



Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network

Impact report 2017/18

ONWARD & UPWARDS...

Contents

- 1 - Foreword from our Chief Executive Officer
- 2 - Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees
- 3 - Our Impact
- 4 - Our Services
 - Immigration Advice
 - Housing & Welfare Advice
 - Women's Project
 - Employment and Skills Advice
 - Campaigning
 - Community Work & Integration
- 5 - Volunteering
- 6 - Events and Fundraising
- 7 - Case Studies
- 8 - Our People
- 9 - Support Us
- 10 - Thank you



1- Foreword from our Chief Executive Officer

I'm afraid to say that this year has not been very good for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants on the international level. The Rohingya refugee crisis which started in 2015 escalated in 2017 when over a million refugees fled Myanmar and sought sanctuary in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh. Fighting and insecurity forced civilians out of their homes in South Sudan where over 2 million were displaced in their own country and another two million in camps in neighbouring countries. The same is happening in Yemen, where millions, mainly women and children have become unwilling victims of the political crisis and war backed by Saudi Arabia. The conflict in Syria is continuing, some countries are returning Afghan and Iraqi asylum seekers back to their unsafe countries and Turkey is sending back asylum seekers based on a deal with the European Union (EU) worth billions of euros. In America, a travel ban to the country for people from 7 predominantly Muslim countries has been imposed. It also phased out its DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) programme, which allows young people who were illegally brought by their parents to the US, to study and work.

The national picture here in Britain has many similarities. The current government's 'hostile environment' for illegal migrants is also wrecking the lives of those who have the right to be here. Landlords are now required to check on tenants' immigration status or otherwise face hefty fines, this practice encourages racial profiling and discrimination. Banks, hospitals and schools are compelled to carry out immigration checks. Detention and enforced removals of all foreign nationals including EU citizens have risen sharply since the vote to leave the EU. Immigration fees have skyrocketed and have become unaffordable to many applicants. The Universal credit scheme has continued to fail claimants and has left many in rent arrears, homeless and unable to meet their basic needs. Austerity is on-going and funding cuts have affected the lives of many. The challenge for many organisations like us has been immense in the last year. But despite of all the political and economic setbacks, Lewisham Council and Trusts and Foundations have continuously supported and recognised our commitment and ability to deliver quality services and change the lives of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Lewisham and neighbouring boroughs. Our competent staff and volunteers have worked very hard to bring the organisation to where we are now; a leading organisation in London providing specialist and complex support with immigration, housing and welfare problems, finding employment and in tackling violence against women and girls. The direction we have travelled has been mainly influenced and guided by our competent and passionate trustees. I am very honoured to have worked with you and grateful for making LRMN a place our clients call HOME. I am also thankful to all our partner organisations and supporters as it would have been impossible to tackle the many issues our clients bring to us without your assistance.

Despite of all the challenges I mentioned above, I am extremely proud to present you this report outlining our achievements and successes. I am hoping to give you more positive stories in years to come.

Rosario Guimba-Stewart - Chief Executive Officer

2 - Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

2017/18 has been yet another year of challenge and success for LRMN. Challenge because the needs of our clients remains acute – the combination of the 'hostile environment' which has now been in place for 5 years, and austerity makes life unimaginably hard for some of the people we work with.

Finding homes, jobs and getting the support and services they need is a constant struggle, a pressure exacerbated by the burdens many of them carry from their previous life experiences that led them to come to Britain as refugees and migrants.

However, LRMN continues to work tirelessly to address these challenges. This year we have continued to develop the three strands of our Strategy, to provide information and advice so that our clients can regularise their status and establish their entitlement to employment and services, stabilise their health and wellbeing particularly for women who have been subject to gender based violence, and then move into training and employment so that they can integrate and contribute to society

This year we have seen our funding remain stable and we were particularly delighted to receive continuation funding for our Women's Project that will enable this vital service to grow and expand its scope. However, our funding never matches the scale of the need we see and we are forced to prioritise clients according to their circumstances that makes for very hard decisions.

Recognising this gap we have focussed hard on our fundraising activity this year and have been very successful running a wide variety of events, including a film showing, a music and food festival, sponsored walks and runs and quizzes to name just a few of the activities that staff and volunteers have worked hard to make a success.

This year we have also embarked on campaigning and policy work for the first time. Based on data and the experiences of our clients we produced a hard hitting report "Making Change Happen" with clear recommendations. We have also been able to provide case studies and client interviews that have appeared in the Financial Times, on Sky News, Channel 4 and CNN in response to the Windrush Scandal.

LRMN's staff and volunteers are all deeply committed to challenging injustice and providing top quality services and support, 2017/18 has been another year where many successes have been achieved. We remain financially stable, we have good relations with our funders and partners and we have clear plans for achieving more in the future.

Diana Fawcett - Chair of the Board of Trustees

3 - Our Impact



More than 700 migrants and refugees given free immigration advice in the last year



Over 250 clients with housing issues supported



30 emergency food parcels given every month



25+ queries answered every week on our immigration helpline



Over 100 clients advised every month



Over 20 people regularly attending our English classes every week



6 weekly outreaches to support people in other boroughs



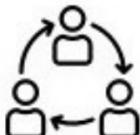
Over 20 women attending our support group every week



30+ volunteers helping us



Over 30 people helped into employment last year



Working with over 50 partners



1 weekly sewing and knitting group

In 2017/18 we helped clients from more than 100 different nationalities. You can see where the majority of our clients comes from in the map below:



Our support model...

Our mission is to empower refugees and migrants to thrive, make a positive contribution, integrate and take control of their lives.

