



Refugee Tales

25 Years

**Visiting.
Listening.
Sharing.**

**Making
Connections**

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group
Annual Review 2019



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**



Registered Charity No. 1124328

Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in England and Wales

Company No. 4911257

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Our Patrons

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

Over 25 years, the work of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group has required much empathy, experience and patience in assisting those whose lives have been shattered by appalling circumstances. Unconditional friendship has offered hope to those who have already suffered so much and are in such difficult situations. For those who have often been deeply traumatised, who may have lost all trust and witnessed systemic failings, GDWG shines out as a beacon of hope in a troubled world.



Credit: Gary Lee

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC

I was talking to one of the detainees in the early days of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group. He said that 'when all was lost and the scars of famine and war still scratched on my body there was just one hope you cling to. The work of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group'.

**Lord Navnit Dholakia PC, OBE, DL
and Deputy Leader of the Liberal
Democrats**

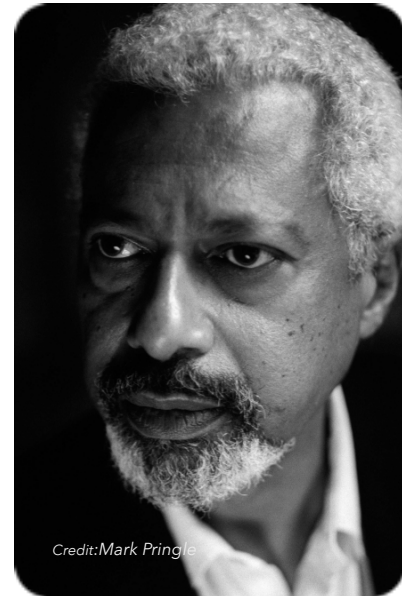


*Credit: Chris
McAndrew*

Refugee Tales

I join you to celebrate 25 years of valuable endeavour by the volunteers of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group. Your commitment and persistence have provided humane reassurance to needy victims of bewildering injustice. I congratulate you for your selfless and much-needed labours.

Abdulrazak Gurnah



It's now a quarter of a century since GDWG started attending to the unfairnesses and the sufferings of the people detained at Gatwick - 25 years! GDWG is now the age of a young adult, and such a fine person that young adult is, out in the world, knowing the world's cruelties and vicissitudes well, and meeting them with energy and determination and commitment and kindness.

This is a birthday to honour, to thank the gods for, and to thank the group for. Changing things for the better one step at a time has come of age, become a tradition, and there are few better traditions than it. Thank you. Happy birthday, GDWG.

Ali Smith



The Year in Review

In 2019 we helped 1415 people in detention.

We met 517 people at our initial appraisal meetings.

We carried out casework for 554 people in detention.

We gave out phone credit 1274 times.

We liaised with other agencies 309 times and 274 people were referred to specialist agencies.

We gave out 974 packages of clothes.

We liaised with solicitors for 402 people.

70 volunteer visitors made 700 visits.

In 2019, 2059 students heard a GDWG talk. 1222 returned feedback forms:

76.3% said their attitudes were changed by the talk they attended.

94.7% said the talk helped them to understand the issues more.

In questionnaires completed by people in detention in 2019:

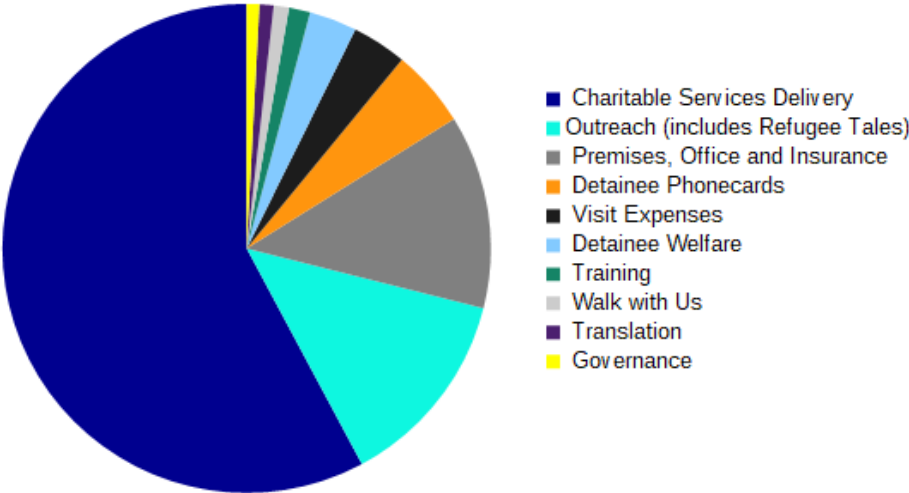
91% of those who returned forms said having a visitor alleviated loneliness.

