

A photograph of two young boys playing in a grassy field. The boy on the left is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and grey pants, and is looking down at a large yellow ball. The boy on the right is wearing a light blue polo shirt and dark pants, and is looking towards the ball. In the background, there are trees and a clear blue sky. A woman in a white shirt and dark pants is visible in the distance.

scottish  
refugee  
council

**Scottish Refugee Council**  
Annual Review 2008

**This past year, we have helped refugees to:**

**resettle in Scotland  
reunite with their families  
rebuild their lives in safety.**

We are Scottish Refugee Council. This is our story, and the story of some of the refugees we have supported over the past twelve months.



## Reflections

I joined as Chief Executive of Scottish Refugee Council in March 2008. I have been struck by the passion and commitment of the organisation in tackling the many challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers. Looking back on my time so far, there has been much to celebrate.

Everywhere around me, I see expertise and professionalism amongst staff, Board Members and volunteers, who strive to make Scotland a safer place for refugees and asylum seekers. I would like to thank my predecessor, Sally Daghlian, for her contribution to that.

We achieved many things in 2008. While continuing to deliver a wide range of vital services, we also lobbied governments and other agencies in Scotland, the UK and Europe, for fairer treatment of people seeking sanctuary.

We made efficient use of our limited resources, focusing on improving quality and standards. I was particularly delighted when we received the Investing in Volunteers award as recognition of that commitment to excellence.

2008 was the year that the UK Government fully signed-up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also agreed to pilot an alternative to detention project in Scotland. Both should ensure better treatment of refugees and asylum-seeking children living here.

It was also the year that many asylum-seeking families who have lived in Scotland for a number of years had their cases resolved and can now move on with their lives.

The Scottish Government continued to demonstrate its support by confirming access to health care for all asylum seekers in Scotland, and by backing the growing campaign to allow asylum seekers to work.

However, concerns about Westminster asylum policy still remain. Faster decision-making under the new asylum model doesn't always mean fairer decisions, with lawyers struggling to prepare appeals in the short time allowed. We will continue to lobby to improve this system.

And the future guarantees more difficulties. For one, the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill, due to be laid before the Westminster Parliament in early 2009, has proposals that will make the path to long-term security for refugees even harder.

But I am confident that Scottish Refugee Council will rise to these and other challenges, motivated by the knowledge that asylum is a human right. This was enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which marked its 60th anniversary in December, and will support us into 2009 and beyond.

It just leaves me to thank the Chair of our Board of Directors, Professor David Walsh, who is stepping down after 23 years' commitment to Scottish Refugee Council. We wish him well and thank him for his unstinting support of our work.

**John Wilkes**  
Chief Executive

**“Asylum is a human right.”**



## New recruits

Our staff are the lifeblood of Scottish Refugee Council. This past year, 15 people joined our workforce, along with 3 new members to our Board, 8 interpreters and 18 volunteers.

### Investing in Volunteers

All of our work across the whole organisation is supported by the invaluable contribution of our volunteers, who gave over 4,500 hours of their time. As a result of their and our commitment to volunteering, we were awarded the Investing in Volunteers quality mark.

Meet some of our new staff and volunteers below.

### Priscille / Asylum Support Adviser Scottish Induction Service

My job is to help new asylum seekers find out what they need to know when they first arrive in the country. They don't know anything or anyone. They are very vulnerable.

As a refugee from Cameroon, I came through the asylum process. I was in detention for two weeks. I went through what they go through. When I came to Scotland, I used the services of Scottish Refugee Council and they really helped me. Now I want to help other people in the same position.

### Gareth / Research Officer

Past research suggests that Scotland is more welcoming to refugees than other places in the UK, but there is still a lot of hostility.

And as we enter a period of economic downturn, there is the opportunity for this to grow. Trying to counter that through research and evidence is part of my role.

The highlight of my time here so far was meeting asylum seekers and refugees. Seeing what they go through gives a human face to my job. It makes me realise why I am doing it.

### Catriona / Separated Children's Development Worker

I am working towards setting up a system of guardianship for asylum-seeking children separated from their parents.

This is a particularly vulnerable client group with a lot of added pressures that other children in care don't have. Their stories aren't believed. Their ages are questioned. They have to navigate a very complex asylum system as well as face the possibility of being removed from the country when they reach 18.

