



KENT REFUGEE ACTION NETWORK

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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## CONTENT

20th anniversary year in photos - page 3

Message from our CEO and Chair - page 4

Fundraising - page 5

Communications - page 6

Media Ambassador - page 7

Learning for Life - page 8

Early Intervention Casework - page 9

Advocacy and Support intro - page 10

Casework - page 11

Mentoring - page 12

Youth Engagement - page 13

Activities and Wellbeing - page 14

Evidence and Impact - page 15

Finance - page 16

Donations and grants - page 17

Meet the team - page 18

Thank you - page 19

*How Do You Call Me Illegal?* - page 20



**All the world's a stage for our young people thanks to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury**



# KRAN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

*"You're giving them [young refugees and asylum seekers] the tools to be able to build such positive lives and to be the contributors that we need in our communities. And you're breaking down barriers as well, which I think is really important."*

**Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh, speaking at KRAN in April 2023**



**HRH with staff and trustees**



**The Duchess in class with teacher Kate**



**Getting ready for the 20th anniversary party in July**



**Sharing food is always central to our celebrations**



**Dancing is another must at any KRAN party**



**Our young people featured in the video for the Marsh family song *See Your Face Again***



# FROM OUR CEO AND CHAIR

**By Dr Razia Shariff, CEO, and Jos Kerkvliet, Chair**

The year started with our 20th anniversary and the government's pledge to deliver a year of legislative and policy changes on refugees, both of which had a major impact on KRAN's work.

On the day the Illegal Migration Bill started its turbulent journey through Parliament, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh visited our Canterbury hub to unveil a 20th anniversary commemorative plaque made by our students. She met past and present trustees and staff and gave an impromptu lesson on the royal family tree to our class of young people!

In June, we celebrated Refugee Week with the Diocese of Canterbury; this included the Marsh family's first public performance of their song *See Your Face Again*, a KRAN fundraiser. The video for the song featured some of our young people and so far has had 67,000 views on YouTube!

Despite major criticisms from the House of Lords, UNHCR (the UN refugee agency) and the EU, the new Illegal Migration Bill became an Act. This means no one seeking asylum in the UK can claim and gain refugee status unless they arrive through regularised routes.

A key element of the "deter, detain and deport" agenda is the Rwanda scheme, which was rightly taken through the courts and found to be a violation of human rights. However, numbers of new arrivals continued to rise during the year.

Another court ruling prevented the holding of separated young refugees and asylum seekers in hotels while they awaited dispersal through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). As a result, the number of referrals to KRAN increased.

Kent became a Home Office dispersal zone for adult asylum seekers: Manston Reception Centre was opened, then closed because of overcrowding and a death, and then opened again. Napier Barracks continued to be used as a holding centre for adult asylum seekers while their claims were processed. New hotels for adult asylum seekers were also opened.

Some of the younger adults in the local hotels joined our classes. The Afghan families in hotels were ordered to evacuate over the summer and we worked with the local authorities who did an amazing job rehousing them all.

Canterbury for Ukraine, who we have been supporting, finally received charitable status. We strengthened our partnerships with key stakeholders and providers of services in Kent. Along with being part of the Refugee Action Data Hub Advisory Group and the Cross Border Forum, we worked with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Belgium, France and the UK.

We had a number of fact-finding visits from EU MEPs and foundation and trust trustees. Also, we collaborated with researchers and universities on several projects: the UK Trauma Council, the Refugee Council's My View children's therapy service, and People United, who won a Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Award for Civic Arts for the *Sea of the Unseeable* art project with KRAN.

At an "away day", staff and trustees considered how to future-proof KRAN in order to support our young people in the context of the new bill. We had a 20th anniversary summer celebration for young people, volunteers and staff.

As well as strengthening our systems and procedures, we appointed an Early Intervention Case Worker to support our Learning for Life teachers, a Communications Coordinator, and two Youth Influencers. After a stocktake of our Youth Engagement scheme, we appointed four new Youth Ambassadors and four trainees to offer employment and work-shadowing opportunities for young people with lived experience.

The demand for our services continues to remain high. Thank you to our funders, fundraisers and supporters for their continued commitment. We would also like to thank our new philanthropic foundations: The Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust, The John Swire Family Trust, The Bennelong Foundation and Choose Love.

The board went through a reorganisation, learning lessons along the way. With this in mind, new trustees with fundraising and lived experience have been co-opted. The board supports the continued professionalisation of the way KRAN works.

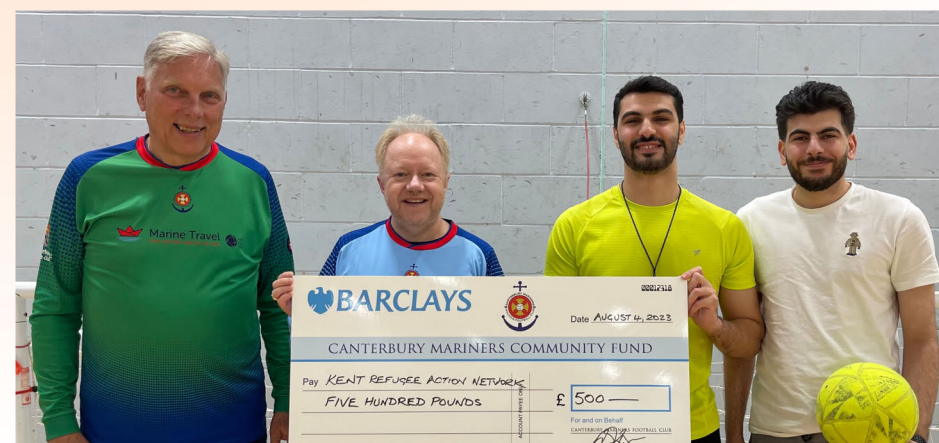
With the support of Lloyds Enhance, we have strengthened our back office function by fundraising and recruiting to a new administrative role.

