

## **Annual Report 2018**

**Registered Charity Number 1174970** 

A community standing together for the rights and protection of young refugees

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## **Our Team**

#### **Project Leads**



Elaine Ortiz Founder - Director



Toby Moore Young Leaders



Sarah Bennett Global Social Club



Mick Taylor Homework Club

#### Hummingbird Young Leaders







Nisar Gul

**Damien Robert** 



**Mohamad Aljasem** 

**Richard Williams** 

**Board of Trustees** 



**Tariq Khan** 



Wasim Al Yousef



Chas Walker, Chair



**Reima Maglajilic** 



Elisa Sandri, Secretary



May Beveridge, Treasurer

**Dil Eyre** 



Mark Doidge

Social Media



**Mia Furci** 



### Our work is inspired by a simple story...

Once upon a time there was beautiful forest full of animals. But one day the forest caught fire and all the animals ran to escape from the flames.

One of the animals – a little hummingbird – decided to fly to the river, pick up as much water as it could carry in its beak, then fly back to the forest and drop the water on the fire. It did this again, again and again.

Eventually the animals called out to the Hummingbird, 'What are you doing! You're just one little hummingbird and thats a huge fire."

The hummingbird didn't stop, it just turned and replied...

### "I'm doing all I can".

#### From our Chair, Chas Walker

It is my first year as Chair of this amazing Charity. I was drawn to the role because of the Hummingbird Parable and its strong connection to the founding story of the Hummingbird Project. A belief in a common humanity not an individualised society. A belief that we can all make a difference and that those small differences can change the world for the better.



This has been a year of change for the Hummingbird Project, changing from a spontaneous movement of individuals around a cause to a structured Charity with a vision of the future for young refugees. This vision is based on supporting young refugees by **providing** essential services for them and galvanising our local communities to campaign on important issues that affect young refugees.

It has been great to put together a Board of highly committed and skilled individuals and to appoint Elaine, the founder of Hummingbird Project, as the Director of the Charity. We have had amazing support from important partners, I would like to thank the Trusts, who have supported us financially, for believing in us. I would also like to thank Impact Initiatives and their amazing Young People's Centre for supporting our development as a Charity.

We are continually overwhelmed by the support of the general public with so many amazing volunteers, so many of you supporting our campaigns and ensuring that through the Hummingbird Project young refugees have a voice. Also, for the amazing financial support with our **fundraising activities raising almost £24,000 in the past 12 months** to support our work, thank you to all those who have contributed.

I am really pleased to announce through our annual report that following consultation with our young people and supporters the Board has agreed with Elaine a vision statement to continue to build the work of the Hummingbird Project into the future.

#### Vision Statement: A community standing together

for the rights and protection of young refugees

## Our History, 2015-2017

From our Founder-Director, Elaine Ortiz



As this is our first annual report, I felt it would be nice to reflect on our journey so far! A lot has happened since we first started in June 2015.

So, I will try and give a snapshot of some our work from 2015 -2016 when we worked in the Calais 'jungle', running some of the main services for adults and children in the unofficial refugee camp.

In the summer of 2015, after a volunteering on the ground, our small team assessed what the biggest needs were for refugees in Calais and Dunkirk so we could focus our time and resources. We met with refugees in the camp and they described to us how they'd had their most basic human rights refused, we heard repeated stories of daily abuse and humiliation inflicted by gangs and shockingly, the CRS (the French military police, paid for by the UK.) It was very clear that most people lacked access to basic health care, aid and shelter.

Following the photograph of Syrian toddler Alan Kurdi, (who had tragically drowned crossing the Mediterranean) appearing on the front pages of most mainstream newspapers, we quickly started to receive hundreds of emails offering help and thousands of pound in donations. These donations enabled our team to grow significantly. We recruited over one hundred medics who then ran our purpose built medical clinic in partnership with Medecins Sans Frontieres, offering weekend medical assistance.