What this past year has shown me is that there is a need for this role and for additional help for these young people.

### John / Finance Officer

When I worked in accounts at the Department for International Development, it gave me an insight into the world refugee situation. As a result, I was attracted to work somewhere like here. When I came for interview, I could tell that the staff were a friendly bunch.

I see my role as maintaining good financial management and controls to help everyone in the organisation have the resources to do what they do.



### Sharon / Part-time Screener, One Stop Advice Service (OSS), and volunteer

I am the first point of contact for refugees who come into our OSS for an appointment or in an emergency. I establish in a short period of time what the problem is and where next to refer them.

Clients have a whole range of issues: housing or financial problems; some are facing eviction or destitution; some are new arrivals who are dropped off at our door with their worldly belongings in a suitcase; others can be victims of domestic or other violence.

I started here as a volunteer one day a week. From there, I was encouraged to apply for a job. I currently work part-time and still volunteer with the Women's Group.

### Graeme / Membership and External Affairs Officer

My job is to engage with the organisation's members, external agencies, politicians and other charities to inform them about the work we do and the issues refugees and asylum seekers face.

I am passionate about the needs of groups which are under-represented and don't have a voice.

My hope is to get our engagement with MPs and MSPs on a surer footing which will lead to fairer treatment, fairer decisions, and a fairer system that treats refugees with respect and dignity.

### Twimukye / Board Member

I joined the Board as I wanted to be able to contribute to the role the organisation plays in supporting vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. I feel my own experience as a refugee reflects the experience of many others. Those of us who have gone through the process understand what others go through.

The big issue I want to address is how can we overcome the challenge of poverty that many refugees face.

When someone gets permission to stay, the road to employment is not straightforward. It has many barriers and if you are not strong enough, you can get trapped in poverty forever.

### Sanaa / Board Member

I have very good experience of working with refugees and asylum seekers in a variety of organisations, and I thought I could bring this knowledge to the Board of Scottish Refugee Council.

I am a refugee from Sudan. When you experience problems yourself, you can actually feel what others are feeling.

I am particularly concerned about women and children, who are especially vulnerable in the asylum system. I want to help develop new policies that reach out to them, relieve their isolation and improve their access to education and employment.



## Providing a quality service

Scottish Refugee Council provides services to meet refugees' needs at every stage of the asylum process and beyond.

### Scottish Induction Service

Newly-arrived asylum seekers to Scotland enter the Scottish Induction Service (SIS), which we run in partnership with the YMCA Glasgow.

In SIS, we provide temporary accommodation and ensure clients have access to legal representation and medical care. We also supply orientation briefings and an explanation of how the asylum system works.

### SIS in 2008

- 2000 adults and children through its doors, mainly from Eritrea, Somalia, Iran, Zimbabwe, China, and Kurdish Iraq
- Better medical referral systems with local Fernbank Medical Centre
- Midwife visits every Tuesday
- Classes covering healthy eating, cooking and shopping for food, delivered by the Health Improvement Team at North Glasgow Community Health and Care Partnership
- Basic English lessons twice a week, led by Glasgow City Council Community Learning and Development
- A library, where people can borrow books in English and in their own language

### One Stop Advice Service

The One Stop Advice Service (OSS) kicks in where SIS leaves off, with case workers offering expert information on issues from asylum support and accommodation to language classes and where to get legal advice.

### OSS in 2008

22,000 requests for help on issues such as:

- Client accommodation – we persuaded the UK Border Agency to set up a pilot to resolve accommodation problems
- 'Move-on' advice for 'legacy' cases – many people who had been in the asylum system for years finally got positive results on their claim this past year (around 90 per cent of 1,100 families). We provided information seminars to help them progress with their lives
- Destitution – OSS staff successfully assisted over 300 destitute clients to get financial support and a roof over their head
- We improved referral systems to specialist agencies such as TARA (the Trafficking Awareness-Raising Alliance), the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and to the Compass Team for asylum seekers with mental health problems
- All OSS staff are Homepoint (national standard in housing advice) and OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner) accredited

## Advocating for change

We work with partners on a Scottish, UK-wide and European level to lobby governments to bring about change and improve the asylum system.

Much of the policy, advocacy and research work in 2008 has been supported by the Big Lottery Fund, who awarded us almost £1 million over five years to support our programme *Making Scotland a Safe and Welcoming Place for Refugees*.

