

A woman with short dark hair, wearing sunglasses and a dark patterned scarf, is smiling and holding a large mesh bag filled with oranges. She is standing in a garden or backyard with a wooden fence and green plants in the background. The text 'hope projects' is overlaid in the top right corner.

hope
projects

Annual Report

2016-2017

Chair's Report

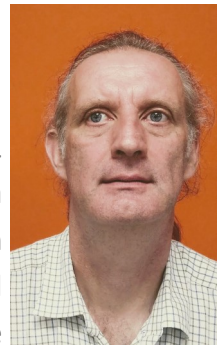


Hope Projects works to alleviate the harsh reality of destitution experienced by asylum seekers through our Destitution Fund and Housing. Our partnership work with voluntary sector agencies is key in supporting people to find a route out of destitution. Whilst Hope does not lose sight of its welfare roots, it is adopting a more rights-based approach; seeking to overturn flawed asylum refusals.

Trustees are grateful for the immense commitment and skills staff and volunteers bring to Hope Projects.

Shari Brown

Coordinator's Report



It's been quite a year. We are offering legal advice & representation for the first time. We have opened a new house, giving us 27 bedspaces. We have been the recipients of extraordinary generosity & found new ways to make a difference to the lives of the people we support.

Above all, we have had the privilege of being part of the lives of some amazing people. Next year will be even busier; new partnerships, a more gender sensitive service and a bigger role for volunteers, never forgetting that those we support are central to everything we do.

Phil Davis

What we do

Imagine fleeing **persecution** & having to seek protection in another land. You'd hope for welcome, for sympathy & for your rights to be respected. Sadly, the British asylum system is **complex** & often **hostile**. Many are **refused protection** simply because they get lost in the system.

When your asylum appeal is refused, you are evicted from your house, all **your money is stopped** & you are **not allowed to work**. You are **street homeless & destitute**. It happens to many people every year in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

People who fear persecution need justice, & the right to live a normal life here in the UK. Hope can provide **expert legal advice** and representation, but how can anyone even think about taking on the Goliath that is the Home Office when they don't know where they will sleep tonight? Where the next meal is coming from? So Hope provides **housing & regular financial support** to the people at greatest risk.

You can only take on the fight if you have the mental strength. Our peer support groups help build **well-being & resilience**.

We can't do this alone, we work with a brilliant group of charities who share our vision. **Together we'll fight for the right for all asylum seekers to be treated with common decency until destitution as a policy tool of Government is finally scrapped.**



Hope voices

*“...as a woman, destitution means **exploitation** and opens doors to series of abuses that we often feel **ashamed** to talk about. But thank God, Hope Housing exists to offer a room, **dignity**, money to buy the food we like and they treat us with respect. The reality is that without Hope Projects, I would have been one of many women forced into **prostitution or modern slavery**. After all, what choices do we have?”*

*“... I ended up homeless, sofa-surfing in people’s houses, and finally exhausted all alternative support networks ...my family back home not only turned their back on me but **threatened to kill me** if I return to save their “honour”. Hope Projects have saved my life...You have to be **homeless, destitute, traumatized, hungry, scared and desperate** for a safe roof over your head and a good sleep, to understand what really Hope Housing means to us.”*

Hope People

Staff

Aliya Khan ~ Legal Officer

Almamy Taal ~ Housing Support

Phil Davis ~ Coordinator

Volunteers

Agnes Tannah ~ Rosemary Crawley ~ Sarah Taal ~ Ali Zaza ~ Charles Mjawa ~ Harriett Thuambe ~ Bridget Obi ~ Mosaad Abdelrahman

Trustees

Shari Brown (Chair) ~ Derek Bennett (treasurer) ~ Surinder Guru ~

Rev. Neil Johnson ~ Adrian Randall ~ Claire Short ~ Ranjit Sondhi

Partner organisations

ASIRT ~ Baobab Womens' Project ~ BIRCH ~ Birmingham Community Law Centre ~ British Red Cross ~ Coventry Peace House ~ Entraide ~ Kushinga Garden ~ Lifeline Options ~ Migrant Help ~ Refugee Action Care Project ~ Refugee and Migrant Centre ~ Restore

Impact

In 2016-2017, Hope directly helped 195 people (That's aside from our peer support groups). 50 people have lived in our 9 houses. 27 are still living with us – safe and warm. We've helped 13 people get housed by the Home Office or local authorities. 2 more have moved in with other charities. That's a positive outcome for an incredible 67% of the people who have left Hope Housing.

We've provided regular financial grants for a further 82 people, making it possible for them to live with friends or other charities. 28 are still being supported by us – knowing where their next meal comes from. 21 got support from the Home Office or local authorities (despite being told they were not eligible until we got involved).