78% said having a visitor alleviated stress.

84% said having a visitor helped confidence.

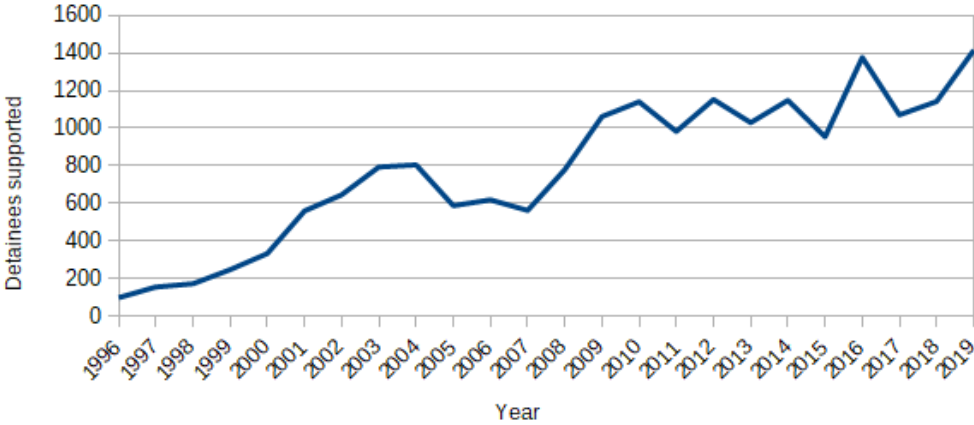
Over the Years

Distribution of Expenditure 2019

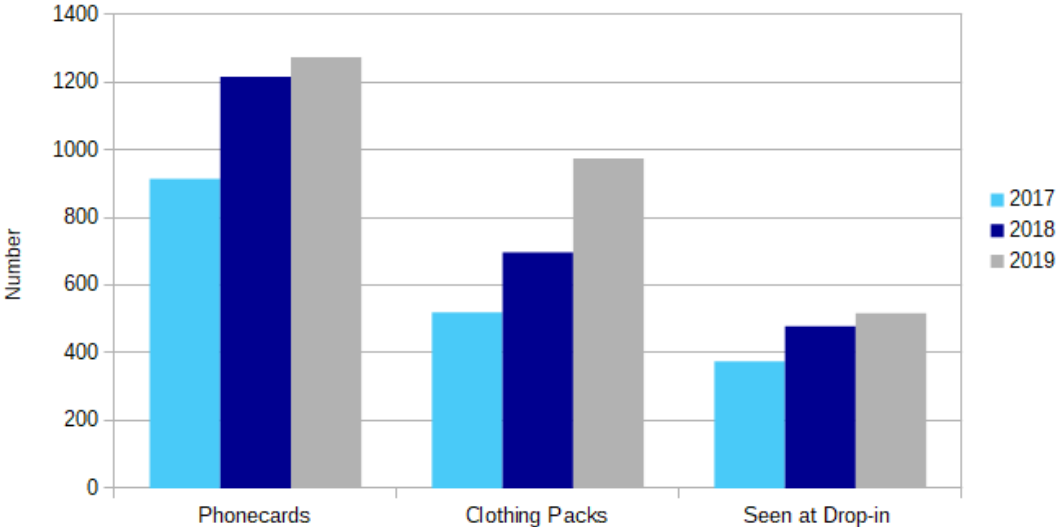


Detainees supported each year

*defined as those on the database in a given year



Assistance Trend over 3 Years



Our Work in Detention: Case Study

N had come to the UK as a child. When we met him he had been detained for a week and had not been told why he was detained. He was the father of two children under the age of five and his partner was pregnant and about to give birth. He was distraught at the thought of missing the birth of his child.