Our model means we are able to provide holistic support and tackle all issues our clients may be facing under one roof. Our advisers will often work in tandem to ensure all our clients' needs are met and ensure they are given the tools they need to thrive and contribute to their community.

Empowerment
&
Resilience

Language support &
community integration

One-to-one
employment advice & coaching

Advice on welfare benefits

Housing support to prevent homelessness and
destitution

Specialist and expert Immigration advice and casework

4. Our Services

Immigration Advice

This year we helped over 700 clients with specialist immigration advice. Many of these clients present extremely complex issues, often involving destitution, domestic abuse and homelessness. They often do not have the financial resources for legal fees or not entitled to access free legal advice, so our advisers provide essential support which helps people avoid poverty and helps keep families together. Our advisers offer one-to-one advice and casework in addition to providing help via our phone helpline. Our advice is free, confidential and independent, and is regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).

We are also a member of the Advice Lewisham Consortium, meaning we can now support even more people by giving telephone advice. We also continue our outreach sessions in other boroughs to make sure we reach other areas of South London where help is needed.

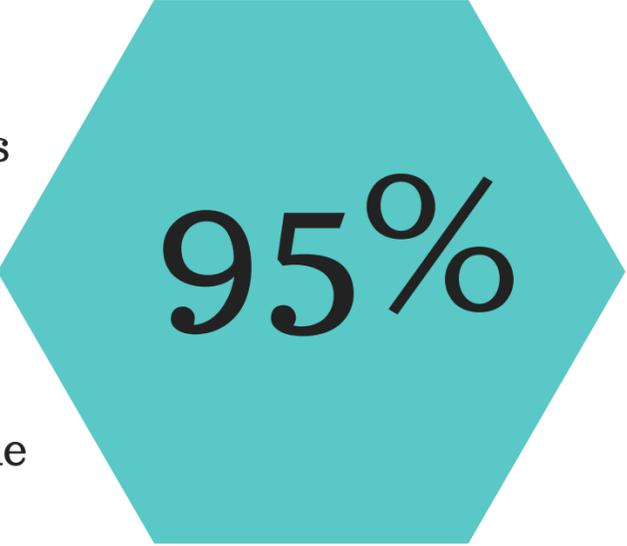
We believe that together we are stronger, and for this reason we work with partners and deliver outreach sessions at the Greenwich Migrant Hub, Lakeside Medical Centre in Thamesmead, Lewisham Multi Lingual Advice Service and Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid, amongst others.

Housing & Welfare Advice

Our housing & welfare benefits advice team provides essential advice to hundreds of people every year who need help with their accommodation or with accessing welfare benefits. Our advisers provide advice, advocacy and support for many clients often acting as a life-line. Many of them are facing extreme hardship, including struggling to meet their basic needs, or are living in unsuitable accommodation. Some may be facing eviction and have no place to go to, and coming to LRMN is their last chance to avoid destitution.

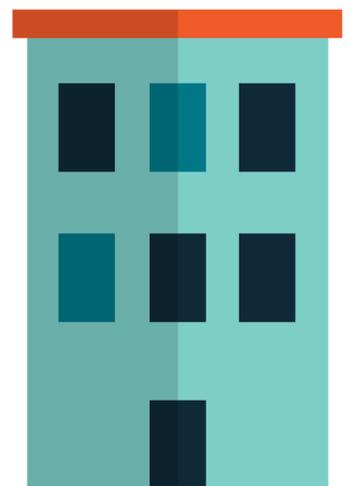
Other clients come to us with mental health issues, or have poor physical health, whilst others may be experiencing domestic abuse. In the last year we supported over 250 clients with housing and welfare benefits issues, we helped over 100 to gain welfare benefit entitlement, and stopped 45 evictions, often involving families with young children.

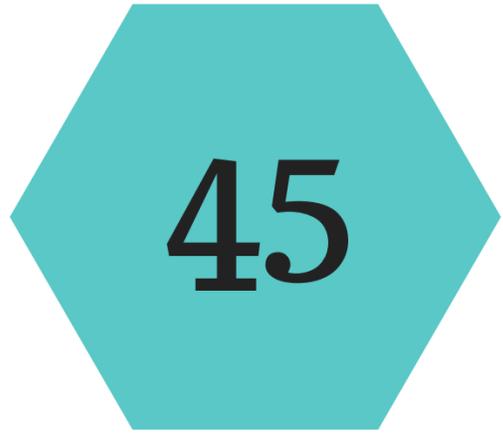
As with our immigration advice project we work with a number of partners to support clients in other boroughs. Our outreach services are delivered at Lewisham Disability Coalition, 170 Community Project and the Leemore Centre.