### In 2008, we:

#### Children

- Lobbied the UK Government to fully sign up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which they did in September. Now, they will treat children as children, regardless of their immigration status
- Alongside COSLA, Glasgow City Council, the Scottish Government and UK Border Agency, developed an alternative to detention project to be piloted in Glasgow, working towards an end to the detention of asylum-seeking children and families
- Made progress with the Scottish Government towards developing a system of guardianship for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. A guardian would act as a point of contact to guide young people through the complexities of both the asylum and social welfare system
- Created the new post of Children's Policy Officer, funded by Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, to lobby further on children's rights

#### Women

- With the Refugee Women's Strategy Group, persuaded the UK Border Agency to provide childcare at asylum interviews
- In partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, researched the health needs of refugee women
- Signed up to support and promote the Women's Charter, a framework of principles aimed at raising awareness of the needs of asylum-seeking women in the UK

#### Other advocacy work

- Influenced the asylum agenda of around 50 fora at a local, Scottish, UK and European level, including the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles
- Contributed to numerous government consultations including, in Scotland, the Calman Commission and in the UK, the Draft Immigration & Citizenship Bill
- Increased engagement with Ministers, MSPs, MPs and councillors from all parties, which has resulted in five motions on refugees and asylum seekers being tabled in the Scottish Parliament
- Assisted the Independent Asylum Commission, a UK-wide enquiry into the asylum system, to launch their findings and lobby in Scotland

# I have **restarted** my life

## **Anna from Turkmenistan**

I fled Turkmenistan with my son two years ago. We were Russian, and as a Russian in Turkmenistan, it was almost impossible to live.

We arrived at Central Station in Glasgow not knowing where to go. It was like a dream and we were very frightened. I can't remember much about my first four or five months here. I wasn't myself.

The first place we went to was Scottish Refugee Council. My case worker there was like a star from God. He settled all things for me and my son. He helped me find somewhere to live, showed me the Home Office, got me into college and answered all my questions.

When I came, I could hardly speak English at all. But now I have my language qualification and am studying accountancy at Anniesland College. I have two degrees in Economics from university in Turkmenistan, but I have to do further study to convert them to be able to work here. In the meantime, I volunteer at Pollok Credit Union.

My son is enjoying school. He is a great tennis player and has joined the scouts. It was harder for him than me because he couldn't understand why we were here.

I try to close the door on what happened to us – it is easier that way. My main hope is to get a job and have a life in safety for me and my son.





## Spreading positive messages

We work in many ways to influence public attitudes on asylum seekers and refugees.

### In 2008, we:

#### Media

- Spearheaded an increasingly positive media debate around asylum and refugee issues
- Placed over 300 influential refugee stories throughout the UK in print, on television, radio and the internet on topics as diverse as children's rights, detention, destitution and permission to work
- Hosted focus groups with refugee women about their experiences of speaking to the media, to inform better reporting in this area
- Worked with journalism students on media ethics
- In partnership with Oxfam, produced an updated edition of *Fair Play: A Guide for Journalists*, to encourage more accurate reporting of refugee issues

#### Refugee Week – June 16-22

- Programmed over 90 arts, cultural and sporting events across the country, attended by more than 22,000 people
- Generated over 100 positive Refugee Week stories across various Scottish and UK-wide media, including BBC, STV, MSN.com, Daily Record, Metro, Sunday Post, Guardian, Observer and in local press
- In partnership with Oxfam, rewarded fair and accurate coverage of refugee issues with the *Refugee Week Scotland Media Awards*. Over 40 nominations were made in broadcast, print and photography categories,

- with journalists from all the main media outlets attending the awards' ceremony at the Tron Theatre
- Commissioned *Life After Iraq* photography exhibition, supported by Glasgow Museums and the UN Refugee Agency. Over 65,000 people from 65 countries visited the exhibition at St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, gaining an insight into the experiences of refugees displaced as a result of the conflict in Iraq. Education outreach and public information events were held in connection with the exhibition

#### Other arts and culture

- Helped establish the Intercultural Arts Network (ICAN), a group of arts organisations and other agencies working with refugees to develop the provision of arts and culture for new communities
- Developed partnerships with mainstream arts organisations to encourage new work with asylum seekers and refugees. Projects with Ydance – Scottish Youth Dance Company – have been awarded three-year funding from the Lankelly Chase Foundation to roll out across the city

**“Refugee Week provides an ideal opportunity for us all to find out more about asylum seekers and refugees – the terrible experiences which caused them to leave their homes and the journey they have come on to reach Scotland.”**

Stewart Maxwell MSP, Minister for Communities and Sport



## Sharing our knowledge

As the lead agency on asylum and refugee issues in Scotland, we like to share our expertise wherever we can.