We recruited over two hundred builders to build and maintain shelters for those most at need and community spaces such as schools and safe spaces. As winter kicked in our volunteers ran a kitchen giving out thousands of hot drinks and snacks alongside our medical clinic as people queued to be seen.

Meanwhile, our volunteers back in Brighton packed vans full of donated aid several times a week, which was distributed via Help Refugees and Care4Calais warehouses.

As fires broke out often in the camp, seriously harming people sleeping in tents or shelters and sometimes burning down huge areas of the camp, we worked hard to bring over fire equipment, burns kits, working with partners to distribute them to key areas and teach people how to use the burns kits. Our builders quickly changed their methods to build using only fire retardant materials.

Despite violent evictions and frequent tear gassing in the 'jungle' our services remained open. The camp grew, full of people who had fled for their lives, seeking peace, with hopes of being reunited with family. The sadness and heartache in the camp touched us all significantly but we were forever moved and inspired by the hope and resilience of the survivors we met everyday.

Within a few months, the population of the camp more than doubled and we witnessed a new trend that disturbed us all. We saw a huge increase in children arriving, alone, traumatised, with nowhere to go. Almost all the young people were alone. One of the youngest we met was only 8 years old and had travelled alone from Afghanistan. They were fleeing conflict and we heard of armies and terrorist groups such as the Taliban and ISIS trying to take them as recruits. They were terrified of going back. Authorities who were notified did nothing.

Sate o





Our team decided to focus on looking out for the ever growing number of children arriving to the camp daily. So we built **The Hummingbird Safe Space**, offering a creative and therapeutic environment for the most vulnerable young people. Still partnered with Medecins Sans Frontieres and also with Refugee Youth Service and Art Refuge we now worked together to develop a new 'Safe Zone', one which only children and authorised adults could access.

Refugee Youth Service led on developing a tracking service for young people in the camp and we brought in the NSPCC Trafficking Service to take account of the children going missing every week.

Back home our teams worked hard to raise the issue by meeting with politicians, holding meetings with charity heads and demanding action to protect the children in the camp. We joined forces with Lord Alf Dubs and Safe Passage and called for protection which finally opened up some legal pathways. Our work in the 'jungle' ended with the eviction of the camp in October/November 2016 and the relocation of the young people to different parts of France.

Our team were on the ground throughout the eviction process, witnessing a child protection failure on a huge scale as children slept on wet ground on the side of the road, watching as the communities they knew were evicted and burnt to the ground. There were over 2000 children identified by the end of the camp and only a small number were removed in this period through legal routes. The others, even some of the most vulnerable, left to sleep rough.

One case in particular was a child known to have been abused by violent gangs, who had been reported to the authorities several times. He too was left in the camp without protection. We joined forces with Duncan Lewis Solicitors to take the Secretary of State to court for the failure to protect and implement the 'Dubs Amendment' which was meant to bring the most vulnerable children from the camp to the UK. For more info on this read here.

After the eviction of the 'jungle' we returned to Brighton determined to continue to do all we can for the rights & protection of young refugees and began work from our local community.



## What We Do

Founded as a grassroots organisation in Calais, we're now a Brighton based Charity working locally with young refugees & campaigning nationally. Based in Brighton since 2017, we've developed our services by listening & responding to the needs of young people.



**Global Social Club** 

A weekly youth club focussed on friendship, fun & celebrating diversity, for young people from around the city & around the world.



#### 1:1 Support & Advocacy

Specialist casework providing intensive mental health support & advocacy to young people going through the asylum process.



Young Leaders

In partnership with **TEDxBrighton**. A mentoring programme for young refugees in public speaking, leadership, advocacy & politics.



Homework Club

A weekly drop in with qualified teachers providing friendly & informal educational & language support.



**Community Events** 

We organise & support community events celebrating diverse & inclusive communities, including hosting a vibrant Parade for Refugee Week 2018.