We are committed to our young people. We remain positive, resolute and hopeful that social justice and decent human rights for all will win the day.





Filming at St Augustine's Abbey for the Marsh family video, featuring some of our young people



Canterbury Mariners Walking Football Club were on the ball with this donation!



It was a marathon effort by Felix!

## FUNDRAISING

This has been another successful year in securing funding for KRAN.

Examples include using high-interest accounts to maximise the interest received for our new Amal Fund and Destitution Fund, the Marsh Family releasing the song *See Your Face Again* for KRAN during Refugee Week, and schoolchildren organising fundraising projects.

We received more than £85,000 in donations over the year. From campaigns and events, you helped us raise £12,150. As well as the Marsh family song, these included the bike project, alongside a number of sponsored events: supporter Felix Boucher's Bruges Marathon success, Hampstead Fine Arts College's football match, Canterbury Mariners Walking Football Club, plus support from local schools. Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone, and Kent College, Canterbury, completed sponsored walks, while Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk primary did a Young Entrepreneurs' event.

Thank you to all who helped raise vital funds for KRAN.

Through our website, we received CAF button donations of £32,069, PayPal donations of £12,518 (for our Destitution and Amal funds) and general donations of £28,750.

A huge thank you to all those who gave donations over the year, which we use for activities for the young people and for developing new project areas.



# COMMUNICATIONS

**By Sarah, Communications Coordinator**

After a hiatus of several months, KRAN communications were back up and running in March.

The role of Communications Coordinator was filled that month and with a visit by HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh just a few weeks later, the team hit the ground running. Ably assisted by Youth Influencers Rishan and Osama, a plan was formed: news release, media interviews, photographs, blog and social media posts. This proved a success and resulted in some great coverage (ensuring a broad reach for our message).

This winning format continued in the same vein and still does. KRAN is a wonderful source of stories and the subjects covered were many and varied: appeal for teachers, homelessness, bike project, “international days”, the achievements of our young people...

The team was reliant on colleagues sharing ideas to make these stories happen, or even just a couple of photos taken at an activity. Thank you, all!

Also with the help of colleagues, we drew up a list of potential new patrons. Top of the list was journalist, author and broadcaster Gavin Esler - thankfully, he agreed to join us!

Recognising it was important for KRAN to have a tone and voice, all comms became warm, friendly, authoritative and fair. We asked our young people to come up with key words to represent KRAN and these were used throughout: *belonging, compassion, resilience, family, hope, friends, home.*

And, of course, we reacted to “news” stories as they happened. This was either through interviews, statements or blogs/social media (sometimes a combination), and included reaction to the passing of the Illegal Migration Bill (July), a Channel tragedy (September) and the Rwanda scheme (November).

Interview requests came thick and fast - everyone from Al Jazeera to GB News. We had more than 100 requests and a real learning curve was accepting that we couldn't say yes to everyone! Linked to this was the on-going debate as to our standing as a “campaigning” organisation.

Considerable time was spent briefing journalists; also “cultivating” a favoured few, ensuring they came to us first as a reliable and trustworthy source. This paid off with good coverage in i News and BBC South East TV in particular.

The team also engaged with other organisations - both in the sector and outside - to share stories and ideas, to learn and to take part in campaigns (Together With Refugees' *Fair Begins Here*, for example).

Work on “tidying up” the web was ongoing and a KRAN LinkedIn profile was launched late in the year. Engagement in the established social media remained good. At the end of 2023, we had 17.5k followers on Twitter/X; 4.4k on Facebook and 1.8k on Instagram (no comparison figures were available from the previous year). Work also goes on to improve these!

A busy and productive not-quite-12 months - sometimes sad, but always with good heart and spirit. Huge thanks to volunteers Lorna Petty (annual report design) and Jack Target (web and all other KRAN IT support).



**We highlighted the housing crisis facing our young people in a BBC South East TV interview featuring Babur (November)**



# MEDIA AMBASSADOR

## By Rishan, Media Ambassador

In 2023, KRAN introduced a new role of Youth Influencer (YI, now called Media Ambassador). This role involved bridging the gap between experiences and awareness, placing a strong emphasis on the power of storytelling to foster engagement and connection.

One way in which this was achieved was through the writing of blogs for the KRAN website. These were then linked to social media (and thus promoted to a wide audience). The blogs highlighted some of the international, national and local challenges faced by our young people.

As well as giving insight into the current refugee situation, this was a great way to help those in the same circumstances and to make them feel that they are not alone. Examples included posts on International Migrants Day, Black History Month, our sports sessions, and a life lost at sea. Also interviews with KRAN patrons Lord Dubs and Gavin Esler.

Collaboration was another key part of the YI role. This enhanced the effectiveness of the collective effort and contributed to a more impactful outreach. Through this collaboration, our YIs gained access to organisations establishing networks, resources and channels.

This helped build relationships, fostered deeper connections and engagement with different audiences, internationally and locally. Examples included the Marsh family, People United and Together With Refugees.

