

## Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



*Where a little means a lot*  
**No 2 of 2024**

## THANK YOU

**We are very grateful to all who are supporting us in what is for everyone a very difficult time. Regular donations are especially helpful as we seek to meet a demand for help that is likely to be greater than ever in the coming months.**

**A special thanks to those whose gifts have been made anonymously or for whom we have no addresses to send our thanks.**

One of the things I have learned in my five years with the Fund for Human Need is that the need is impossible to predict. Months we expect to be busy are normal and times we would expect to be normal are suddenly very busy.

We do see some trends coming through. I can say that our recent experience confirms that the Home Office are processing more asylum seekers than previously.

Although it is good that people now have decisions, unfortunately the follow up services, help to claim benefits, housing and other support are just not able to cope. As an asylum seeker or refugee, the allowance of around £45 per week that an asylum seeker or refugee has to live on and the accommodation provided are withdrawn 28 days after a successful claim of leave to remain.

An application for housing can take months, often resulting in families being shunted around temporary accommodation. In some areas of the country social housing lists have been completely closed to single people and families without children are finding it increasingly difficult. Also, as we are all aware benefit claims of any sort now take at least 6 weeks to process so even if the system runs smoothly there is a period of at least 2 weeks with no income at all when there has been no capacity to save or put money aside.

This is a long running problem. The Red Cross first issued a report in 2018. <https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/we-speak-up-for-change/improving-the-lives-of-refugees/refugee-move-on-period> )

The 28-day move-on period in the UK is leaving refugees on the brink of destitution. Evidence from people supported by British Red Cross services shows that newly recognised refugees are struggling after successfully applying for asylum. Many can't move from asylum support to mainstream benefits and employment within the 28-day period given to them by the Home Office.

Key findings of the report were:

- 28 days is not enough time for newly recognised refugees to move onto mainstream benefits or find somewhere new to live.
- Universal Credit has made it almost inevitable that refugees will be left without support. An automatic 35-day wait to receive the first Universal Credit payment is completely incompatible with the 28 days afforded to newly recognised refugees to access Universal Credit.
- The safeguards within the Universal Credit system to ensure claimants are not left without support are often not accessed by refugees. They are often unaware that they are eligible or cannot receive them because they don't have a bank account.
- Under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, local authorities are given a 56-day period to work with households at risk of homelessness. But the 28-day move-on period doesn't give local councils the same amount of time.

They called on decision makers to:

Extend the move-on period to 56 days to allow more time for newly recognised refugees to find housing, employment, or benefits and take a joined-up approach with local authorities to ensure refugees are not left on the streets.

We will continue to help where we can.

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## How You helped:

Aarash\* worked for the British forces in Afghanistan, he was unable to make it to the evacuation transport and only arrived in the UK after a hazardous and dangerous journey. The trauma he suffered during his escape from the country and journey left him with significant mental health issues and physical trauma. He was living in home office temporary accommodation with only £9 per week to get basic toiletries and clothing. However, he was determined to study for his citizenship and to progress himself and was exercising to help his mental health. Unfortunately, both the college and gym were some distance from the accommodation. The application was for basics including clothing and travel to appointments, college and gym.

**Award £100, March 24.**

Thank you so much for the great work and generosity you provide to people in need through your organisation.

Kind regards,

Op Courage Warm Welcome Afghan Service (NHS)

Name changed to protect identity \*

## How You helped:

Moksh\* was grateful when he was not only granted his Refugee status and residence but was also able to access some social housing provided by a housing association. Having previously been housed by the Home Office in emergency accommodation he was delighted with his small but very empty flat.



After living on £9 per week he was just starting on universal credit of £348 a month, most of this was eaten up by utility bills and food shopping leaving very little towards the household basics for his property including pots and pans, bedding and window coverings. Having his residence, he applied to us direct.

**Award £100 March 24.**

“Thank you very much I received fund. Your help is much appreciated especially in this tough time.

Many thanks”

Moksh\*

Name changed to protect identity \*

**Keeping in touch** – The newsletter is sent three times a year, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. We get in touch to find out your mailing preferences, if at any time these change, please let us know. This and any other correspondence to:

Mrs Gill Mason (Admin): [fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com)

Ph: 01325 244992. Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL

**DONATE.** If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to relief funds or benefits, please see our website at:

[http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page\\_id=111](http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111)

There you will find all the information you need on making a donation or regular gift.

Or you can contact us at:

[fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com) Ph: 07561717230

The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you can consider?

**Standing Order** – Regular giving is so valuable and if you can Gift Aid, it adds 25p to every £ donated. Details on the website or from Gill M.

**Cheque** - if you prefer to donate by cheque, these should be made out to ‘Fund for Human Need’ and directed to Gill Mason (Admin) at the address below.

**Other ways you can help - Other news outlets-** Is there a local news outlet that you could pass our information to? Church or Circuit notices or magazines?

**Electronic giving-** We are on ‘Just giving’.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundforhumanneed>



Try our QR code to go to the Just Giving site. (just point the camera of a smart phone at it.)

**Home shopping-** we are on **Give as you live**, if you nominate us, a percentage comes to us with no cost to you.

**Synods** - Do you go to Synod? Could you take some leaflets, staff a marketplace table? Maybe you could speak for us? All materials and assistance provided.

**Greetings and Christmas Cards-** could you send for and sell on some of our cards? Its more cost effective to send a big pack to one person. Phone Gill to discuss.

**Wills and codicils-** we are linked with Freewills an online service

<https://freewills.co.uk/charity/fundhumanneed> they can also make a will over the phone on 0333 188 5688.

If you already have a will made and would be happy to add a bequest to Fund for Human Need a simple codicil form is available on the Website (or from our Admin).