N had committed a crime when he was 18 years old. He served two years in prison and was issued with a deportation order. He had not committed any crimes since he was 18 and had turned his life around. Although not permitted to work, he had been putting his energy into caring for his children full-time and making music. N had been unable to afford solicitors' fees and so had been unable to fight his deportation order. He was not aware he was entitled to exceptional case funding for legal aid. When N explained his situation to us we referred N to a legal aid solicitor and a country expert. The solicitor took on his case and advised him to claim asylum.

**Thank you
so much for
all that
you've done,
you were my
shining light
of hope.'**

N was detained for 5 weeks and sadly missed the birth of his daughter. As he could not be there in person his partner set up a Skype video call in the delivery room. During his time in detention N was supported by a volunteer visitor from GDWG who visited him weekly. He found the visits uplifting and he felt GDWG's support helped him keep going and gave him hope. He also often rang the office for a chat and emotional support. After the asylum application had been processed, he was released. N rang the GDWG office to let us know the good news. He said 'This wouldn't be happening if it weren't for you, without your help getting the solicitor. Thank you so much for all that you've done, you were my shining light of hope.'

Our Work Outside Detention: Case Study

X was from Zimbabwe. He was attacked with a bayonet at an opposition party rally by Zanu PF supporters, taken to a dark room and tortured. When he escaped he discovered his parents had been murdered. His uncle helped him escape and when he finally made it to the UK, he claimed asylum. When his asylum claim was refused he wasn't aware of the decision because he was homeless. He was detained in the UK for nearly five years. On release, he reported regularly to immigration until he was hit by a car while riding a bicycle. He was unable to report while he convalesced, was therefore considered non-compliant, and detained again.

We met X at a drop-in. With his agreement we referred him to a solicitor and we matched him with a volunteer visitor, who went in to see him every week to offer conversation, company, and emotional support. We referred him to a charity which assisted him to obtain a medical report. After three months, X was released. He was not given accommodation and ended up homeless. We referred him initially to homeless charities in his area and sent him a list of other organisations - including mental health, housing, and food bank organisations - that could offer support. We continued liaising with his solicitor.

His solicitor secured a commitment from the Home Office to provide accommodation but there was a delay. A friend of X offered him a place to stay. This was in another part of the country and X had no funds to travel. We booked him a coach ticket. The arrangement didn't last and when X was on the streets again we again sent a list of organisations that could offer support in his new location. X was desperate and had lost hope. His solicitor challenged the fact that the Home Office hadn't provided an address, and eventually X was offered somewhere to stay on the other side of the country. We enabled X to get to his new lodgings. X was still destitute, with not enough to eat. We referred him to food banks. Without our help he would have had nothing to eat.