Our innovative short grants have helped 17 people. 7 of them have been able to get housing and support from the Home Office or a local authority. 4 are now getting longer term help and advice supported by Hope Housing or the Hope Destitution Fund.

Finally, we paid for 44 people to travel to Liverpool to give the Home Office vital new information essential if their flawed asylum refusals are to be overturned.

Just stop and think about this. That's 42 people this year who were told by the Home Office that they had no right to a house or any money, left destitute and street homeless. 42 people for whom Hope meant food or shelter. Who, with help and advice from Hope and our partners challenged the authorities and got the support and housing

Finances

Income

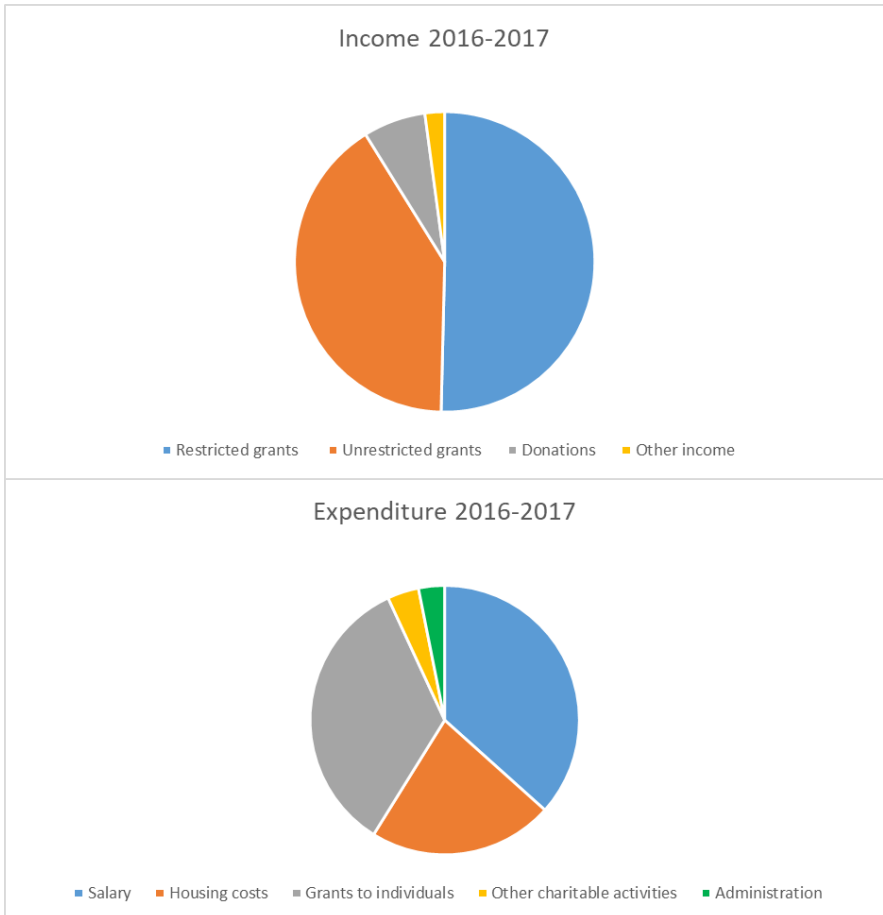
Restricted grants	81193
Unrestricted grants	65691
Donations	10837
Other income	3417

Expenditure

Salary	65142
Housing costs	39513
Grants to individuals	60870
Other charitable activities	6714
Administration	5578

Total 161138

Total 177817



Full examined accounts can be found at www.hope-projects.org.uk/#info-and-reports

Thanks

Housing Providers

Bourneville Village Trust ~ Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham ~ Jema and Ellis ~ Friendship Housing ~ Circle Housing ~ Midland Heart ~ Yardley Great Trust ~ Spring Housing ~ Matt and Steph Neville ~ Donald Miller

Funders

AB Charitable Trust ~ Allen Lane Foundation ~ Barrow Cadbury Trust ~ Cole Trust ~ Eveson Trust ~ Hilden Trust ~ Lloyds Foundation ~ Midlands Legal Support Trust ~ Roughley Trust ~ Saintbury Trust ~ South Birmingham Friends Institute ~ Student Action for Refugees ~ Women for Refugee Women ~ Lichfield Hope Support Group and all our individual donors and volunteers

If you like us, support us. mydonate.bt.com/charities/hopeprojects

For more information visit www.hope-projects.org.uk

Keep up to date via our Facebook page [@HopeProjectsBirmingham](https://www.facebook.com/HopeProjectsBirmingham)

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