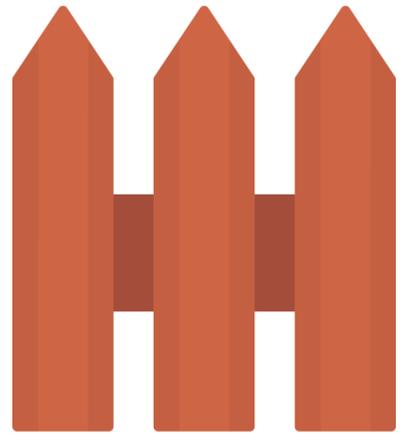
95%

Success
Rate at
Tribunals



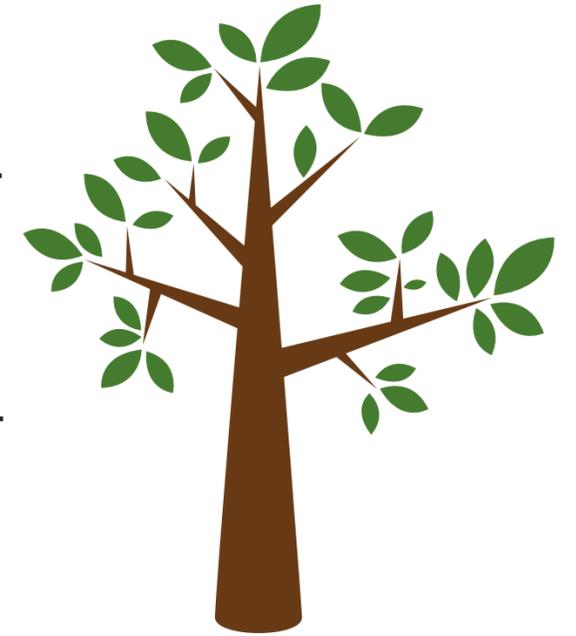


Evictions
Stopped

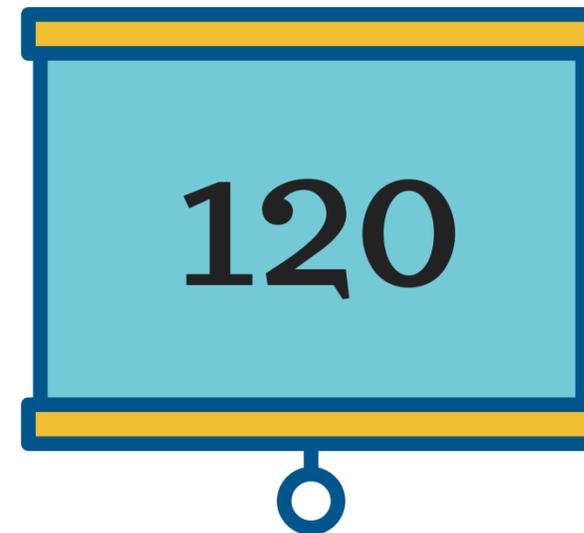


Employability
workshops
delivered

100+ clients said
we helped them
reduce isolation



Housing and
Welfare
Appointments



Hours of
interpreting in
over 10 languages

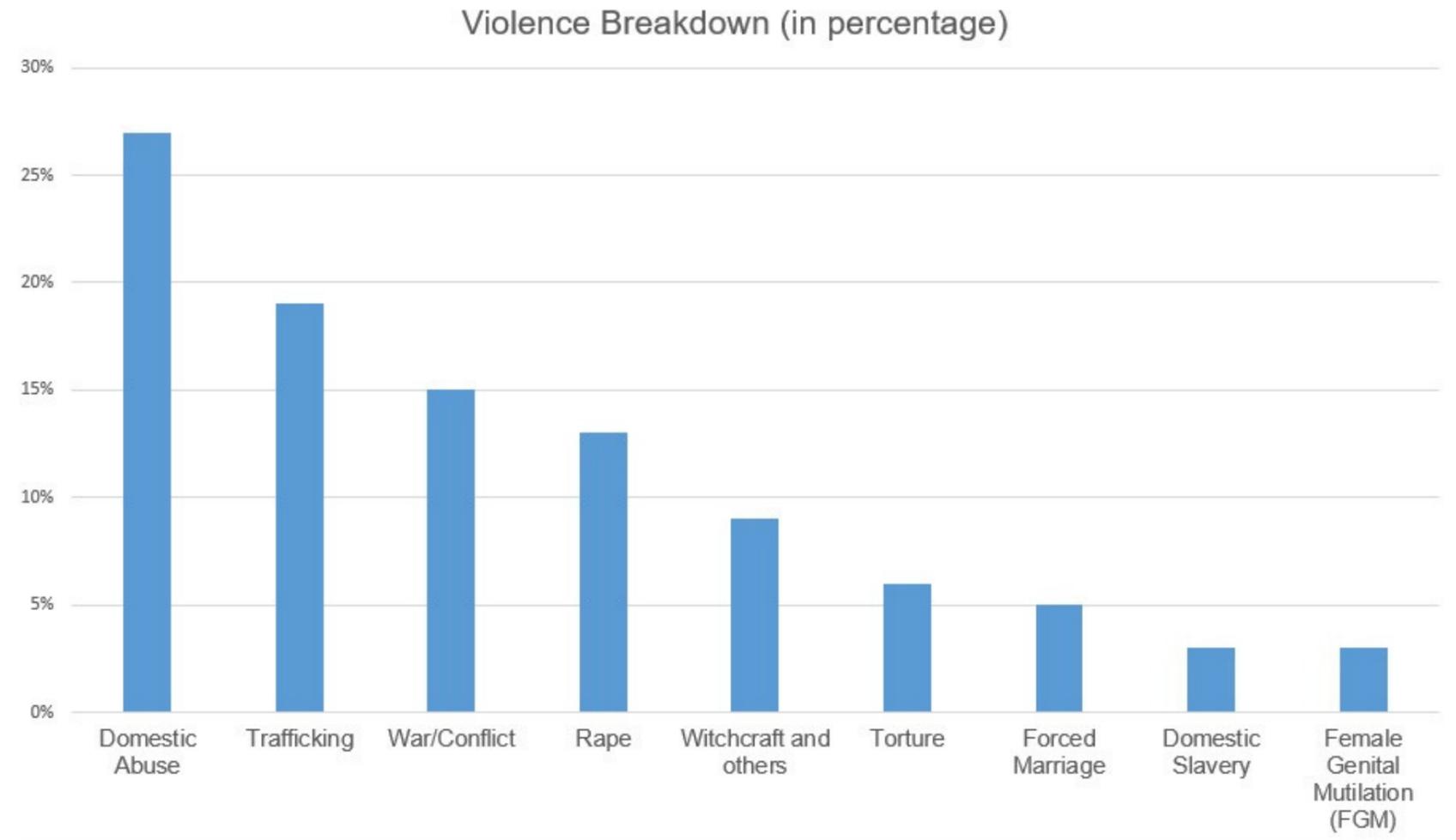
Women's Project

Our Women's Project has been running for nearly 10 years delivering counselling, therapeutic activities and practical advice and advocacy, and this year we have secured a further 3 years funding from the Big Lottery, allowing us to expand the project. This allowed us to hire two new team members who will provide immigration and housing and welfare specialist support to women and girls. All of these services the project delivers are specifically aimed at helping women who have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV). Our trained staff will know how to best support and work with these women to improve their self-confidence and re-build their emotional strength.

The hostile environment has contributed enormously to the under-reporting of crimes related to domestic abuse and trafficking. Women with no regular immigration status, for fear of being deported don't report their abusers to the authority. As a result, a lot of women stay in such abusive situations. For some who managed to leave, many have nowhere to go and become destitute.

In the past year we have provided 384 hours of counselling, and each woman attended at least 12 sessions; we have set up 38 women's group sessions regularly attended by over 15 women, we ran 25 Play & Connect sessions and have recruited 7 counsellors and 3 social worker students on placement.

To increase our reach and impact we have established partnerships with organisations outside the borough, including the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, where we have run a weekly Women's Group at their premises. Latin American Women's Rights Services (LAWRS) continue to support domestic abuse survivors at our premises every week.





70 women participated in the project this year

45 Mothers reported a stronger ability to look after their children

Over 60 women have reported to have increased their social networks and community