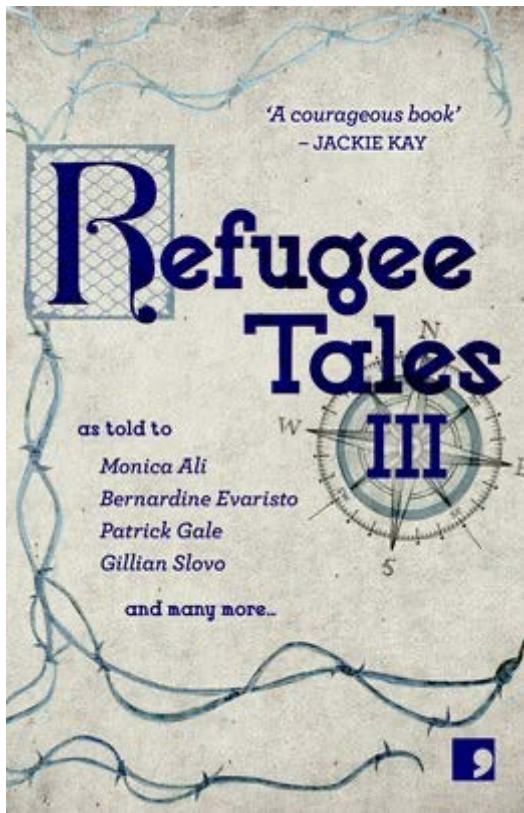
Reflective Case Study

When I was in detention I saw people's minds melt. This is how I describe it. I was detained for two years and became a buddy in the detention centre to help others. I had no problems with anyone in detention and I met a lot of people including one man from Iraq who was held in detention a long time. Let us call him AB though these are not his initials. I supported him when he challenged his deportation without success and when he applied for voluntary return. I understood his situation as we had a common background of being in prison, detention, and coming from war-torn countries. I kept in contact with some people after detention, but that was not the case with AB.

Let us fast forward a number of years. Now I have campaigned to end indefinite detention with Freed Voices. I have helped people inside and outside detention and I now have a residence permit and have become the first employee of GDWG with lived experience. Imagine my first day going into the detention centre to shadow my colleague at her drop-in session. I reflected that the visit would help me understand the privilege of being free. Imagine my shock when AB attended the drop in that day. He recognised me first 'I know you, I know you' he said. He had been forced back to the UK due to the unstable situation in his country. He wanted a better life for his son. He said I was an inspiration to him because I was sitting on the other side of the table now and helping people in detention.

My colleague supported AB and I called him a few times for general support. I did not rush to solve AB's problems but freed myself from my lived experience before listening to him and listening to myself. I have learned to avoid personal distractions from engaging in empathic support for someone else. I can help another person to cross the street on my back only if I am fit. In the drop-in, I felt a positive transference. Trust. AB felt safe because of our connection. My position enables me to demonstrate my understanding, empathy, attention, acceptance, and encouragement towards AB and others that we meet in the centres.

Refugee Tales



Refugee Tales volume 3 was published in July 2019 and included tales by Monica Ali, Bernardine Evaristo, Patrick Gale and Gillian Slovo. Alongside such authors, Refugee Tales III also contained stories written by people who had experienced detention.

The Refugee Tales July walk was from Brighton to Hastings. In 2019, Refugee Tales was featured in The Guardian Long Read, Times Literary Supplement (TLS), TLS Podcast, the Observer, Prayer for Today (Radio 4) and Glasgow Review of Books.



Refugee Tales walkers wrote:

"I never felt happy for twelve years in this country, this the first time I feel like smiling"

"As a refugee in this country, I have never felt so welcome than I did on this particular walk"



"The GDWG & RT mean a lot to me, this group brought back my hope which I lost about the UK, this group built my hope every week's visit."

Chair's Report

Our Founders would never have imagined that, not only are we at GDWG still needed 25 years on, but we are needed more than ever. From very small beginnings these kind and caring people started what has become in effect a movement. We continue the vital work of doing our best to humanise a system of the indefinite detention of asylum seekers in the two centres at Gatwick. We offer friendship and advocacy, but we also, thanks to Refugee Tales, highlight through walks and story telling, the endeavours of brave people to reach a better place imagined. Doing away with indefinite detention would be a terrific birthday present indeed.

Our "Founding Fathers" were few in number. Gillian Maher, Father Paul, Kevin Burr and not forgetting our long standing and invaluable trustee, Felicity Dick. They were the movers and shakers. The work took off initially thanks to the Worth Justice and Peace Group, but as justice is at the heart of our organisation it soon spread ecumenically to include people of all faiths or none.

Visiting is at our heart. Over 25 years hundreds of committed volunteers have visited about 18,500 detained asylum seekers. Committing, say, 2 hours a visit - travelling and so on - that is 37,000 hours minimum. For Refugee Tales and our Walk with Us project the miles we have walked must come to many thousands. And how many words have been written telling the stories, bringing to life the many more miles our detainees travelled to get here? I cannot quantify them. It is simply impossible to quantify the effect of our endeavours, not only on those we have met but especially on ourselves. Out of others' pain and anguish has come greater understanding of ourselves, of making us better, more humble and more passionate human beings. None of us really wishes that particular silver lining - that some good comes out of

others' pain - but it is a fact that we in turn become better, more empathetic people the more we connect and understand. The people we visit teach us so much. I therefore re-dedicate our commitment to them and thank them for helping us grow, each in our own way, into better imagined people.