The YIs were involved in many media interviews in 2023, including Al Jazeera, China Global Television Network, BBC South East and ITV Meridian. These all helped share real experiences and stories, as well as advocate for the voice of our young people and the current refugee situations.



**Rishan and Osama are interviewed by ITV Meridian at Canterbury Cathedral**



**Lord Dubs (pictured in front of the Kindertransport memorial in London) featured in an interview**



# LEARNING FOR LIFE

## By the L4L team

It was another busy year for everyone involved in the Learning for Life programme (L4L) with 291 referrals to our Canterbury and Folkestone hubs.

Since many of our young people were on the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), we saw continual change to our registers, with many spirited, talented and charming young people coming and going.

The perennial challenge of ensuring our young people understand the importance of attending class on time continued. Some were ready physically, emotionally and psychologically to learn. For others, punctuality was very hard!

Our students arrived with a wide range of educational experience and once in class, the motivation to learn was generally high. Aside from preparing them for school or college, one of our main aims as teachers was to make them feel safe: safe to make mistakes, take a risk, have fun, breathe, laugh and even be silly! We created a warm, welcoming atmosphere across all our L4L classes, always sensitive to wellbeing and mindful of their mental health.

The key focus and success of what we do at KRAN is always to develop in our students the confidence to take on the challenges they face and to give them a safe space when they need it.

We went on many successful outings: a day trip to London, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury Cathedral, Richborough Roman Fort, Deal Castle and Wildwood. For the first time, students across both hubs came together during the holidays and new friendships were formed.

We also continued our hugely popular drama classes in Canterbury and reading group in Folkestone.

The year wasn't without challenges, but we, the teachers in the L4L programme, were so fortunate to have people on hand to help us, especially our teaching assistants Bushra Sharkia and Tom Norris.

We worked as a team with other staff at KRAN, who enabled us to be a positive and educational support to the RAS people in our classes. Thanks so much to volunteer Henri Bomer for her unfailing help and great food!



Figgygoun

Model behaviour in a drama session (above); at Deal Castle, one of several successful day trips (right)







L4L at the Canterbury Hub

# EARLY INTERVENTION CASEWORK

**By Sarah, Early Intervention Caseworker**

Early intervention casework is based around the young people who attend the L4L lessons at our Canterbury and Folkestone hubs, helping to support and provide solutions at an early stage with the aim of mitigating more complex situations.

Casework this year has involved a variety of need: lack of medical support, the transition into independent living from foster care, assisting with paperwork, educational support and progression, mental health, supporting students who have been placed in a hotel, age disputes of which there has been an increase, and the many challenges relating to the (NTS).

The Advocacy and Support team worked closely with the teachers and support staff across the hubs, flagging early concerns and dealing with them as soon as possible, as well as supporting the teachers with any challenging behaviour in the classroom.

Since the role started in March 2023, more than 70 young people have been supported, some for extended periods of time and some requiring support across a number of areas. Communicating with our external partners can reduce multiple agencies dealing with the same issue, allows us to pool our expertise, and for us to advocate on behalf of our young people.

The support does not end with a move to college. Many continue to return for guidance or additional support, especially in the first months of moving on from KRAN.

As we awaited the arrival of new Advocacy and Support colleagues to join us, the Early Intervention role has recently widened to support all young people under the age of 18. This means as a team we are able to support each other with the increased need for our service.

I am very grateful to have the support and expertise of not just the Advocacy and Support team, but all KRAN staff, whose commitment to our young people is remarkable.



# ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT INTRO

**By Jaweria, Advocacy and Support Manager**

2023 was a year full of challenges and barriers, but the Advocacy and Support team ensured young people received the best possible support.

For various reasons, the immigration and asylum environment remained bleak, but it only made us more committed to our cause and values.

As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, young people from diverse backgrounds came together in July to celebrate. It was a day full of joy, solidarity and hope for the future of young people. It left us with warm and happy memories.

The team gained in strength with a new casework provision - early intervention support for the young people in our L4L classes, and complex and housing casework provisions remained at maximum capacity, offering much-needed support.

We welcomed four new Youth Ambassadors to the Youth Engagement team and had the opportunity to recruit four trainees. Our mentoring team continued to run successful partnerships and projects.

Our activities and wellbeing provision achieved new heights this year. Although our brilliant coordinator moved on from KRAN, we quickly recruited a replacement. Since then, the provision has grown into its own small team, which now includes an Activities Lead, sessional sports staff and a coach. This year also saw a new progression route for our former Youth Ambassadors, who became Youth Influencers working alongside our Communications Coordinator.

The Advocacy and Support team continued to meet its strategic goals and I am very pleased to say that our internal systems and policies improved. The team is more passionate about the work we do and is ready and committed to make sure that young people receive the support that they need and rightfully deserve. Our priority as the Advocacy and Support team will always be to maintain a safe space for our young people who are the heart of KRAN.



**Youth Engagement Coordinator Fawzia (centre) with Youth Ambassadors (from left) Grmalem, Obaida, Luwam and Shahab**



# CASEWORK

**By Paul, Complex Caseworker**

There was no let up for casework support in 2023. I referred in the last annual report to the difficulties securing legal representation for a range of asylum and immigration issues. Sadly, the challenges became a crisis in 2023 as disputes over the value of legal aid contracts resulted in a sharp contraction in the number of firms willing to represent our service users. Inevitably, this has had a knock-on effect with sector pro bono partners... many are at capacity. The situation with young people seeking representation on asylum appeals has been especially difficult.

