

 *Advocacy. Justice. Integration*

 **MIGRANT ACTION ANNUAL REPORT**

 **2016-2017**

**Migrant Action**

**Who we are**

Is a migrant rights and advocacy based organisation. Set up in 2016, the organisation assists migrants who do not fit into the ‘neat’ categories of migration. Migrant Action was set up to fill a gap in service provision in Leeds to assist new as well as vulnerable migrants who are not asylum seekers or refugees. We work primarily with new EU migrants, visa holders, victims of trafficking, refused asylum seekers, destitute and irregular migrants. Migrant Action is a migrant led organisation. Our vision and core values are rooted in lived experience.

**Vision**

Our vision is to empower migrants and transform vulnerability. To facilitate social integration and social mobility for all migrants.

**Mission**

To help migrants find positive pathways and solutions to their needs. We challenge systemic injustice and ensure access to advocacy support for vulnerable migrants in Leeds. We seek, through our work to enhance social justice.

**What we do**

Migrant Action’s work is focused on helping vulnerable migrants safely navigate the complex processes of migration and integration. Our service interventions empower migrants make informed choices, resolve complex issues, challenge systemic injustices and increase integration.

We assist migrants with;

* Information, guidance and non-directive advice.
* Advocacy support
* Access to justice
* Social Integration
* We also undertake research based activities.

Through our work, we prevent vulnerability, challenge injustice, inform choices and enable migrants find positive pathways to meaningful integration. Migrant Action’s legal status is a registered project under the Leeds Christian Community Trust (LCCT) thus operates under LCCT’s charity status.

**Objectives**

Migrant Action sets out to improve:

* **CHOICES**: We enable migrants to make informed and positive choices by offering information, guidance, non-judgemental and non-directive advice.
* **ACCESS:** We help facilitate access to support for vulnerable migrants.
* **EMPOWERMENT:** We enable migrants to overcome vulnerability and find positive pathways to realise their full potential. We help individuals to independently shape their own futures and positively influence their communities.
* **ADVOCACY:** Migrant Action ensures that migrants find and ‘use’ their voice. We speak out against structural injustice and advocate for a fair, equal and humane treatment.
* **SYSTEM CHANGE**: We challenge bad policies and articulate system change through research, campaigns and advocacy.
* **INTEGRATION**: We want migrants to feel welcome, safe and confident to participate in the social and economic life in Leeds**.** Migrant Action wants to increase mutual understanding, solidarity and integration.
* **SUPPORT:** We want to make sure that vulnerable migrants do not fall through the cracks of the system and be exploited and excluded from mainstream provision. We support them to get the help they need

**How we work**

**Migrant led**: Our work is focused on non-refugees and shaped by lived experience of migration and integration.

**Non-directive**: We create a safe space for migrants to explore their options. We provide information and guidance to enable individuals make informed choices.

**Partnerships:** We seek positive relationships with other organisations in Leeds and beyond. Through these partnerships we are able to negotiate appropriate services and support for migrants.

**Informed Guidance**: We are non-judgemental. We listen actively in order to offer best guidance that meets the needs of the people we serve.

**Empowering:**  We recognise that migrants have abilities, skills and aspirations. We work in ways that enable migrants to use their abilities and realise their full potential.

**Bridge-the-Gap:** Migrant Action is passionate about migrants and local people working together to build stronger harmonious communities**.** Through our work, Volunteers, Supporters, Funders and migrants come together in solidarity rather than stay apart**.**

 **2016-17**

 **OVERVIEW**

**Service delivery**

**Advocacy Drop-in service**

Migrant Action runs a drop-in service every Friday 09.30- 1.30pm at RETAS. The drop-in allows for face-face meeting with migrants in a safe space within the community. We provide information, guidance and advice to new and vulnerable migrants who access the drop-in service. We also offer advocacy and integration support, signpost/ referrals to solicitors and other specialist services. Delivering the drop-in at RETAS increase accessibility to the service as RETAS is well known and regularly accessed by other migrant groups. Migrant Action also receive telephone inquiries and provides assistance where possible

We supported 75 people from 24 countries across 6 continents.

**Types of support we offered**

**Working with other organisations & local community**

Through working collaborating with other organisations we increase opportunities and meet the needs of migrants. Working with other organisations enable Migrant Action become more efficient and effective in achieving our strategic goals. Building on existing partnerships and networks, we will continue to grow our strategic partnerships in 2018.

**Growing our profile**

As a young organisation we are keen to make ourselves known. Migrant Action now has a functional website [www.migrantaction.org](http://www.migrantaction.org) and a Facebook page. We has have partnerships and join work with organisations to increase our publicity.

In March 2017, Migrant Action hosted a network of local and national organisations to explore migration and social integration. We aim to continue exploring creative ways of growing our profile with migrants and mainstream organisations across and beyond Leeds.

**Finance**

2016-17 was very challenging in terms of fundraising. We secured small grants and donations as shown below. Rents for office space, admin costs and project manager fees constituted areas of expenditure. We continue to pursue new sources of funding and organisational support. Fundraising constitutes a strategic priority for the organisation for 2018 and we have made a good start. Our funding model is non reliant on single mode of funding but a mix of different funding streams. Securing long term funding will ensure continuity, development and sustainability.

**OUR KEY ARCHIEVEMENTS**

**LOOKING AHEAD 2018/19: Strategic Priorities**

**What do the people we have supported think about Migrant Action?**

*‘Without your help, my rights would have been totally undermined and I would have been forcibly removed from the UK separated from my family. The impact on my life and my family would have been devastating, sadly, that’s the reality for many!* ***(Daniel).***

*‘I just wanted to let you know I have received my baby’s British passport after a complicated process. I had almost given up hope, Thanks a lot for your help’.* (P)

*‘Thanks for Migrant Action, my company has now provided me with an interpreter for my employee appeal hearing. They only listen because of your intervention. They do this a lot to us migrant workers’. (A Polish migrant worker)*

**At Migrant Action, we listen and attach great value in the voices of the people we help, our volunteers and supporters.**

**GET INVOLVED**

* **Become a Volunteer**

As a small organisation, passionate and resourceful volunteers will make a real difference to our organisation and the people we support

* **Join our Steering Committee**

We are looking for people who share our values and possess relevant expertise in the following areas; immigration law, leadership& governance, fundraising, organisational and business development, financial management and quality assurance. Please contact us at info@migrantaction.org.uk if you would like to discuss more about this.

* **Make a donation**

Donations of any kind, no matter how little can make a big difference particularly for a small organisation like us less likely to secure large grants. If you would like to donate…

* **Fundraise for Migrant Action**

Why not fundraise for us in any way you can to support our work. The awareness you raise and proceeds of your fundraising will have a positive impact on our organisation and the people we support.

* **Become a friend of Migrant Action**