However no one really wanted us to be still in existence, 25 years on. As Serco takes over from G4S at Tinsley and Brook House we are entering another phase in our relationship with the Home Office. Our superb Director, Anna, has many strong links with other charities in the field and because we are respected in the sector she will continue to develop and extend our influence with policy makers and influencers in the detention estate. We are very fortunate to have Anna and our dedicated staff. Equally we are very fortunate to have very proactive trustees. I also must pay special thanks to every one of our volunteers who at grass-roots level bear witness to our ethos. I celebrate you all in your love and dedication. Thank you - and Happy Birthday!

Marie Dewson.

**“Doing away with
indefinite
detention would
be a terrific
birthday present
indeed”**



Director's Report

When the Worth Justice and Peace Group first heard of people who were in need of support in the Beehive at Gatwick 25 years ago, it was a time when local people could turn up at that iconic building and offer welcome and friendship without booking and ID requirements. At that time the size of the current detention estate would have been impossible to imagine. The Beehive was built in the 1930s as the main airport building that enabled 6 aircraft to be in use at any one time. Six! Fast forward to the architecture of detention before COVID-19 with Brook House and Tinsley House by a Gatwick runway and 186 planes on stands at any one time at the airport. The centres together hold over 500 people. The architecture of detention shouts 'criminal' to the world and those contained within. It is how the hostile environment presents itself to the world. How far this narrative has moved in 25 years! But there is hope in the strength of our resistance.

We resist every time our visitors enter the detention centre taking stories of travels, of family, sport, food, literature, news, and everyday life. We resist by enabling a reconnection with the human for those who are detained. Every time we go on a walk after detention, there is a connection with a supportive community and with the landscape. Every Refugee Tales event offers a connection with the 'hospitality of story' as Refugee Tales Patron, Ali Smith, wrote for us. We resist the architecture of incarceration with the freedom of conversation to roam. Every visit is a precious opening up of a human space in spite of the context. I pay tribute to all the people who have received visits from GDWG over 25 years, to the dedicated visitors, to staff and trustees who have worked to support them and in recent years to the Refugee Tales volunteers and walkers who have amplified our message.

This Annual Review contains memories from our visitors, volunteers, and staff team. It presents facts and figures reflecting the scale of our work in 2019.

Whilst we wish we didn't have to exist and don't wish for the necessity for visits for another 25 years, we nevertheless celebrate our achievements. For me it is inspiring to work alongside you and to experience how we support each other when we witness manifestations of state cruelty. It's inspiring to see how you embody a human response to the slow torture of bureaucracy that ties people up in red tape until the forms and the signing decimate hope. It's amazing to hear laughter in the visits room, to feel the joy of Refugee Tales and to imagine better together. Congratulations on 25 years of making visits, making connections and changing lives.

Anna Pincus

**“Every visit is a
precious
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Treasurer's Report

GDWG continued to grow in 2019 and income increased while costs went down. The level of reserves increased and free reserves at year end represented approximately five months' revenue.

GDWG reported a surplus of £14,269 in 2019, with income of £273,132 and costs of £258,863. This compares to a deficit of £28,684 in 2018.

The £43k difference between the results in 2019 and 2018 consists of a £20k increase in income (mainly relating to donations and grant income) and a £23k reduction in costs. The cost reductions include a £10k reduction in pay costs (resulting from restructuring savings and staff changes) and lower expenditure on professional fees and the website. While the costs of running 'Refugee Tales' were £8k higher in 2019, the £18k surplus it generated was at a similar level to that of 2018. The 2018 project '28 Tales for 28 Days', which cost £12k and was fully crowdfunded, did not recur.

It has been encouraging to see the increasing level of smaller donations from individuals and smaller charitable trusts, including regular giving through the Friends scheme as well as one-off gifts. We hope that we can continue to build on this trend.

The Charity's free reserves (unrestricted funds) were £105,221 at 31 December 2019 (2018 £92,273). Cash at year end was £141k, compared to £142k at the end of 2018. Creditors fell to £33k (2018 £47k), mainly as a result of lower deferred income balances.