### In 2008, we:

#### Events and conferences

- Informed 150 stakeholders at our AGM on the topic of Access to Europe
- Organised Spring and Autumn conferences on Refugee Resettlement and Integration and the Draft Immigration and Citizenship Bill respectively. These attracted large audiences, good media coverage and high-profile speakers including: Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency; Kenny MacAskill, Justice Secretary; and, Professor Kay Hampton, Scottish Human Rights Commission
- Co-hosted a seminar on key legal developments with the Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group and the Murray Stable, with keynote speaker Lord Reed, a judge at the Court of Session and European Court of Human Rights
- Participated in a two-day conference on 'Violence Against Women: Additional Barriers Faced by Women Subject to Immigration Control', as part of ongoing work with the Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership
- Spoke about human trafficking at the Festival of Politics, alongside Amnesty International and the Trafficking Awareness-Raising Alliance (TARA)
- Took part in a conference 'Delivering Human Rights Outcomes in Scotland', hosted by City of Edinburgh Council to mark International Human Rights Day in December

#### Working together

- Developed joint working with other organisations in the field of asylum and related issues, including: Positive Action in Housing, BEMIS (Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland), Show Racism the Red Card, the new Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Education Institute in Scotland, STUC, LGBT Scotland and our sister Refugee Councils in England and Wales

#### Training

- Delivered 25 training courses to agencies as diverse as Strathclyde Police, Job Centre Plus, North Lanarkshire Council, Rape Crisis, College Admissions Officers, NHS Trust, the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council. Courses covered areas such as: *Working with Interpreters* and *An Introduction to Working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers*
- Created bespoke training tailored to specific agencies' needs

**“The work of Scottish Refugee Council is crucial to the human rights agenda in Scotland and the Scottish Human Rights Commission will continue to work closely with them to ensure the dignity of all who come here for protection from abuse and torture.”**

Professor Kay Hampton, Scottish Human Rights Commission.



# I have **reset**tled

## **Mickey from Somalia**

I came here on my own when I was 17, fleeing the conflict in Somalia. I didn't know what to expect. I was just wanting to settle somewhere safe, find my feet and fit in to society.

I went to Langside College and did my highers, then I went on to study drama. While I was on the course, I met a guy called Scrappy from Congo. He was a rapper and a musician. He inspired me and we got together to write some songs and got carried away with the whole thing.

With others, we formed a music collective called Fugees United and used our songs to break the myths and negativity about asylum seekers and refugees. We had so much to say about the system, about how we could contribute, about who we were and where we were coming from.

Then we got an idea that we wanted to make a record. We went to Scottish Refugee Council, a bunch of kids with a plan, and they worked with us to make that plan a reality. They helped us find the finances to record an album and organise and promote ourselves. The support they gave us was my foundation.

Our lives were changed by this. I thought if I could do that, I could do anything. Now, me and my business partner are running an events company called Umoja Events. Umoja means 'All of us together' in Swahili. We bring big international artists to Glasgow and run the only urban music nights in the city. I am looking forward to my future here, for me and my son. It is looking bright.



## Working in the community

Our work to help refugee communities help themselves has grown considerably this year.