Over 20 sessions were run for our Play & Connect group

More than 25 women attended our weekly women's group

Employment & Skills Advice

Our employment and skills advice project supports clients seeking jobs, volunteering or further training. The project, although only running for just over a year has already helped many people to find employment, build their skills, become more familiar with the UK job market, or enter training and/or higher education. Many of these clients had faced significant barriers to employment including lack of proficiency in English, chaotic lifestyle, lack of basic skills and lack of experience of the UK recruitment practices and expected behaviours. As part of the project we have also worked with a number of partners to support our clients in developing their skills, and in the last year we have developed the following partnerships:



University College London (UCL) “Grand Challenge” Project – This is a 6 week project designed for women of refugee or migrant background to encourage a greater uptake of higher education.

The Future Skills project offers support and skills development to meet the particular needs of women who face many barriers to progress out of poverty





GREENWICH
MIGRANT HUB

LRMN provides employment support within a consortium of service providers to support refugees and migrants in a holistic way as part of the Greenwich Migrant Hub.

Starbucks have pledged to support refugee employment globally and a plan to hire 2,500 refugees to work at its coffee shops in Europe.

With our support, 4 of our clients gained employment through Starbucks' scheme.



In partnership with Salesforce we have delivered a number of employability workshops for migrants and refugees.

Many clients have benefitted from its support and have acquired an appetite to continue their journey of progression by seeking out new opportunities and experiences. They have also expanded their networks and are making links to other providers for support.



Campaigning

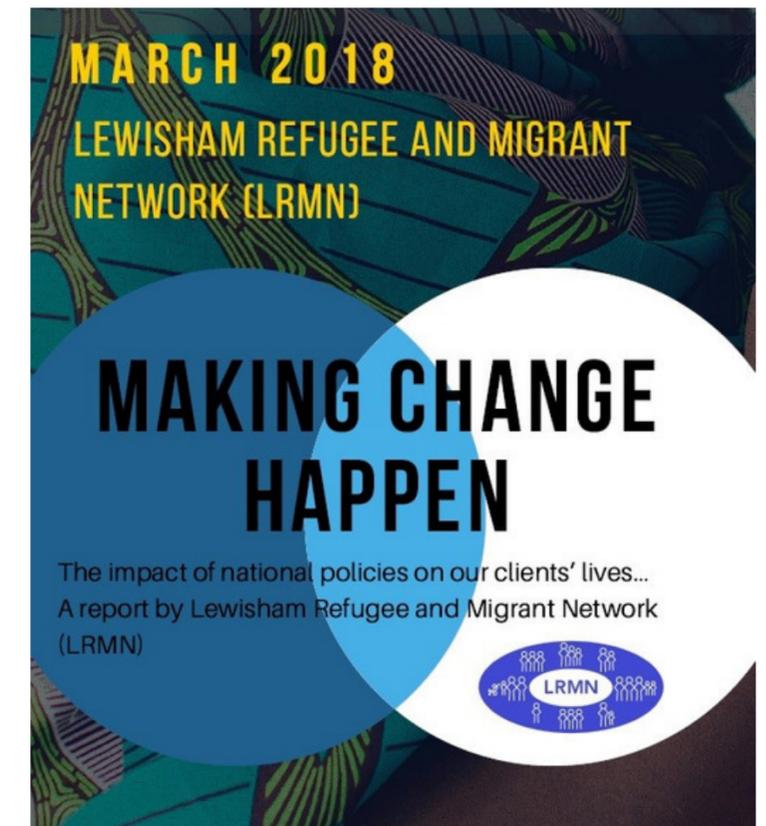
2017 has seen the launch of our brand new project – working to influence social policy and carrying out campaigning activities to affect change and advocate for our clients. Thanks to our volunteers, we produced our first report ‘Making Change Happen’ in which we identified a number of issues affecting our clients.