George Fitzsimons

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	98,511	163,475	261,986	242,842
Other trading activities	10,493	-	10,493	9,705
Investment income	653	-	653	595
Total	109,657	163,475	273,132	253,142
Expenditure on:				
Refugee Tales books	1,883	-	1,883	2,881
Charitable activities:				
Refugee Tales	13,455	16,628	30,083	22,143
Other awareness raising events	2,324	-	2,324	16,695
Relief to immigrants and refugees	79,047	145,526	224,573	240,107
Total	96,709	162,154	258,863	281,826
Net income/ (expenditure)	12,948	1,321	14,269	(28,684)
Total funds brought forward	92,273	7,460	99,733	128,417
Total funds carried forward	105,221	8,781	114,002	99,733

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets		2,020		3,052
Current assets:				
Debtors	3,816		1,299	
Cash at bank and in hand	140,868		142,093	
	<u>144,684</u>		<u>143,392</u>	
Creditors falling due within one year	(32,702)		(46,711)	
Net current assets		111,982		96,681
Net assets		<u>114,002</u>		<u>99,733</u>
Funds:				
Restricted funds		8,781		7,460
Unrestricted funds		105,221		92,273
Fund balances at end of year		<u>114,002</u>		<u>99,733</u>

“It has been encouraging to see the increasing level of smaller donations from individuals and smaller charitable trusts”



25 Years of GDWG

It was on a trip to Copenhagen in April 2019 that I saw a press photo exhibition showcasing the lives of people in detention. The state didn't know what to do with them and they were stuck in an endless cycle of bureaucracy. What also really stuck with me was some children had been almost entirely brought up in detention.

On returning to the UK I was compelled to learn more about what the situation was like here. You see headlines, but behind the headlines the people are all individuals, all with a story and none just a statistic. Even less known about are the selfless people working tirelessly with these individuals to help them through this dire situation; a voice for those whose voices are not heard.

So I ended up meeting Anna and her inspiring staff at the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and began shooting portraits and hearing the stories they have had working with people in detention.

The stories varied enormously but the underlying theme was human kindness, a willingness to try and do good in an environment where it is far from easy and really seeing the person they are trying to help. I take my hat off to all of them, I am inspired by the level of determination, guts and belief that their work will act as a tool for change. I hope you enjoy the series and thank you for your continued support.

Simon Way

Photographer





Li

I was in detention twice. The first time I had no knowledge of the asylum system and I could barely speak English. I attended English classes in the Centre and I had a weekly visitor from the visitor group. We got to know each other. I told her why I came to the UK. She became an important person in my life with her listening and teaching me English. She got a special sense of me and helped me. When I was released she showed me the UK. And when my appeal hearing was turned down, she came with me when I had to report. They took me from the reporting Centre. I was frightened and she encouraged me. Being detained a second time was harder than the first. I was heartbroken. It was mental breaking you down. You don't know how long you will be in detention. I met someone who had been detained for four years. Not knowing is the hardest thing.



Mariam

I came to this country first as a refugee. So my children were very upset to leave their country. For the first two years it was very hard for everyone in the family to leave your home, your job, the children's schools, clubs, their friends. When my friend told me about people being in detention in the UK, I thought I would visit and tell people: I went through this experience and it gets better. I thought that would give people some hope. I'm Christian, and I love the part when Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was in prison and you came to visit me." I understand what people go through from my own experience.



Adam

One man I visited had no-one to talk to. He had no one on a human level to share his case with. Literally no one. All he had to talk to was the guards in the Centre, his solicitor who would often ignore his calls, the guys in the office at GDWG, and me. So on the day he's going to be deported he has his ticket in his hand and no one to tell and share his feelings about the ticket. The solicitor will be dealing with the fundamentals of it. I thought I'm not really adding anything - he's going and I haven't changed anything. But on that day I realised that me being there for him meant he had someone to tell and someone who cared. I remember someone else I visited who was a victim of his circumstances. His parents had left him when he was young and he'd been in boarding school and foster homes in Lithuania. Visiting him completely changed my opinions. He had effectively been to prison and was a criminal. I never thought I could have sympathy with someone who had broken the law. He was detained indefinitely after he had served his time in prison. And it just completely changed my opinion on a lot of things I thought I held predetermined views about. He was genuinely a really nice guy. I went to visit someone in detention and I didn't know I could empathise with someone who had been in prison but it changed my opinions.