### In 2008, we:

#### Refugee support and community groups

- Worked with Refugee Support and Integration Networks and Community Planning Partnerships to deliver ten Local Integration Plans, which will help develop more tolerant, diverse and safe communities throughout Glasgow
- Linked our eight Framework for Dialogue (FFD) groups – which unite refugees and members of the community on issues of mutual concern – in with the Local Integration Networks. Challenges for groups have included meeting the needs of refugees who have finally been granted status after years of waiting for a decision on their claim, while still addressing issues for newer arrivals
- Continued to support Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs), which help refugees influence policy and practice and build bridges into Scottish society
- Worked with other agencies to improve support for RCOs, such as Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations
- Supported the Scottish Refugee Policy Forum – made up of representatives from RCOs and FFD groups – to formally constitute as an independent body, giving them an even stronger mandate for their work on getting a fairer deal for their members

- Provided a Women's Group, where especially vulnerable and isolated women meet informally to socialise, speak to caseworkers and talk about issues that affect them
- Produced an updated version of our Refugee Community Development Strategy for Scotland, with the involvement of the Scottish Government, COSLA, other stakeholders and communities themselves

#### Detention groups

- Fewer detentions this year have meant less need for Detention Support Groups. However, as detentions increase again, we will continue to support six groups, who advocate on behalf of those who have been detained
- Continued to support the Scottish Detainee Visitors' scheme, a volunteer group that visits asylum seekers detained in Dungavel

**“Scottish Refugee Council is the first port of call for decision makers about the issues which affect refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland. I represent a constituency with strong asylum seeker and refugee communities and I've seen first hand the positive result of their work.”**

Bill Butler MSP, Glasgow Anniesland and Member of the Cross Party Group for Asylum Seekers & Refugees

## Moving on with life

When a person receives their refugee status, after the initial relief comes a whole host of new challenges. We have a variety of services to help at this stage of the process.

### Sunrise

For the early part of 2008, our Sunrise Team – as part of a UK-wide Home Office pilot – provided advice for people immediately after they received their refugee status. This covered issues such as finding accommodation, education and employment.

- Over 500 refugees went through the Sunrise programme
- Of these, 82 secured employment within the year in jobs such as doctors and teachers

### Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES)

Based on the success of Sunrise, the UK Border Agency developed RIES. We won the contract to deliver it in Scotland, in partnership with A4e, the Volunteer Centre Glasgow and TimeBank.

#### RIES started in October and:

- Helps new refugees find work
- Offers practical advice on English classes and other education needs
- Provides guidance on housing, volunteering and mentoring opportunities

#### So far in 2008, RIES has:

- Had 88 referrals of people from over 13 different nations
- Helped over 32 refugees access the employment service provided by A4e, looking for jobs as diverse as gynaecologist and historian

### Housing

Due to pressures on resources, we had to reduce some parts of our Housing Service. Despite this, we still managed to deliver a high level of support.

#### In 2008, we:

- Dealt with 3000 housing requests from individuals and other agencies, primarily on homelessness, but also racial harassment, disrepair, benefits, domestic violence and overcrowding
- Delivered presentations in the community on housing and refugee entitlement and an outreach service at the Rosemount Lifelong Learning Centre in North Glasgow
- Successfully passed the upgrade of Level 2 Homepoint (national standards in housing advice) and Level 3 of the Housing Professional Development Award, which means staff are better equipped than ever to represent and advocate on behalf of clients

### Family Reunion

We work with other agencies such as the British Red Cross, UN Refugee Agency and embassies across the world to reunite refugee families in Scotland who have become separated while fleeing conflict.

#### In 2008, we:

- Successfully reunited three families
- A further two are due to be reunited soon, with the applications for eight more families currently awaiting approval

# We were **reunited**

## **Aimée and family from Democratic Republic of Congo.**

From left to right: Arlette, 18, Nelly, 16, Rodrigue, 15, Aimée, Aristote, 12, Nick, 17 and Daniel, 8.

For two years, I was imprisoned with my young son in the Democratic Republic of Congo. My children were poisoned. My father and brother were executed. My mother and other brother ran away – I still don't know where they are.

In 2007, I fled to the UK. I had to leave my children behind in the care of my sister. I don't know how to tell you how that felt. I couldn't sleep; I was depressed. I didn't have a lot of money, but I sent money back for their care and medicine.

I was given refugee status quite quickly and I went to Scottish Refugee Council to see about getting visas for my children. The Family Reunion Officer worked hard on my case. It was too much for me, too kindly. I can't forget what he did for me.