Campaigning

We actively campaign for the rights & protection of refugees. We have led significant national & international campaigns and continue to lobby for change.

# **Hummingbird Highlights!**

- Global Social Club became the UK's first **official Youth Club of Sanctuary** and developed a set of transferrable guidelines for other youth clubs.
- Since its start in Autumn 2017, Global Social Club has welcomed over 100 young people from over 18 Countries.
- Homework Club has provided vital educational support to over 25 young people.
- We organised a lively Refugee Welcome Parade for 20th Anniversary of Refugee Week 2018 in partnership with Sanctuary on Sea & the magical Same Sky. Over 150 people took part, sharing the welcoming, warmth and joy of our colourful city. Led by a vibrant carnival band and our very own Hummingbird team, the parade included a 10 foot Hummingbird! Hummingbirds also had starring roles in Brighton's Pride Parade & winter Burning the Clocks Parade.
- We have hosted two brilliant Christmas Day events in 2017 & 2018 for people of all ages from Brighton refugee & migrant communities, including family and friends from Syria, Afghanistan and Sudan. We have shared a world of food including Afghan Rice & Sudanese Stews. We took a moment on the day to write notes to the family members and loved ones we missed.
- Our Founder & Director Elaine was **Highly Commended** in the Excellence in Diversity Awards in November 2017 as a **Diversity Champion for the Charity Sector**!
- Hummingbirds in the Media! Guardian Podcasts, Voices of Calais episodes about unaccompanied young refugees in the UK visited GSC (listen here) & interviewed Elaine (listen here). Hummingbird Young Leader Naqeeb was also featured on BBC Radio 4 speaking poignantly comparing experiences of being a young refugee with a man who came to the UK via Kindertransport 80 years ago. (You can listen here, from minute 25)
- Hummingbird Young Leaders delivered a fantastic speech in front of an audience of over 1000 in London for the 80th Anniversary of the Kindertransport, including dozens of holocaust surviviors, celebrities, MPs and political figures.

# **Global Social Club**

Global Social Club (GSC) meets every Monday. Our team welcome young people aged 14-25 from around the city and around the world. We're based at the Young People's Centre (YPC) in central Brighton. GSC is delivered in partnership with the Refugee Council, Pathways to Independence and YPC.

We started this new group in August 2017 in response to hearing requests from our young people to meet more local people their age. Since then we have welcomed over 100 young people and become recognised as the UK's first Youth Club of Sanctuary!

We have fun, celebrate diversity, build friendships and share culture & creativity. Each week we do different **activities, socialise and share food** together. It's a space to **nurture connection and solidarity between young people of different backgrounds.** It also provides vital opportunities for young refugees to meet new people locally.

We offer specialist support for young refugees and all young people who join us. Our robust partnership has a range of strengths, enabling us to offer a safe and supportive environment for young people across a spectrum of vulnerability. We have strong community links in order to connect young people to additional opportunities and support locally.

We were delighted to be awarded a **£5000 grant** in 2018 from Brighton and Hove Council through a youth led application process. **Young members of GSC applied for funds** specifically for activities and trips. We have since been **ice skating, go karting & for a festive meal together!** 

For more details on GSC, see our full evaluation **here:** http://bit.ly/GSCEval2018

# **Homework Club**

Homework Club is a weekly drop in **educational and language support** session with qualified teachers that runs for two hours before Global Social Club sessions.



It has fast become one of the most successful outcomes of GSC's **youth-led approach, created in direct response to requests of our young members.** Young refugees who we work with have come from a variety of backgrounds, some have had some education before arriving in the UK and **others may have never been to school at all.** 

Since it began, Homework Club has provided intensive support to **over 25 young people.** Our informal session is a chance for young people to bring their homework and learn in addition to their regular education they receive at school or college.

Young people are offered 1-1 support or will be in a small group with qualified teachers. They get to learn more about the education system and have a chance to catch up if they have missed education due to fleeing their home country or language barriers.