Karris

I remember one man. His case seemed black and white. He was clearly a victim of torture, and was from a minority ethnic group and we knew there was an issue there and his life would be in danger but still his case was refused. He was in lots of debt because of the fees from his private solicitor. We do hear of firms who aren't doing their best work but are charging a lot of money. We've found that a lot. When we met him he had removal directions. His first directions were cancelled and he didn't know why. He wasn't told why. Two weeks later he had removal directions again. Each time he was taken to the airport in a van not knowing what would happen but expecting to die if he was taken back to his country. The second time he was so relieved but again no idea why. You can't imagine the emotion and exhaustion and terror the third time. It was awful to watch and awful for him. Thankfully, the third time his flight was cancelled and he was released from detention after a judicial review was submitted - but his experience showed the way people are relentlessly and constantly ground down until they just give up. For them it feels like a constant fight.



Joseph

I got involved in volunteering and helping people because I experienced being detained myself. I had assistance from Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group. I went through lots of challenges in detention and I was encouraged by the work of the group. My wife visited and I had phone calls from her and friends and I had support from GDWG and was involved in the Christian Fellowship group in the Centre and that all helped. You have to find what works for you. I was detained three times. When I got out I decided I would like an input because I saw the work GDWG do. In detention it was not easy. It was strange. It was a shock. It was the fact I didn't know the length of time I would be there. If you serve a prison sentence you count down the days to the end of the sentence. If it's six months, you count down six months. But in detention there is no stipulated time. Not knowing is really hard for people. When I arrived in detention I met someone who had been detained for one year, someone who had been detained for three years and I thought I don't want to be detained for so long. It plays on your mind. It was difficult.



Najwa

Generally speaking visiting means giving people hope. Giving people encouragement to feel wanted and accepted as everything is taken away from them. I visit like a family member and give people the chance to talk. I always wanted to do this except circumstances weren't available. After my husband died and I was on my own, I thought this is a good way to use my time; for giving. My Arabic is helpful with Sudanese, Egyptians, people from Iraq. And when I started visiting it was the time when people starting fleeing from Syria. Some people don't speak English. Many people can't go back to their home and family. Being like a family member is important. Many want to talk and want me to listen. That's what it means. Being in a visit is being with patience.



Daniel

The way families suffer is awful. A lot of criticism is labelled at Trump's America for how they are perpetrating the separation of families. And while of course that criticism is valid, I also find it frustrating that people aren't levelling the same criticism at our government given that separation is also happening here. There's certainly a lot of awful injustice here which people aren't generally aware of. In my time working for GDWG, I've met political activists fighting totalitarian governments to try and achieve greater freedom who have had to flee after terrible retribution even the death to their family or torture, things like that. I've met people who have proudly held themselves out as LGBT despite oppression and physical attacks in their own country, and have been tortured either by the state or by discriminatory neighbours. I've met people with so much courage and determination to change the world for the better, it's actually fantastic in that regard.



Dorothy

I've met people who have been slaves. Some have got a full life in Britain and others have just arrived. I do get loads out of it myself. I've met such interesting people. I spent most of my career in a university and it was very remote from a lot of people's everyday lives. My research interest at the university was life stories. Now I'm hearing different life stories. I think we in the West tend to have a very linear view of the life course. Some people don't know when they were born. There are things we take for granted. I remember one particular man whose grandmother paid for him to get a business degree in the UK. His college went bankrupt. He was left high and dry and started working doing washing up in a restaurant and then he heard his grandmother was very ill and dying. His visa had run out. He decided he would go back and visit her. He was very close to her. He tried to come back again to the UK and he was picked up. There's a kind of innocence. I asked myself 'Why did you go, and why did you come back?' But I could see it was important for him to see his grandmother and that he wanted to live through her wishes for him. In the end he was sent back to his country. He sent me a text message saying I made him feel human again.