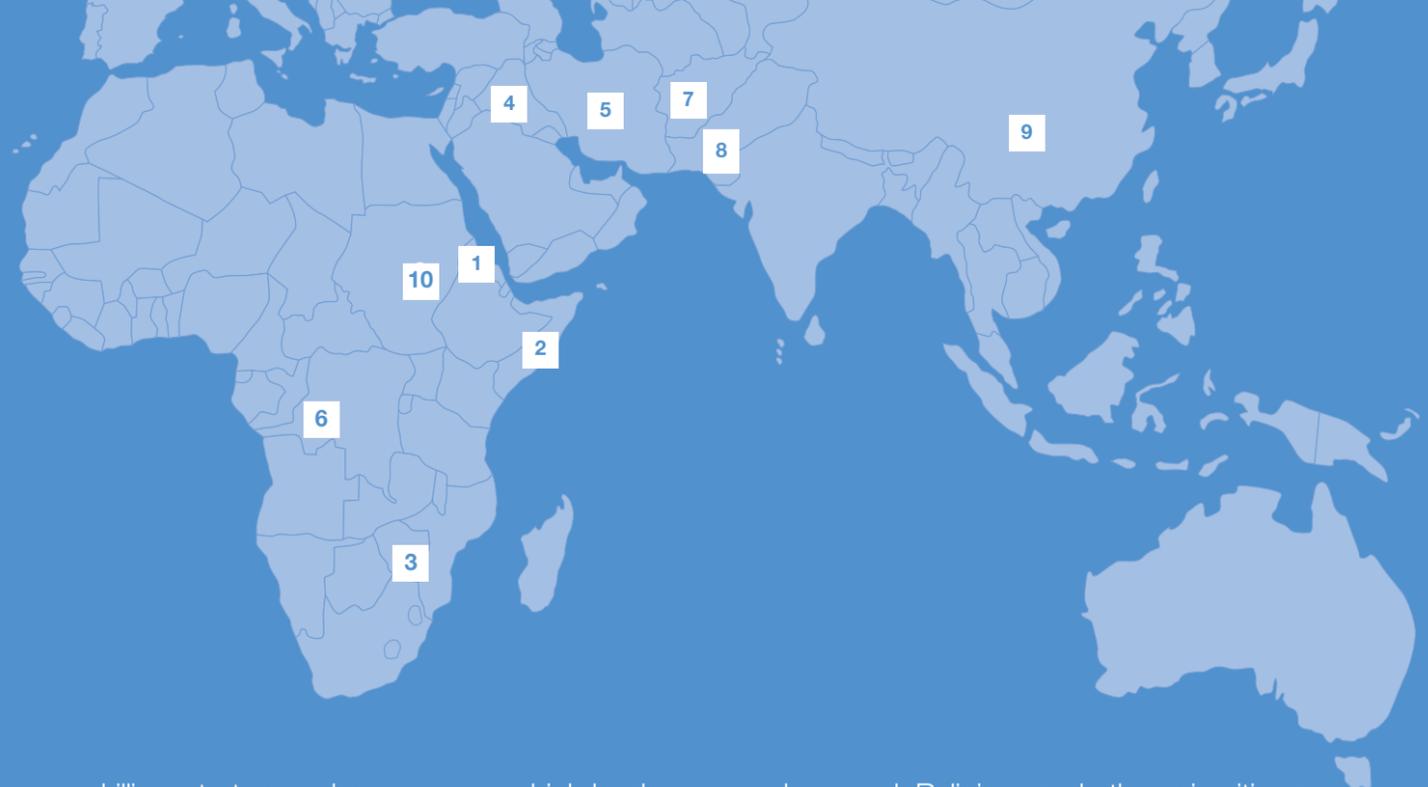
My children got their visas in September, but it was the following March before they were able to arrive. Once they came here it was a miracle. At the airport, I lost my mind.

At first all seven of us were living in a one-bedroom house, which was hard, but they were happy.

I am currently volunteering with the British Red Cross and hope to get a job in administration or childcare.

I want to stay in Scotland. My children like it here and we are safe. When I watch what is happening in my country on the TV, I am very sad, but very relieved that we are here.





## Where are refugees coming from?

There are currently 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland, fleeing from persecution and other human rights abuses in countries and situations detailed below.

### 1. Eritrea

Eritrea is in a border dispute with Ethiopia, following the 1998-2000 war. It is a highly repressive state, where political dissent is totally suppressed. Political prisoners are arrested and detained without any means of legal redress. It operates military conscription amongst all citizens aged 18-40. Economic progress is hampered by the proportion of Eritreans who are in the army rather than the workforce. Two thirds of the population is dependent on food aid.