The report received positive feedback from a number of third sector organisations and partners and made a number of suggestions for local and national policy changes. It highlighted how within the context of a ‘hostile environment’, an increasing number of people have face financial difficulties and many are being pushed into destitution.

The report combined client interviews with in depth research on our casework as well as reviewing other policy reports. We used our in-house expertise and knowledge to feed into the research and recommend policy changes at both the local and national level.

Some of the issues we discussed in the report include: the rise of immigration fees, No Recourse to Public Funds, Digital Exclusion, Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and more. The report will form the basis of our future research and campaigning efforts.

We have also been working with partners on a number of campaigns, and focused our efforts on the Families Together Campaign to secure better rights for refugees seeking to reunite with their family, and have campaigned to better the rights of refugees in the UK.



Windrush



© Channel 4 News

We have also been busy campaigning for the rights of the Windrush generation. Our clients have been interviewed by a number of media outlets and appeared on Channel 4 News, Sky News, CNN, as well as in the Financial Times, The Independent and The Guardian.

Our staff were also interviewed to provide expert opinion on two articles in the Independent on the rise of immigration fees and the impact of the hostile environment on the lives of migrants and refugees.

We continue working with Windrush clients from a number of Commonwealth countries by providing them with specialist immigration advice and mental health support.

Community Work & Integration

ESOL Classes

Our free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes have been running for over 8 years, supporting over 20 clients a week to learn English. Our passionate volunteers have continued to teach four classes every week, and have continued to inspire their students to continue learning English. Our students' nationality ranges from Vietnamese to Afghani, from Spanish, to Sri Lankan, Colombian and more.

Sewing & Knitting Group

Our weekly sewing and knitting group has proved more popular than ever this year, as our 6 regular attendees have worked on a project from start to finish. Thanks to our volunteers running the weekly sessions, the women attending have learnt how to sew tote bags from scratch. This has been their first complete project, and in the coming year they will continue developing their skills by learning how to sew clothes.

Therapeutic Gardening

This year we successfully won £1,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help Initiative which helped us recruit a therapeutic gardener to run weekly sessions in our office garden. The sessions are open to both men and women, and will help those who have experienced trauma or any mental health issues, as well as help reduce isolation whilst teaching them a new skill. The gardening project involves weekly sessions in which children can also get involved, and allows clients to plant organic vegetables, herbs and more which they can then take home to cook with. In the coming years we would like to develop a complementary cooking project for parents and children in conjunction with the gardening scheme.



5. Volunteering

We've had another successful year for our volunteer programme. In the last year we have recruited over 30 new volunteers to help us with a range of projects. Our wonderful team of volunteers help us with admin/reception, teaching English, fundraising, website development, casework assistant, campaigning, research, gardening and more.



6. Events & Fundraising

Every year we organise and attend many fundraising events to support our projects and activities. In the past year our wonderful volunteers have helped us to set up, or joined many events including:

London Legal Walk

Once again we took part in the London Legal Support Trust's (LLST) Legal Walk and raised almost £3,000! Our staff, volunteers, friends and supporters all walked 10km to raise much needed funds to keep our legal advice free for all.



Refugee Week 2017

This year we celebrated Refugee Week through three events. Our main event at the Civic Suite in Lewisham was opened by Vicky Foxcroft, MP for Deptford and New Cross, and Councillor Kevin Bonavia spoke about the Council's work with refugees and migrants. LRMN staff also spoke about our work and one of our clients shared his experience with the floor. The event also featured cultural performances from a number of different countries.

We also held an event at the Greenwich National Maritime Museum & spoke to children about who refugees are and the challenges many young refugees face.



Film Screening + Q&A

We hosted a screening of 'They Will have to Kill us First' a documentary which followed exiled musicians from Mali. Plus had a Q&A with the director!



Virgin London Marathon

We participated to the 2018 London Marathon, and Harry Farrel, recruited by LLST ran for us and raised £3326!! Thank you!



Legal Bake

We hosted a bake sale as part of the LLST's Legal Bake at the Broadgate Tower in Liverpool Street thanks to Reed Smith Legal Firm.

Big Half Marathon 2018

Our runners braved the chilly weather and raised almost £2k for us!!



7. Case Studies

Maurice's* Story - Immigration Advice

We were approached by Just for Kids Law to assist a young man called Maurice to make an application for Leave to Remain as a young person aged between 18 and 25 years on the basis of his Private Life. Maurice came to the UK in October 2006 and spent over half of his life in the UK.

Despite his family trying to regularise their status for over 11 years, they had been unable to do so. Maurice completed his primary and secondary schooling and could not continue to University due to his lack of status. His entire future was on hold. Our immigration adviser made detailed representations on his behalf in September 2017 including an explanation of why his date of birth varied between his birth certificate and one of his passports.

After submitting evidence in support of this and an 11 month wait, Maurice was finally granted leave. He was very pleased and proudly attended our offices to collect all of his documents with his father (who has himself been a victim of bad quality immigration advice) and a large cake!

Jamila's* Story - Immigration Advice

Jamila, an elderly woman who had lived in the UK on a succession of temporary visas while caring for her ill adult son, had been granted leave to remain in September 2016 without Recourse to Public Funds. Jamila also suffered with a number of medical conditions of her own, including HIV, serious kidney problems and more.

