingly.

Our appeals and individual fundraising to meet commitments like hardship payments have had success thanks to tireless fundraising efforts and the generosity of our supporters. We need to continue to apply ourselves to fundraising in the future.

We have been involved, often leading the way, in campaigns on behalf of individual refugees facing crises in the asylum process; in public campaigns against further reductions in the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision which is so important to our members; and in national campaigns and initiatives. We were very active in Refugee Week 2010 and during the launch of Bristol as a City of Sanctuary, and I would like to thank staff, volunteers and members for their tremendous hard work and energy.

We have celebrated the success of several of our long-standing members in gaining their right to stay in the UK, and are conscious of the need to move quickly to support those who make this transition as it presents challenges of its own.

# Bristol Refugee Rights

## TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

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I would like to thank a lot of people:

- ⤴ our members who participate fully in the work of the Welcome Centre, and who offer so much in terms of personal qualities at such a difficult time in their lives
- ⤴ all our volunteers who give so much of their time and effort for no financial reward. Without them we would be nothing.
- ⤴ my fellow trustees for their varied contributions over the last year. From taking part in interviews, to volunteering at the Centre, leading on policy work, writing reports, and contributing their wisdom and experience at meetings, they have made a massive contribution.
- ⤴ our brilliant staff team, led by Caroline Beatty, for their dedication, enthusiasm, time and energy all well above and beyond the normal call of duty. We are maturing into a much more stable and resilient organisation because of their work.
- ⤴ our partners, funders and supporters who help to sustain our efforts.

### **THE FUTURE for BRR**

Refugee Action has suffered severe cuts. The Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) has closed. This puts more pressure on the services provided by BRR. The grant obtained for our Advice and Information Desk will enable us to provide additional help.

As our other grants run out over the next few years we shall continue to be active in seeking new sources of funding.

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

# Bristol Refugee Rights

## TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

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### Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Andrew Edgington  
Chair of Trustees

Date .....2011

# Bristol Refugee Rights

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

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I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2011 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
- section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the
  - Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Joanne Trowbridge MAAT

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Bristol Community Accountancy Project  
The Park  
Daventry Road  
Knowle  
Bristol  
BS4 1DQ

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