**In 2007, 1810 Eritreans applied for asylum in the UK. 1095 were granted refugee status.**

### 2. Somalia

Somalia has no effective central government or justice system. Lawlessness and tribal warfare has been rife since a military government collapsed in 1991.

Repeated armed conflict in 2007 led to thousands more civilian deaths. The UN estimates that at least 1 million people have become refugees.

**In 2007, 1615 Somalis applied for asylum in the UK. 805 were granted refugee status.**

### 3. Zimbabwe

The human rights situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate, with an increase in organised violence and torture and restrictions on the rights to assembly and expression. The economy is in crisis with rampant inflation,

deindustrialisation, disease and shortages of food and fuel. About 4 million people require food aid.

**In 2007, 1800 Zimbabweans applied for asylum in the UK. 255 were granted refugee status.**

### 4. Iraq

Thousand of civilians, including children, have been killed in the sectarian violence which has engulfed Iraq. Many were killed in bomb attacks by groups opposed to the Iraqi government; others have been victims of killings by Shi'a and Sunni armed groups.

2 million refugees have fled Iraq to neighbouring countries, such as Syria and Jordan. More than 2 million are internally displaced within Iraq.

**In 2007, 1825 Iraqis applied for asylum in the UK. 145 were granted refugee status.**

### 5. Iran

Authorities in Iran continue to suppress dissent. Journalists, writers, scholars, women's groups, LGBT and community rights activists are subject to arrest, detention, torture and sentences such as stoning to death and amputation.

**In 2007, 2210 Iranians applied for asylum in the UK. 210 were granted refugee status.**

### 6. Democratic Republic of Congo

Political and military tensions in the DRC have resulted in mass outbreaks of violence. Arbitrary

killings, torture and rape occur on high levels. There have been an estimated 4 million deaths since 1998 and more than 2.7 million people have had to flee their homes because of the conflict.

**In 2007, 370 people from DRC applied for asylum in the UK. 80 were granted refugee status.**

### 7. Afghanistan

Afghanistan has suffered from such chronic instability during its modern history, that its economy and infrastructure are in ruins. Increasing conflict and insecurity, aggravated by drought and floods, has led to large-scale displacement of people. Human rights, especially for women, are threatened by resurgent Taliban forces and re-armed war lords. Three million Afghans are in Pakistan and Iran.

**In 2007, 2500 Afghans applied for asylum in the UK. 85 were granted refugee status.**

### 8. Pakistan

Lawyers, journalists, human rights activists and political workers are arbitrarily tortured and detained. Honour killings and violence against women continue with impunity.

**1030 Pakistanis applied for asylum in the UK in 2007. 65 were granted refugee status.**

### 9. China

Growing numbers of human rights activists are imprisoned, put under house arrest, surveillance

or harassed. Religious and other minorities are repressed. Torture of prisoners is prevalent and millions of detainees have no access to justice. Women and girls continue to suffer violence and repression. Censorship of the internet and other media is rife.

**In 2007, 2100 Chinese applied for asylum in the UK. 60 were granted refugee status.**

### 10. Sudan

Persecution of religious and ethnic minorities continues in Sudan. The North-South civil war is said to have cost the lives of 1.5 million people. In Darfur, more than two million have fled their homes and 200,000 have been killed. Torture and ill-treatment of Darfuris and other marginalised groups is systematic. 2.5 million people are said to be living in dangerous conditions in overcrowded refugee camps.

**In 2007, 330 Sudanese applied for asylum in the UK. 65 were granted refugee status.**

### Did you know?

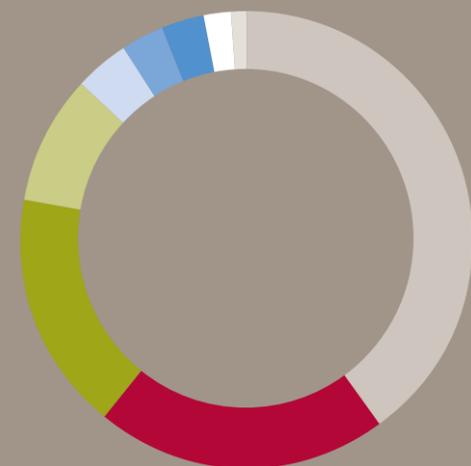
- According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, there are 14 million refugees worldwide
- The UK hosts only 2 per cent of the world's refugee population. Most of the world's refugees are taken care of by the poorest countries, such as Iran and Pakistan
- 23,430 people applied for asylum in the United Kingdom in 2007. Of those, only 6,540 were granted permission to stay

# Financial

Income, expenditure and statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the financial year ended 31st March 2008. Full Report and Financial Statements are available from our website or on request.

