

RIGHT TO REMAIN



OUR YEAR, 2021-22



Right to Remain's vision is a world in which everyone can exercise their right to remain with dignity and humanity, where they need to be.

Right to Remain works with communities, groups and organisations across the UK. We provide information, resources, training and assistance to help people to establish their right to remain. We challenge injustice in the immigration and asylum system.

We are a registered charity (1192934). Find out more about us at righttoremain.org.uk

During the last year, Right to Remain, like many others, emerged cautiously from the Covid lockdowns, grateful to be able to deliver energising and sustaining in-person work once again but mindful of retaining the possibilities and opportunities that increased online working brings.

We have strengthened our organisational foundations – through successful charity registration; diversifying our funding; and staff recruitment – helping us to weather the storms of international crises such as in Afghanistan and Ukraine and the regressive political measures of the Nationality and Borders Bill, Judicial Review and Courts Bill and Policing Bill.

Working in a hostile context with huge challenges ahead, including the impact of the yet incalculable damage being caused by the ongoing pandemic, the cost of living scandal and climate change, we are incredibly proud of what our staff and supporters are achieving.

The thirst for justice and dignity is so inspiring when day-to-day life itself can be so hard.

LEGAL EDUCATION



People in the UK who are seeking the right to remain must navigate an increasingly complex legal and administrative process. Many people have no or very limited legal representation, and have little knowledge and understanding of their rights and the oft-changing law, policies and judicial procedures they must follow to establish their right to stay. Our legal education work helps people understand the legal system, their rights within it, and what they can do to be in a better situation. This increased legal capability means people are more able to access justice and exercise their legal rights with confidence.

The Right to Remain Toolkit is our flagship resource, a step-by-step guide to the UK asylum and immigration system. Last year, we relaunched the Toolkit website righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit

This relaunch was the result of pioneering community research to find out more about the “digital behaviour” of people navigating the UK’s asylum and immigration system; statistical analysis; and usability testing with our website users and potential users. The need for our accessible, practical resources is greater than ever with immigration law undergoing regular and dramatic change and post-Brexit



more people subject to complex and life-changing rules. Our research and relaunch has meant that the Toolkit is now being used by around 25,000 people each month – a huge increase in our reach.

We have continued to innovate through partnership work. We launched the Young Asylum Guide: an online resource about the main stages of the asylum process that young people (unaccompanied children) seeking asylum in the UK go through. The guide was developed in partnership with Croydon Council and GMIAU in Manchester. We also launched new Spanish language versions of our legal resources last year, working with IRMO (Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organization).

We have run legal education workshops with community groups, NGOs and volunteers networks across the UK, including for groups in Swansea, Glasgow, Manchester, Bristol, London, and Yorkshire.

We have utilised online capacity to train hundreds of Care4Calais volunteers who support newly-arrived asylum seekers across the country; as well as in-person workshops for people seeking asylum who are being accommodated in hotels.



In a time of few opportunities for progressive change in parliament, we have been working in our communities to deepen and expand the movement for migration justice, through our These Walls Must Fall project.

These Walls Must Fall is a network of refugee and migrant campaigners working in solidarity with allies and supporters to dismantle the Hostile Environment. It's a crucial time to build resilience and survival networks among communities facing an unprecedented combination of crises. A key aspect of These Walls Must Fall is that it's not simply a platform for people with lived experience – those directly affected by the policies and cultures we seek to change direct and lead the campaign and its actions. See more at wallsmustfall.org/about

A notable success during the year has been working closely with Migrants Organise on our Abolish Reporting campaigning – seeking to cease the punitive practice of enforced regular

reporting to the Home Office that many migrants currently endure.

In July 2021, These Walls Must Fall and Migrants Organise coordinated actions at seven Immigration Reporting Centres (Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Solihull, London and Bristol). Our messaging for the day was about equality, fairness, dignity and respect. The aim of the day was to raise awareness in the community of the issues around reporting; to put pressure on the centre management (as a starting point); to mobilise our network; and to build the capacity of the These Walls Must Fall groups and the experience and confidence of campaigners.

It was a resounding success and sustained pressure since then has contributed to the Home Office's decision to shift common practice to telephone reporting, which is less onerous than in-person reporting.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are very grateful to our funders for enabling our work. Thank you to AB Charitable Trust; Ben and Jerry's Foundation; Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; Evan Cornish Foundation; Joseph Rowntree Charitable Foundation; the Legal Education Foundation and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Thank you also to our individual donors whose regular giving and one-off donations allows us to be both dynamic and stable.

As this financial year ends, Right to Remain is heading into an exciting new chapter. After more than ten years at the organisation, Coordinator Lisa Matthews is moving on.

We are delighted that Eiri Ohtani is taking the helm as Director, bringing with her twenty years' of rich experience in the sector as well as visionary thinking. We are very excited also to welcome Yumna Kamel into the new role of Legal Education Officer. They are joining a fantastic Right to Remain team with long-standing Right to Remain senior staff member Michael Collins; and our indomitable These Walls Must Fall Organisers Vee Smith Uka and Maggy Moyo. We are living through an extraordinary moment in history: Right to Remain will reflect on that and explore our direction of travel in 2022/23 and beyond, for a world in which everyone can exercise their right to remain, where they need to be.