All of this against the backdrop of uncertainty over the implications of the Illegal Migration Act, the Rwanda proposals, and the confused and often hostile framing of narratives around the refugee population.

Housing-related issues continue to be pressing concerns for KRAN young people. Very simply, there is an acute shortage of affordable housing in Kent; social housing is almost non-existent and the costs of private rentals are prohibitive to those on low incomes. While the issue of affordability impacts young people in Kent, a significant number of KRAN's service users do not so easily benefit from the family and social networks that are often crucial in finding a place to live.

While it is important to report the very real challenges that young people face in the UK of 2023, there is of course a very positive flipside. The casework team has supported hundreds of people in the last 12 months - many in situations of crisis - with positive outcomes for the overwhelming majority: street homeless young people have found accommodation, families separated by conflict have been reunited, authorities failing to discharge their responsibilities and duties have been challenged, the latter leading to previously-denied young people and families being able to access health services, housing, legal support etc.

I am very happy to report that the housing caseworker position has now been filled (a warm welcome to Red!).

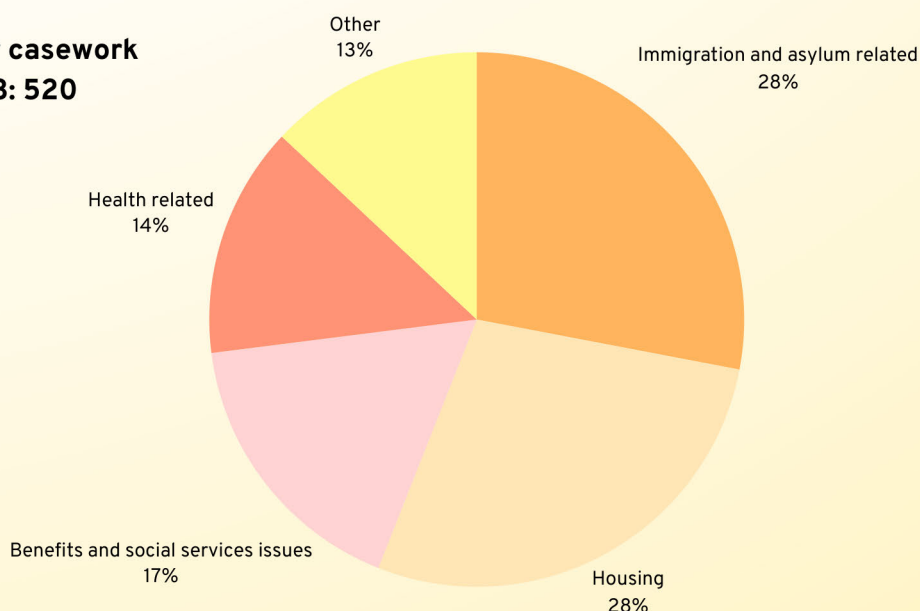
The success of casework relies upon our knowledge and experience of policy and legal frameworks across sectors, on building and sustaining networks, and on continual reflection of our practice. And sometimes, just making the right phone call at the right time!

Everyone at KRAN is involved in supporting the casework function, and it is the collective commitment and expertise of the wider team - teaching staff, ambassadors, mentors and volunteers - that is essential to our success.

Big thanks to Tom Nichols for support on NHS-related matters, also Hannah Allright for her voluntary support.

## Casework type by percentage

**Total referrals for casework supported in 2023: 520**





# MENTORING



**By Gareth, Mentoring Project Coordinator, and Lou, Mentoring Programme Developer**

In 2023, new services and projects were developed by the mentoring team. We looked at the mentor logs and observed that there was a need for GCSE maths support. We responded by setting up 1:1 GCSE maths tuition online with a volunteer maths teacher and we have furthered this support in 2024 with a GCSE maths class. Thanks to tutors Antonio Orland and Ayaz Shah

In 2022, mentor logs showed that UASC women were feeling socially isolated. We set up a successful UASC Women's Circle and in 2023, we had 32 meetings. These were at various locations, including Eleto Chocolate Café, St Peter's Methodist Church and Westgate Parks.

Topics discussed included healthy relationships, cultural and religious traditions, friendship, careers, and self-care. Activities such as cricket, picnics, nail art, and votive making (thanks to Billie M Vigne) were enjoyed by all.

We have young women from a range of backgrounds, cultures and religions and they formed strong friendships, as well as understandings around cultural differences.

From the mentoring project, we realised that migrant women were in need of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision. Late 2022, we set up an ESOL Women's Group with a beginners' class and an intermediate class. These were run by staff Lou and Bushra, and later Emily, as well as some amazing volunteers (including Gabrielle Kent, Jane Issac, Jo Brazier, Lucy Bryan, Marilyn Hull and Simone Fokel de Boer). We had a wonderful celebration to mark the end of the year at St Peter's with the Soroptimist International Group.

The bike project we set up in 2022 continued to be a success, with more than 30 bikes, helmets, locks and lights given to young people, as well as cycle training with Canterbury City Council for those who needed to build their road confidence. We collaborated with Canterbury Bike Project and Margate Bike Shed on the project.