Total Income

£3,168,331

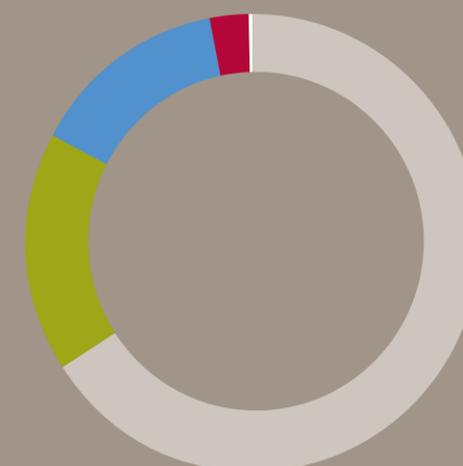


## Sources of Income

UKBA Asylum Services	40%
UKBA Integration Services	21%
Scottish Government: Strategic	17%
Scottish Government: Projects	9%
Other grants	4%
Charitable Trusts	3%
Investment income	3%
Local Authorities	2%
Other income	1%

Total Expenditure

£3,208,080



## Analysis of Expenditure

Advice services	66%
Development and capacity building	17%
Knowledge, policy and communications	14%
Governance costs	2.8%
Cost of generating funds	0.2%



## Farewell

2008 was my last on the Board of Scottish Refugee Council after seven memorable years as Chair and 23 years involvement with the organisation.

I first started working with refugees in Scotland in 1973, when Glasgow offered help to Chileans fleeing from Pinochet's regime. I was asked by the Trades Council to assist with some new arrivals until proper arrangements could be made. I moved out of my flat and they moved in. This was soon followed by the arrival of over 1000 Vietnamese boat people to Scotland in the eighties.

When Scottish Refugee Council started in Robertson Street in Glasgow in 1985, it was a one person and a dog co-operative.

But, as time went on, it was the first organisation to start thinking about the bigger picture needs of these refugees and realised that, given the escalating conflicts around the world, they were only going to increase.

It has taken a lot of work from the Board and the staff to get to where we are today. Now Scottish Refugee Council can instantly link a group of refugees in with local authorities and set about improving their health, education, language skills and employment opportunities; their chance of survival. The organisation's national and international credibility is testament to this success.

I am proud to have been Chair and to have worked with such committed Board Members. But the job of the Board was made easier by the hard work of the organisation's staff. I cannot praise them too highly.

With John Wilkes as Chief Executive, building on the work of Sally Daghlian before him, I am confident they will go from strength to strength.

There will always be a need for Scottish Refugee Council and I will always be involved with it in some capacity.

I thank it for 23 good years and wish the new Chair of the Board, David Fraser, all the best for his future.

**Professor David Walsh**  
Outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors

**"Together, we can all strive to build a better future for refugees in Scotland."**



## Funders

We would like to thank our funders for their support during the financial year ended 31st March 2008. Our work would not be possible without their assistance and that of our members and supporters.

### ABC

BBC Children in Need  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Comic Relief

### DEF

Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund  
East Dunbartonshire Council  
East Lothian Council  
East Renfrewshire Council  
Equality and Human Rights Commission  
Falkirk Council

### GHI

Garfield Weston Foundation  
Glasgow City Council  
Highland Council

### JKL

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland

### MNO

Martin Connell Charitable Trust  
Midlothian Council  
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North Lanarkshire Council

### PQR

Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
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### STU

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## Scottish Refugee Council is an independent charity which provides advice and information to asylum seekers and refugees living in Scotland.

We also campaign for fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and to raise awareness of refugee issues.

**To find out more about our work or to make a donation, please go to** [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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### Charity Number

SC008639

### Company Number

SC145067

### Freephone number for asylum seekers and refugees

0800 085 6087

### Services provided in Edinburgh from:

Citizens Advice Bureau  
58 Dundas Street  
Edinburgh EH3 6QZ

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