When she approached us, the law firm supporting her demanded an additional fee from her to apply to have this condition removed from her leave. However, being destitute and homeless and relying on the help of friends and her church she could not afford the fee. Her attempts to work as a cleaner proved physically impossible for her, worsening her depression and economic situation further.

After advising her during an outreach session we lodged a change of conditions application with the Home Office on her behalf. This was successful. The same day she was referred internally to our welfare and housing advice team to assist her in applying for the disability benefits and housing assistance and is now awaiting the commencement of her payments.

Jamila was thankful for our support, and she is now finally able to concentrate on her health and wellbeing.

*Names have been changed

Leonard's* Story - Housing & Welfare Advice

Leonard is originally from Zambia* and came to the UK in 1989 at the age of 14 with his mother and siblings to join their stepfather who was a British Citizen. He went back to Zambia and returned to the UK in 1994 and was able to work because he had a national insurance number prior to leaving the UK as he was of school age.

When he first came to LRMN he had a pending asylum application, suffered from depression and had been living on the streets for over a year. He came to LRMN to see if we could help him with food, shelter and financial support.

In addition to supporting him by giving him food items, we also assisted him with completing a section 95 application for accommodation and financial support.

In the mean time we supported him through our hardship funds as well as food bank vouchers whilst his application was being considered. Two months later he was given a B&B accommodation by National Asylum Support Service (NASS) until he provided further information for them to consider his financial support. Our advisers assisted with the further information under section 98 and were successful in getting him further support as he is now receiving asylum support and living in a temporary accommodation in Croydon.

Leonard is now safely housed and off the streets, which is contributing to improving his mental health and job prospects.

Olusola* Story - Employment Support

Olusola, a young woman from the DRC* was receiving counselling from our Women's Project and regularly attending weekly women's group. She referred herself to our employment adviser as she was looking for help in finding volunteering opportunities. Olusola experienced abuse and exploitation in her home country and fled to the UK to find a new life, free from torture.

After re-building her self-esteem thanks to the women's group she decided she wanted to give something back and asked for support from our employment adviser to find volunteering opportunities. Our adviser referred her to Oxfam's Future Skills Project, our partner for the year, who provided her a number of skill-building workshops, eventually leading to volunteering in her local Oxfam charity shop.

She was posted at her local store and within a very short period of time her enthusiastic and competent contribution was rewarded with extra responsibilities. The outgoing manager recommended her to replace him on a paid basis. However this was deemed too much of a step for senior management given her experience with trauma, but she successfully went on to complete a management internship.

Throughout this journey we have seen a noticeable improvement in her demeanour and confidence. Olusola now feels more positive about her future and that of her daughter.

Rovena's Story - Women's Project

Rovena* is a 33 year old lady from Albania. She has a history of physical abuse and forced prostitution back in her country which lasted for about 5 years. She was referred to the Women's Project by the Refugee Council in November 2015, following the identification of ongoing support needs around difficulties in dealing with her trauma symptoms and the pressure that her insecure immigration status was having on her. Whilst outwardly she appeared resilient, Rovena was experiencing significant depression and high levels of anxiety. She had problems sleeping and suffered from intense headaches as well as pains in her body. She was often very upset and found it hard to manage the stress she was experiencing. This was due to her uncertain immigration status affecting her housing and financial situation. Rovena also had no family in this country and despite having some friends, remained someone who benefitted from very limited emotional support in her day to day life.

Rovena has been receiving 1-1 counselling with one of our counsellors since November 2015. During therapy it became apparent that Rovena was suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, severe depression and anxiety.

Her mental health worsened as her asylum claim was refused in March 2016. In our opinion her lawyer did not represent her appropriately; therefore, in collaboration with another organisation that was supporting her, we found a legal-aid lawyer who submitted a fresh claim for her.

Our involvement in her case was substantial as her counsellor was asked to write in-depth reports about her mental and emotional state. Her lawyer also decided it was important to have the counsellor give her specialist opinion to the judge at the trial.



© James Hopkirk

We are glad to report that Rovena was given two-year Leave to Remain in May 2017. Her lawyer is confident that her Leave to Remain will be renewed and she will be allowed to stay in the UK indefinitely.

The judge saw her case as trafficking (internal) and stated that her going back to Albania would put her at risk of being trafficked again. Rovena took some time to realise that her ordeal was over and, once she got the official written decision from the judge, she organised a big party to celebrate the good news with all the people that supported her.

Her story has been portrayed here <https://www.southlondonstories.com/the-blood-of-a-woman>.



© James Hopkirk

8. Our People



Maria – Housing & Welfare Casework Assistant Volunteer

“I began volunteering at Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network this year. It’s been a fantastic experience, not only to increase my knowledge but to meet really good and professional people. I completed a Law Degree in Madrid and have always been interested in Immigration Law. Currently, I am working and learning within the Housing and Welfare Benefits area and there are so many different cases from diverse clients, I keep learning every single day about new issues.

I work on data recording, legal research, cases analysis... and sometimes, I witness interviews or interview some of the clients. At LRMN, many times I have been given the opportunity to attend some really interesting courses and trainings about Housing Possession Proceedings, Welfare Benefits, Domestic Violence, etc. Here, they always make sure we keep learning and improve our skills.”

Mike - Reception Volunteer

"I have been volunteering one day per week since August 2017. I work on reception but also assist with the weekly Housing and Benefits drop in. I have enjoyed my time with LRMN very much. LRMN offers excellent volunteering opportunities both for those starting out in their working life or for those, like me, who have had a previous career and are looking to offer something back to the community. I have been offered regular training opportunities, some with 3rd party organisations, and have found them to be of a high quality. I have been able to develop myself and indeed plan to do more training in the future.