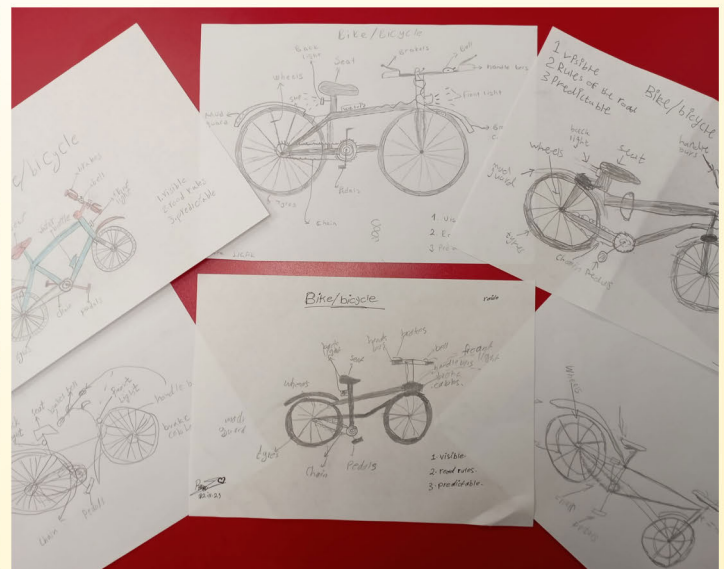
For mentors, we began reflective practice sessions every six weeks. In these, mentors talk about the emotional and psychological impact of the work they do with young people with a clinical psychologist.

During the course of the year, we had 64 mentors across east Kent. We took on and trained 21 but we're always on the lookout for more (especially in the Canterbury and Folkestone areas)!

Thank you to all our mentors and mentees for their amazing work - we couldn't do it without you!



**Women's Circle members get creative at the votive-making session**



**The bike project inspired these amazing sketches by our young people**



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**By Fawzia, Youth Engagement Coordinator**

2023 was a year of change for the Youth Engagement team. Our outgoing Youth Ambassadors (YAs) moved on to new roles, and we were delighted to welcome a new cohort: Grmalem, Luwam, Obaida and Shahab and Obaida. We were also pleased to welcome Djafarou, Doaa, Dunya and Yusuf as trainees.

The YAs quickly engaged in their new task of reaching out to young people, acting as a voice for KRAN's young refugees and as emissaries of KRAN to young refugees.

The Youth Engagement Strategy now leads our work and prioritises safe spaces for young refugees and asylum seekers to meet, discuss and act on behalf of themselves and others like them. They also develop capabilities and leadership, influence KRAN services and raise awareness about YRAS issues.

The YAs started the year with a survey of our young people to capture insights on the many issues they face, to find out how they rated KRAN's services, and to express their demands.

The YAs been out and about in Kent, making videos and recordings for use in disseminating voice, participating in a Parliamentary Education Select Committee to provide evidence on refugee child access to education, and were involved in the Canterbury Cathedral's Refugee Week events.

We have supported them in this with training and mentoring to help them rise to these new roles. New trainees were assigned to departments in KRAN to learn new skills. We additionally provided them (and the YAs) with new skills of leadership, media, and communications.

We were particularly pleased to secure a full apprenticeship at Cummins Distribution Business for trainee Doaa, a one-week summer workplace training for two trainees also at Cummins, and a place for one trainee on Save the Children's Young Peace Makers' Assembly.

Our YAs represented youth refugee voices in and beyond Kent. They have visited local schools to present KRAN work, engaged with Generation Justice and University of Kent to work with KMTV to create a social justice-focused educational TV series for secondary school children. They have represented refugee youth on the Youth Future Foundation, an advisory group that seeks to tackle youth unemployment.

The Youth Forum met each month to attract new young people to KRAN. These have been fun events around which we encourage young people to build connections and discuss issues that are important to them.

The YAs produced a short video to advertise and explain the work of KRAN and put this out on social media.

The Youth Engagement team has together created an IT club to support new arrivals with basic IT skills, assisted young people to apply to university and college, and has collaborated with DWP Canterbury to support young people seeking jobs.

We have enjoyed significant partnerships with St Edmund's (Canterbury) and Laytmer (London) schools to build Totally Inclusive Communities, with Living Seams to record our stories for an oral collection of history of exile and displacement in Kent, and with People United to portray refugee issues through art.

We are grateful to Canterbury Christ Church University to allow us to explore apprenticeships, work with students to raise awareness of refugee issues, and collaborate around special educational needs and inclusion with early childhood development students.

The YAs worked with The Anna Freud Charity and the UK Trauma Council to build evidence, develop a mental support resource manual and help schools support young refugees in crisis. Our work on mental health continues with Porchlight. Together with the Kent UASC Networking Forum, we continue to explore how education staff can support students seeking refuge and asylum.





Football fosters friendship

# ACTIVITIES AND WELLBEING

By Osama, Activities and Wellbeing Coordinator

Throughout 2023, we successfully orchestrated an array of activities for young refugees and asylum seekers, aged 15-26, from many nationalities. These activities not only provided enjoyment and learning opportunities, but also played a crucial role in community integration and personal development. The highlights:

*Sports* - our cricket activities, including the girls' cricket match and the cricket guard of honour, engaged up to 10 young women each, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship. The Ashford, Folkestone, and Canterbury football sessions consistently attracted between 15 and 25 young participants, promoting physical health and camaraderie.

*Educational and cultural* - trips such as the guided tour of Canterbury Christ Church University and the visit to Richborough Castle offered educational insights and cultural enrichment.

*Creative and recreational* - drama sessions at the Gulbenkian encouraged artistic expression. An outing to watch *The Super Mario Bros* film, and dance workshop were notable for their high engagement and positive feedback. Our success in expanding these activities perfectly aligns with our strategic goals.