Within just a few months of intensive 1-1 support with one of our qualified teachers, a young person attending Homework Club achieved A\* A level grades. This young person had always been a high achiever academically but after almost two years out of education due to the war in her country, had struggled to catch up after arriving in the UK. Homework Club supported her to flourish academically and reach the high levels of achievement she knew she was capable of before being forced to flee her home.



# **Hummingbird Young Leaders**

Hummingbird Young Leaders programme is run in partnership with **TEDxBrighton**.

Launched in Summer 2017, the Young Leaders programme was developed as an innovative way to mentor young refugees in Brighton in **public speaking**, **communication**, **leadership**, **advocacy and politics**.

A core group of **five Hummingbird Young Leaders** have attended regular weekend Young Leader sessions developing confidence & skills.

Our young leaders have worked together to **raise awareness** on issues facing other refugees in the UK and Europe and have **campaigned to create positive change**. They have organised and attended events around the country, including regular meetings and events in **Parliament**. They are **highly engaged** with MPs, journalists and other charities including **Safe Passage & Amnesty International.** In November 2018 they spoke powerfully at the Kindertransport Anniversary event along with **Dame Esther Rantzen**, which was was attended by **over 1000 people**, including many **members of Parliament and survivors of the holocaust**.

In December 2018 the Young Leaders also spoke at an event at Amnesty International London about Human Rights with partners Refugee Rights Europe and Help Refugees. They have been involved in radio interviews with the BBC and been interviewed by journalists from the **Independent**, **Guardian & Sunday Times.** Locally in our community, on top of their studies they have **welcomed new young people** to the area, **volunteered their time** with our charity, **spoken on panels at University of Brighton** and received awards for their outstanding achievements in the UK.

# 1:1 Support

We offer **specialist support**, working **intensively** with a small group of five young refugees who have been identified as having additional support needs. They may have experienced **severe trauma** and/or have **significant difficulties** in their life.

Our 1:1 work combines **advocacy and mental health support**, delivered in **partnership** with other professionals with a joined up approach, to address issues such as PTSD and **complex**, **delayed or failed asylum cases.** 

We have supported young people to access support through appropriate mental health services and other specialist support services.

There has been **significant demand** for this service and regrettably due to our limited capacity we have not been able to provide support to all that need it. We **hope to expand** this service in the future, to meet the huge need for specialist support around mental health and advocacy for young people through the asylum process.



# Campaigning

Over the last few years we have led & actively supported many campaigns.

**2015-2016** We led two national campaigns. The first asked the government to take its fair share of refugees, gaining **72,000 signatures**. This was prior to the government **accepting 20,000 Syrian refugees.** 

The other petition was to the authorities in France & England **demanding a more humanitarian approach** for the refugees in the camp in Grand Synthe, Dunkirk after a blockade was imposed on the camp during coldest winter months. The petition attracted **over 50,000 signatures in one week** and was **hand delivered to the Mayor of Dunkirk.** 

This campaign led to our **close work with the Mayor** and officials who included us in discussions and plan to build an official refugee camp in Grande Synth, Dunkirk. Our team then **designed and built two large schools in the refugee camp** in partnership with **Brighton Shelter Build**.



**2016-2017** We then joined **Safe Passage** in their efforts to create **safe and legal routes** for young refugees in Europe with family links and also through the Kindertransport spirited **#DubsNow** campaign. We worked hard to make sure that children in the camp had **access to legal information** by working in partnership with lawyers and referring them for relocation if they had the legal rights. In the UK our teams campaigned and worked hard on **raising awareness of the child protection failures** in the Calais 'jungle'.

**2018** We joined efforts with **Lord Alf Dubs** and **Safe Passage** in the **'Our Turn'** campaign. One of our Young Leaders led a **successful deputation** at the council, achieving a **council commitment to receiving 100 young people**, if there is a government funded scheme. We continue to work with our council to support the unaccompanied young refugees who are already placed here.