LRMN is a special organisation with strong but caring leadership provided by the senior team. I would thoroughly recommend it to those considering volunteering in the charity sector. Of course there inevitably have been some challenging moments! Overall I have found it very fulfilling and feel I have been able to help many clients as part of the LRMN team."





Shirley – ESOL Volunteer - “Having worked in book publishing since I first came to England from Ireland back in the nineteen eighties, I wanted to change direction and find a skill which would allow me to volunteer with a refugee and migrant charity.

Since then, both the number of people attending and the make-up of the classes have varied enormously, with pupil numbers ranging from a small handful to sometimes twenty plus. The cultural and linguistic backgrounds are equally diverse - from Albania, Burkina Faso, Spain and Sri Lanka to Vietnam, Iraq and Colombia, to name just a few. Some of the adult pupils have degrees from their own countries but have never learned English; others have a working knowledge of English but have never attended any school, so figuring out how to try to address such differing needs is constantly challenging. Some things are universal, though, and conversation often revolves around shared experiences, usually involving family and/or food. And sometimes the best teaching aid of all is humour - when we come across something which makes the whole class laugh out loud, it's great to watch the language barriers disappear.”

Valeria - Reception Volunteer

"I have been volunteering for LRMN since June 2018.

My background was fashion retail management but I decided in 2017 that I wanted to further my studies and become an HR professional. I currently dedicate 2 days per week to support the centre at the reception as well as performing administrative tasks.

I learnt that life is difficult for migrants, refugees and women victims of abuse, so I decided to use some of my spare time to give a positive contribution to those who need to take back control of their lives.

What LRMN does to support their clients is incredibly meaningful has a positive impact in people's lives, and I am very thankful to be able to say I am part of this organisation."





Petula and Antonia - Sewing & Knitting Tutors

Petula and Antonia run our weekly sewing and knitting group, teaching women sewing and knitting skills. The group provides a safe space for women to meet other people from their local community, have a cup of tea and a chat as well as learn a new skill. Over the past year the women have learnt how to sew tote bags and have also started working on dress-making.

Petula and Antonia are passionate about up-cycling, meaning reusing old materials and giving it a new life! We are so grateful for their commitment, dedication and passion and look forward to seeing what they have in store next!

Graham - Literacy Volunteer

I've been working with a small group of people on developing spoken and written English every Thursday from 12 o'clock to 1 o'clock. It's a small group because we're working in the medical room at Clyde Nursery but it's a pleasant, sunny room and one hour is just about right. Coming to terms with this strange language, English, for someone whose mother tongue is so different, Vietnamese or Somali for instance, demands a lot of concentration and it's amazing what you can get done in an hour.

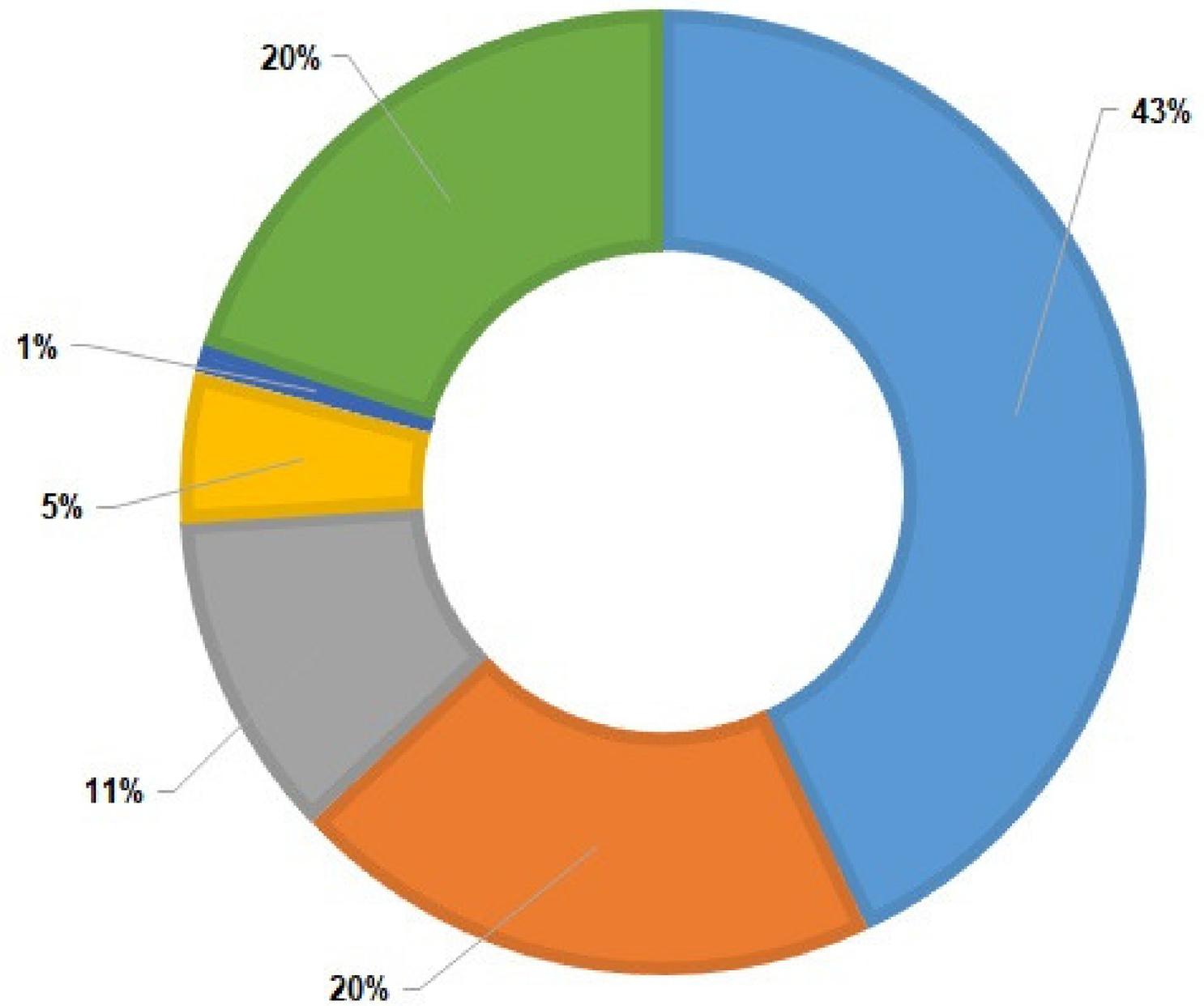
We've tackled enhancing fluency in English in a variety of ways. I've tried above all to make the sessions interesting and stimulating.