*Flexibility and responsiveness* - adapting to the changing needs of our community, we introduced various programmes, such as the Pied Piper beatbox show at the Gulbenkian and the multi-sports days.

*Building community relationships* - regular activities and special events like the joint hub party day strengthened our bonds in the community.

*Creating opportunities* - Project Wrap-Up Call for Inclusive Sport and other initiatives opened new pathways for our young people.

*Mental wellbeing and safety* - providing a supportive and safe environment has always been our priority, evident in every event we organised.

*Empowering young voices* - we have consistently encouraged our young people to express themselves, valuing their feedback and ideas.

*Impact recording* - keeping detailed records of these activities has enabled us to assess our impact and plan future improvements.

On a personal note, I would like to extend a special thank you to LJ, who previously held this role and whose work laid a strong foundation for the success we continue to build on. Also to long-standing volunteer Neil Adams.



The girls' cricket match proved a big hit





# EVIDENCE AND IMPACT

**By Henna, Evidence and Impact Coordinator**

KRAN continues its commitment to develop the way we collect data, enabling us to demonstrate the work carried out by staff, Youth Ambassadors, trainees and volunteers, the outcomes, and how young people are directly impacted. This data is vital to improve how KRAN empowers and supports young people, to secure funding and to connect and create change in Kent and beyond.

Over the last year we have gained a richer understanding of existing data, its uses and the areas that need strengthening and improvement. Internal discussions and analysis across KRAN's teams were carried out to identify the work that needs to be done to produce robust evidencing mechanisms, including the technology we use to support data collection.

All programmes offered to young people underwent individual stocktakes to evaluate the current state of our service delivery, understanding what has been working well and areas needing attention to meet the evolving needs of KRAN's young people. We have also begun to embed the practice of learning and reflection sessions to continually develop the support we offer.