Joe

It's difficult when you go to visit someone and they're not there and you can't find out if they're okay or if they've been deported. Sometimes they're on bail and you call the number you have but they were given a SIM card in the Centre and the number doesn't work. Some people I have kept in contact with, especially if I've visited them for a longer period of time. If I'm being honest, it's actually harder once people have left. When you visit people sometimes they are just aiming for bail all the time. They think getting out of detention is the end of all their problems but when they are released the end of detention doesn't mean all their problems are solved.



Marygold

As a Buddhist, I try to live by the principle of creating value, which is what drew me to the charity. My first volunteer job was sorting clothes, followed by visiting people in detention and helping out in the office, where I now work. When I first started visiting, I saw someone from Jamaica for a year and a half. We got on really well, as I've lived in Jamaica myself and we talked about the culture there, reggae music and his family. He had an eye problem and he couldn't seem to get an eye appointment while he was in detention, so I called up the hospital and found he had missed two appointments while he'd been detained, and had wrongly been taken off the waiting list. Luckily I managed to get him the appointment he needed and he had a successful operation. It took him six months and three cancelled flights to return to Jamaica, even though he was going willingly, after being beaten down by the detention system here. Once he had finally returned to Jamaica, he did a course in upholstery, and he seems to be very happy now. Our friendship has led to a lifelong bond, and we still correspond.



Sameena

The stories that stick in my mind are where help comes from unexpected places. Sometimes you find help and empathy in the most unlikely places and that always gives me hope. So there are stories like that. But I also think about the PTSD people are living with and how long it will take them to recover from indefinite detention. I know people are extremely resilient. I mean, you know, I grew up in Kashmir which has had 30 years of civil unrest. People learn to live with their circumstances- my Uncle, my Grandma, my cousins, all the people of Kashmir, who are now under the illegal occupation of the Indian government- they all just learn to deal with it. They laugh and joke about it, in order to avoid constant despair and grief. They shouldn't have to. When I see people being deported for no other reason than the colour of their skin, the fact that they are poor and without influence or agency, I ache for what is happening to them, but I also hate what we are allowing ourselves to become when we allow it to happen as we watch. We need to do better, as humans, as society; in our neighbourhoods, in our nation, in our world.



John & Mary

There was a man who was sent back with three escorts. They put him in what was, in effect, a strait jacket and took him to the airport. When he got there he called his solicitor who told him that the flight was stopped but no one would take any notice. The escorts got him onto the plane. When I visited him later he drew a picture of the restraining belt. It's two shackled sleeves and tied up around you. Before he was on the plane, he needed to go to the loo but they wouldn't undo it for him to do that. They did it up so tightly they injured him. Soon after the aircraft landed they said 'Oh no, we've only got to take you back but we've done our hours'. So he had to wait for more escorts to come. In the meantime he had to have medical attention as he was so unwell. His solicitor had stopped the flight. Someone being removed isn't seen as a human being - they're just seen as a number. One of the reasons I visit is to say you matter, you're a human being. You breathe in and out the same as I do. I'm reminded of the Shakespeare quote "If you prick us, do we not bleed?" I want people in detention to know someone outside actually cares about them. I've visited people who have been detained for months and no-one has been anywhere near them.



Ave

Through visiting, I've learned that all things are possible. You go there to the visits room and you have no idea what you're going to say or do; if you're going to need to direct conversation, if you need to be quiet, or anything. So each time you go in you sit down with a good heart. That's actually the biggest lesson. And of course you learn so much.

Our Thanks

We are grateful for the support of:

Recent funders:

The AB Charitable Trust
Anthony Wilson
Awards for All
Arts Council
Jonathan and Sarah Bayliss
Bernadette Trust
Boltini Trust
The Big Lottery Fund
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Our thanks to:

**All individuals and institutions
who have donated money,
clothing and other items to us.**

**Our volunteers, who do so
much more for GDWG and
Refugee Tales than we could
ever ask.**

“I can say thank you a million times, but it is not enough. For someone to come and see you at that time, who you do not know. I say thanks.”

“To join a very big and strong family who are behind in my life, not only in detention case but also for any problem that comes to my life. Thanks to detention I could join a big family.”



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Designed by Eli Barrott