Nobody learns much if they're bored or if they can't see a meaning in what they're doing.

I'm so impressed by the resilience and good humour of the students. Some of them are dealing with quite challenging personal circumstances and histories and having to negotiate daily living, including difficult issues, in a language and culture that can be challenging for them. I'm also very impressed with the dedication of staff at LRMN in the wider work that they do in enabling refugee people to deal with the sometimes complex and difficult welfare and rights systems and in their commitment to the well being of clients.

WHAT WE SPEND OUR MONEY ON

- Advice & Casework
- Women's Project
- Campaigning & comms
- Training & Employment
- Destitution Fund
- Office & building costs



Support Us



Our work is only possible with the help of our supporters! There are so many ways you can support us...

Donate

We rely on donations to keep our services free. You can donate by going to our website www.lrmn.org.uk

Fundraise

Bake, Run, Screen a film, Organise a pub quiz, or more... any funds you raise will go towards supporting our services

Volunteer

Join our wonderful team of volunteers and use your skills and passion to support those who need it!



10. Thank you

Our Funders

Big Lottery Fund
City Bridge Trust
Lewisham Council
The Tudor Trust
Trust for London
The London Legal Support Trust
People's Postcode Lottery
Rayne Foundation
AB Charitable Trust
The Leatherseller's Company
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
London Churches Refugee Fund
Groundwork UK

Our Trustees

Diana Fawcett - Chair
Amina Ismail - Vice Chair (retired 30th April 2018)
Lydia Abu - Treasurer (retired 30th April 2018)
Pawan Dhillon - Company Secretary
Jill Rutter
Bronwen James
Marian Cramers - (resigned 20th April 2018)
Mike Brooks - Treasurer (appointed 1st May 2018)
Julia Glynn-Pickett
Adam Lake (appointed 30th July 2018)

Distinguished Friends of LRMN: Lydia Abu, Amina Ismail, Marian Cramers, Ruth Bonser

Special thanks to our volunteers, students on placement and counsellors from 2017/2018:

Pam Moncrieffe, Tanya Cook, Zoline Makosso, Clare Maclure, Shirley Stewart, Graham Jamesons, Antonia McDonald, Petula Codrington, Valeria Rizzo, Mike Newey, Minnie Rahman, Ruby Lake, Yvonne Kasoka, Cherise Lake-Shenoda, Maria Rodriguez-Gonzalez, Rosalind Blachowska, Maia Franzetti, Myra Berg, Viviane Riegel, Abi Gilson, Beeke Melcher, Vince Nardone, Collette Leavy, Omar Tisza, Felicia Daramola, Rosie O' Shea, Nick Williams, Matt Hawkins, Rebecca Parnell, Lucy Furneaux, Shirley Otomewo, Nicky Bello, Cleopatra Jones, Gelsica Gloria, Fiona Keating, Amanda Gialil, Kathy Gabriel, Melisande Piota, Annalisa Mormile, Iria Dominguez Reguera, Josie Canham Williams, Satwant Satttee, Melanie Fernandez Nieto, Amy Corcoran, Aysha Najair, Ishema Guenaelle, Owen Hilton, Tatiana Rodrigues, Nicky Bello, Khadijah Sesay, Kazumasa Saito, Joanna Annan, Samantha Williamson, Rosanna Singler, Julia Fernandes, Shahnaz Ellahie, Semiyen Solomon.

-- A special thank you to Ruth Bonser and Jill Macnair for organising the fundraiser at the Bussey Building. And to Sophie Bulmer and Josie Canham-Williams, our runners for the Big Half Marathon, and our 2017 Legal Walk walkers Anca Toader and Graham Jamesons, and the rest of the team.

Special thanks to our supporters

Clyde Nursery, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Perry Rise Baptist Church, Damascus Chef, Myriam Bell from Latin American Women's Rights Service, Catford Constitutional Club, Lewisham Churches for Asylum Seekers (LEWCAS), Fareshare, Kevin Lindsay for his monthly donation through Payroll Giving and Peter Stewart for his pro bono IT support and more.

Our sessional workers

Bea Mgabi, Thelma Ikegwu, Caroline Stedman, Rosalind Howell



facebook/LRMNetwork



@LRMNetwork



Lewisham Refugee and
Migrant Network



Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network
341 Evelyn Street, London SE8 5QX

www.lrmn.org.uk

Telephone: 020 8694 0323

Email: info@lrmn.org.uk

Fax: 020 8694 6621

Registered Charity: 1058631