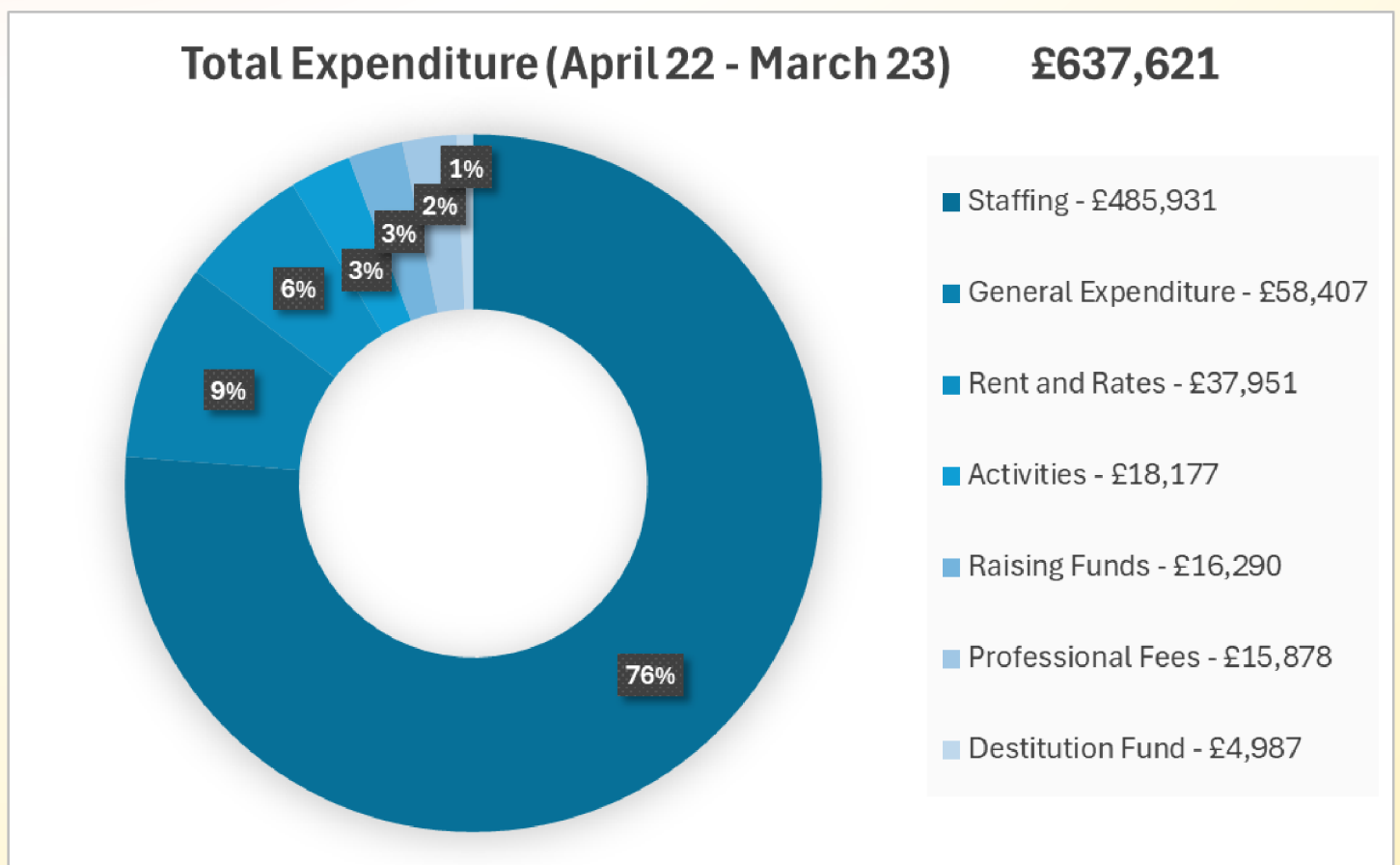
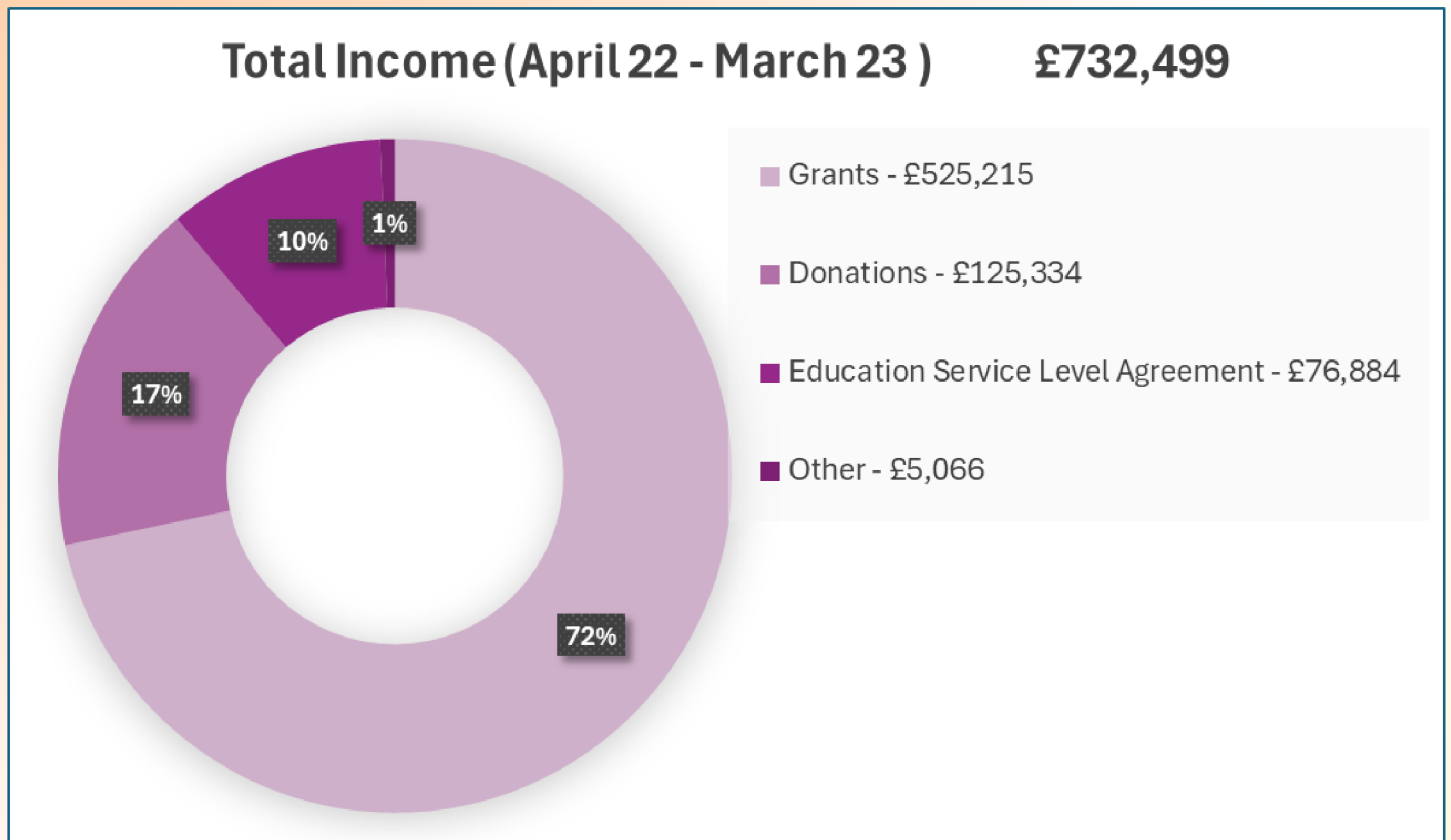
This groundwork positions KRAN to review our theory of change: an essential resource mapping how our services meet the objectives of our mission and guide us towards our intended impact. There will also be efforts to develop how we gather feedback and capture young people's experiences of KRAN, connect with external researchers aligned with KRAN's evidencing aims, and leverage data to aid learning and decision-making in transforming services to meet emerging needs of KRAN's young people. We also hope to utilise improved data collection for internal impact assessments to demonstrate the effectiveness and outcomes that come from KRAN's service delivery.





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

By Suzi, Finance and Monitoring Officer





# DONATIONS AND GRANTS

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023



## DONATIONS

Ashford and Folkestone Quaker Meeting  
Boughton-Under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School  
Canterbury College  
Canterbury Mariners Walking Football Club  
Dean and Chapter Canterbury Cathedral  
French Walloon Church, Canterbury  
Hampstead Fine Arts College  
Harvest New Anglican Church, Broadstairs  
Hat Trick Productions  
Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone  
Ipswich Sangha  
Methodist Independent  
Michael Guest Foundation  
Mission Committee of the United Church  
Parochial Church Council  
Refugee Action  
St Andrew's Methodist Church, Folkestone  
St Martin and St Paul PCC, Canterbury  
St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury  
Stronger Kent Communities  
The Community of the Presentation Trust  
The Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury  
The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury  
United Church Crowborough  
United Nations Association  
University of Bonn Germany  
University of Kent  
Women in Fellowship