**Friends in Districts-** we still have need of people in some of the districts to advertise us at district events and synods, giving out leaflets and putting up posters, getting information into publications etc. (all supplied and supported). **Can you help?**

**Working partners-** *Although the Fund for Human Need is a small charity, we work across all 4 nations in the UK making the majority of our grants through organisations on the 'front line,' many of whose staff are volunteers. Over the next few newsletters, we will be sharing some of their stories about the people they refer to us - people whose circumstances they verify and help to access our services.*



This time we are focussed on Wales, looking at the work of the Ethnic Youth Support Team, EYST. EYST aim to provide young BME people aged 11-25 living in South Wales a targeted, culturally sensitive and holistic support service. Additionally, they aim to challenge and tackle stereotypes about ethnic diversity and to increase awareness concerning the minority communities who live in Wales.

'In the Sanctuary Hub – a core service within EYST - we support people seeking asylum and refugees to settle in Swansea and start a new life. We do this through the provision of a wide range of services including education, employment, health, family support and community safety. We offer one to one support, as well as a growing range of artistic and social activities and events.'

### **Impact of the Fund for the Human Need**

In the communities we serve at EYST, we frequently encounter individuals seeking asylum who lack any form of asylum support. There could be various reasons for this, such as delays or errors in their asylum support claims. In other cases, individuals may have had their asylum claims rejected and are in the process of seeking legal representation to lodge a fresh claim, leaving them homeless and without any source of income.

People in these circumstances are exceptionally vulnerable, facing not only financial hardships but also struggling with poor mental health. They often feel marginalized from society and turn to us for assistance with their most basic needs. We often liaise with local foodbanks and clothes banks. However, when we are able to provide them with assistance from the **Fund for Human Need**, it serves as a bit of hope, enabling them to access warm meals, essential toiletries, and a semblance of dignity.

On behalf of the asylum-seeking community we support in Swansea, I want to express our gratitude for the support the **Fund for the Human Need** provided to so many individuals last year. Your generosity has made a real difference in the lives of those in need.

**Case Story:** YC, seeking asylum in Swansea, gave birth to a baby girl in November 2023. Her partner, BC, was also seeking asylum but was living rough in a tent in Yeovil. Following the birth, BC came to Swansea, and with the assistance of an interpreter, we were able to provide support. We referred him to the Fund for Human Need, where he was awarded £110. Additionally, we applied for emergency asylum support (section 98) and standard asylum support (section 95).

After the birth, YC experienced complications and was readmitted to the hospital, requiring BC to be in Swansea to attend to the baby. YC was experiencing significant mental health challenges, including feelings of depression and baby blues, and she relied on the support of her partner. BC alternated between sleeping rough in Swansea or staying in YC's hospital room, as permitted by NHS staff.

The funds provided by the Fund for Human Need enabled BC to stay in Swansea and to purchase food for himself and YC, as she was unable to consume hospital meals. After several weeks, BC was allocated a hotel room in Cardiff, necessitating daily travel to Swansea to care for his partner and baby.

We collaborated with NHS staff, housing managers, and Migrant Help to advocate for the couple to be housed together as a family. The hospital indicated that YC would require ongoing support for her recovery, which was anticipated to be slow.

Eventually, the Home Office notified them that their cases had been consolidated, and they would soon be allocated a family home. In February 2024, YC and BC were relocated to Cardiff by the Home Office, where they were offered a house for their family.

Other organisations we have dealt with in the principality include, Homes4U Cardiff, and personal applications have been recently received from Cardiff, Bridgend, Barry and Llandough,

## Out and about 2024.

Gill recently dusted off the notice board, table cloths and trolleys to start on this year's round of publicity and awareness events. It was delightful to start with the Methodist Women in Britain conference. A very warm welcome, people interested in finding out about what we do, enthusiastic workshop attendees and the chance to chat over meals and drinks meant that this was a productive and thought-provoking weekend.



**Over the summer we will also be at:** The **Cliff College** May Spring Fest (24-27 May), the **Methodist Conference** (Leeds Armouries conference centre 27 June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July) and **Greenbelt Festival** (22 – 25 August, Boughton House, nr Kettering). If you are at any of these events please come and see Gill and whichever of our trustees is on duty.

**Other events:** Recently we have also had representation at a number of Methodist district Synod meetings, and Gill has been speaking at some of her local churches, as part of services / local arrangements. We are happy to help out where we can, If we can't provide a person – we can send publicity, PowerPoint presentations including an explanatory film and activities for children and adults. Please just get in touch details on pg 4.



Back in January the Salisbury and Amesbury Methodist churches played host to Quiz nights organised by Revd Rosemary and James in support of Fund for Human Need.

Raising £135 and £240 and enjoying some fun. Thanks to everyone who got involved and helped in any way.

If you are holding any events for FHN, please let us know send the details and if possible, some pictures (suitable for publication) to Gill.



## How You helped:

Michelle and her 2-year-old daughter had not had a good year, following a family breakdown they spent time in a shelter before moving to a different part of the country to be near other family support. This was necessary as Michelle suffers from serious health conditions that limit her mobility. Arriving with just a limited amount of clothing they were initially housed with the help of social services in a furnished flat.

After some time and with her benefits including personal independence payments (PiP) sorted out Michelle applied for social housing but there was nothing suitable to her mobility available in her area. The only appropriate property near to her support network was a private rental with a £600 bond, this took all she had saved and it was an unfurnished property. Added to this the removal costs of £350 for the items she had managed to get in preparation for the move which was. Both of these amounts had to be paid in one month, leaving both her short. Despite foodbank vouchers she was struggling to get to next benefit due date.

**Award £120 April 24.**

**Thank you so much I've received the money this morning it really will be a great help to myself and my daughter thank you so much I really appreciate it so much you honestly have no idea**

\*Name changed to protect identity