We are now a member of the **Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium** (RMCC). RMCC is a group of NGOs working collaboratively to ensure that the **rights and needs of refugee and migrant children are promoted, respected and met** in accordance with the relevant regional and international standards.

Collectively the Consortium has **significant expertise** and has built a good relationship with the Home Office and Specialist Advisors in Parliament. As members of RMCC we are in a position to **share expertise with government officials on matters relating to child migrants and refugees**. This membership helps us **amplify the voices of our young people** and **take part in important discussions** that affect the lives of young refugees.

In 2018 we submitted a report to the **Chief Inspector of Immigration and Borders**-**Insp. David Bolt.** His role is to inspect the Home Office and make recommendations for improvements of their work.

His recent inspection concluded **children's voices should be heard more** through the asylum process but it appeared neither he nor the Home Office had many any plans to take this any further.

We contacted Insp. David Bolt, and **secured a two hour session in Parliament** for **young people to share their experiences of the Home Office directly**. He has agreed to collect this as evidence. Our MP, Caroline Lucas will support this event. The Home Office's treatment of young people is still one of the biggest factors affecting the mental health of our service users, we will use this opportunity in Parliament to highlight this.

# **Governance & Legal**

The Hummingbird Project is constituted as Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We registered as a Charity on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 with a Charity Registration Number of **1174970**.

The registered address of the Hummingbird Project is: The Hummingbird Refugee Project, YPC, 69 Ship Street, Brighton, BN1 1AE.

The organisation is run and managed by a **Board of Trustees**. Our Trustees are:

Elisa Sandri Richard Williams Mark Doidge Reima Maglajilic Damien Robert Dil Eyre

All appointed 4th October 2017

May Beveridge (Treasurer) Appointed 14th February 2018 Charles Walker (Chair) Appointed 29th March 2018

Trustees are recruited based on the required skills and experience for the running of the Charity. All trustees give their time **voluntarily** and **receive no benefit** from the charity.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the **strategic direction and policy of the charity**. At present the Board is made up of **eight Trustees** from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

### **Objects & Activities**

Our Objects: To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including but not limited to the relief of poverty and distress, the advancement of education, and the promotion of physical and mental health.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives. The charity is fulfilling its role in the community by supporting and advocating for unaccompanied young asylum seekers.

### **Independent Examiners Report**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

*I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:* 

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Am hegunt

Date: 28.02.19

Name: Ann Longhurst Relevant professional qualification: FCCA Address: 11 Varndean Gardens, Brighton, BN1 6WJ

# **Treasurer's Report**

When I arrived in January 2018, Hummingbird's income was almost exclusively derived from donations from individuals who cared passionately for the welfare of refugees. While always necessary and welcome, these donations could not provide a regular source of income, making it difficult to plan for the future. A **generous grant from a Trust** 

Fund has allowed us to pay a small wage to our Founder/Director, ensuring the **continuation of The Hummingbird Project.** 

We will always need to raise money through events and from the support of local businesses and organisations, but we are also now aiming **to find funders who are prepared to make longer term commitments**. It would be great if we could **expand so we can help even more young people!** 

Our income to 30 September 2018 was £49,654, of which, £24,895 was donations from individuals. The balance was raised through grant funding support. Our spending of £29,110 was entirely on charitable objectives.

Looking to the future we are developing a strategy to support the resourcing of the Hummingbird Project. We would like to continue to **increase our reach**, as there is an **increasing need for case work support.** We also want to **expand our work promoting positive outcomes for young refugees** through our existing services and our campaigning. We have appointed a consultant fundraiser to support trust and grant applications to generate additional funds to support the ambition of the Charity.