## GRANTS

AB Charitable Trust  
Bell Foundation  
Bennelong Foundation  
Blagrove Trust - The Listening Fund  
Canterbury City Council  
Children in Need  
Choose Love  
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Family Philanthropic Trust  
Hardy Family Foundation  
Kent County Council  
Lloyds Bank Foundation  
Nationwide Community Grants  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
St James's Place  
The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
The National Lottery Heritage Fund  
The Tolkien Trust  
Tudor Trust  
UK Trauma Council



# MEET THE TEAM



## PATRONS

Lord Mereworth

Lord Dubs

Gavin Esler

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Chair - Jos Kerkvliet

Deputy - Nicola Robbins

Treasurer - Carol Lucis

### Trustees:

Andrew Kidd

Pat Edwards

Richard Warren

Rupert Brown

Sally Weatherall

## STAFF

### Senior Managers

Chief Executive Officer - Dr Razia Shariff

Advocacy and Support Manager - Jaweria Abdal

### Staff Team: Core

Community and Corporate Fundraiser - Rachel Target

Communications Coordinator - Sarah Munday

Evidence and Impact Coordinator - Henna Charania

Finance and Monitoring Officer - Suzi Glaiser-Creed

Media Influencer - Rishan Tsegay

### Advocacy and Support

Activities and Wellbeing Coordinator - Osama Sharkia

Activities Lead - Shaun Harris

Complex Caseworker - Paul Cossali

Early Intervention Caseworker - Sarah Hagues

Mentoring Coordinator - Gareth Brown

Mentoring Programme Developer - Lou Roberts

Multi-Sports Coach - Josh Russell

Youth Engagement Coordinator - Fawzia Nabi-Worsley

### Learning for Life

Teachers: Canterbury - Kate Brown, Kathy Keirle-Ali, Emily Thomas

Assistant: Bushra Sharkia

Teachers: Folkestone - Lesley Smith, Liz Hayes, Andy Beard

Assistant: Sandra Gravenor

### Youth Ambassadors

Grmalem Gonetse

Luwam Yukalo

Obaida Sharkia

Shahab Orykhail

### Trainees

Djafarou Djib

Ibrahim Ahmadzai

All as of December 2023



# THANK YOU...

...we couldn't do it without you!

Andy Aitchison Photographer  
 Asylum Appeals' Project  
 Beaney Museum of House and Knowledge  
 Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk school  
 British Red Cross  
 Canterbury Academy  
 Canterbury Bike Project  
 Canterbury Cathedral  
 Canterbury Christ Church University  
 CAB (North West Kent)  
 Cummins  
 Diocese of Canterbury  
 Duncan Lewis  
 East Kent College  
 Eleto Chocolate Café  
 English Heritage  
 Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury  
 IMIX  
 Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone  
 Inclusive Sport  
 Kent College Senior School, Canterbury  
 Kent County Council  
 Kent Cricket Community Trust  
 Kent Law Clinic  
 Kent Mining Museum  
 Kent Social Services

Margate Bike Shed  
 Marsh family  
 Milbank  
 National Trust  
 People United  
 Perfect Place to Grow  
 Period Poverty UK  
 Pie Factory  
 Project 43  
 RKB Law  
 Soroptimist International Group  
 St/Art  
 St Edmund's School, Canterbury  
 St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury  
 Samphire  
 Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys,  
 Canterbury  
 The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury  
 The Migrants' Law Project  
 The Refugee Council  
 The Shed Youth Project Folkestone  
 Three Hills Sports Park  
 UK Trauma Council  
 University of Kent  
 Virtual School Kent  
 Westgate Hall Community Trust  
 Wildwood Trust  
 Young Lives Foundation



Our Women and Girls' Team formed the guard of honour at a Kent Cricket Club match in June



# HOW DO YOU CALL ME ILLEGAL?

by Grmalem Gonetse Kasa (September 2023)

I see I know why you are calling me illegal  
because I didn't come on your official term.  
You didn't get paid on my case to decide  
I don't want to. I am my own self-freedom maker.

Did you say I am an asylum; I am?  
I walk through the valley  
I walk through the river  
I walk through the deeper  
I walk through the harder  
I walk through the darkest  
I am my own freedom maker.

I walk through the sun  
I walk through the moon  
I walk through the stars  
I walk through the cold and hot weathers  
I am my own freedom maker.

That is when the story starts, I call myself legal  
I guess that is when I start having strengths.  
Faintness, those are my idleness because I am not hopeless.

With all my hopes and strengths  
I become my own freedom  
Man and human again!  
Because I know how my story began.  
There's no one of you or the law that can get in my way.  
I make my own freedom as I have been clever with hopes and dreams, there are no laws I am against.  
I am my own freedom.

As a wise man said, unlike you, no mother would put her child on the ocean if the land were safer.  
Have or haven't I come through all challenges?  
I escape from deaths and disabilities  
I escaped from wars and hunger crisis.

Humans were animals who were ready to eat me  
traffickers who were ready to sell me  
as you were tried to make me you Ugandan trader  
I am my own freedom maker.  
Children of God are not for sale.

I am my own freedom  
I am stronger  
I am harder  
I am talented  
I am human  
I am clever  
I am my own freedom maker.

I wake every morning and tell myself I am beautiful  
because life is wonderful to be lived.  
I AM MY OWN FREEDOM.



**The Journey by Grmalem**



**Passboat by Grmalem**