A little bit of background about me. I'm retired and studying for a BA in Fine Art. My working life was spent in the Inland Revenue (later HMRC), and one of my roles was head of the IR Charities section in Scotland. With an understanding of accounts and charity law, I have previously been a trustee in several Arts organisations. Since joining Hummingbird, I have been **increasingly impressed with the passion, commitment and professionalism of everyone involved**. Whilst I keep a close eye on what we spend, **I strive to put the welfare of our young refugees first.** It has been a great pleasure to work with Chas & Elaine as we take Hummingbird forward in a more structured way and I'm looking forward to more of the same hard work in 2019.



May Beveridge, Treasurer

## Accounts

Hummingbird Refugee Project was first registered as a Charity in **October 2017**. Presented here are **twelve months** of accounts from our date of registration.

Receipts and payments a	counts for the year	ending 30th Sente	mber 2018	
Neceipts and payments a	counts for the year	enanig som septe		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	
Receipts	£	£	£	
Grants	20,500	-	20,500	
External project	- 0	4,200	4,200	
Donations	23,878	-	23,878	
Donation from previous organisation	1,017	-	1,017	
Sales of Hearts badges	59		59	
Total Receipts	45,454	4,200	49,654	
		.,===		
Payments				
Cost of Hearts badges	77	_	77	
Beneficiary support	6,413		6,413	
Beneficiary activities	1,181		1,181	
Director/founder	9,667	-	9,667	
External project	- 0	4,200	4,200	
Payments to volunteers	1,900	4,200	1,900	
Travel	2,466	-	2,466	
Volunteer travel	482	-	482	
Rent		-		
Insurance	600 560	-	600 560	
Printing & stationery		-		
Postage, freight, courier	12	-	12	
Telephone & internet		-		
Advertising, marketing & events	514	-	514	
Bookeeping & accountancy	883	-	883	
Legal expenses		-		
Bank fees	41	-	41	
Total Payments	<b>23</b> <b>24,910</b>	4,200	<b>2</b> 3 <b>29,110</b>	
Total Layments	24,910	4,200	23,110	
Net of ve coints ((no vec outo)	20 5 4 4		20.544	
Net of receipts/(payments) Transfers between funds	20,544	-	20,544	
Cash funds last year end	- 0	-	-	
;	-	-	-	
Cash funds this year end	20,544	-	20,544	
Statement of assets and liabilities at the 30th September 2018				
		•	Unrestricted	
			funds	
			fullus	
Cash funds	Bank balance			
			20,544	
			-	
		Total cash funds	20,544	
Signed on behalf of all the trustees	1111			
Chas Walker	112 beter			
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May Beveridge	OLU- M. Savender			
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## **Our Community**

Based in Brighton, a City of Sanctuary, we are really lucky to have an incredible community of Hummingbirds around us. We are surrounded by people doing what they can!

The hundreds of people who volunteered with us over the last three and a half years & the thousands of pounds of funds raised, largely came from the **kind and welcoming** people in and around our city. We are proud to be a charity that has been founded from **the energy and dedication of our local community.** Whenever we start new ventures, campaign, fundraise or organise events we always feel their warmth and support.

This spirit of support not only comes from Brighton's residents but also from other organisations & youth services here (including **Young People's Centre**, **Pathways to Independence, Refugee Council & Sanctuary on Sea**). We have connections with Brighton & Sussex Universities and local & national businesses have made generous donations. In our digital community we have an unbelievable 10,000 plus followers!

With our vision of a community standing together for the rights & protection of young refugees we're inspired by how many Hummingbirds there are out there!



A huge and heartfelt thank you to all our awesome young people, volunteers & supporters!

**Support Us: To make a one off donation** or to set up regular giving please go to https://chuffed.org/project/hummingbirdrefugeeproject

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## **Contact Us**

**The Hummingbird Refugee Project** 

69 Ship Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1AE

enquiries@hummingbirdproject.org.uk

hummingbirdproject.org.uk



@Hummingbirduk

@hummingbird.project



@hummingbirdbtn

**Registered Charity Number 1174970**