

# RIGHT TO REMAIN CAMPAIGNING FOR MIGRATION JUSTICE IMPACT REPORT 2023/24





**RIGHT  
TO REMAIN** **THESE WALLS  
MUST FALL**

[www.righttoremain.org.uk](http://www.righttoremain.org.uk) | [www.wallsmustfall.org](http://www.wallsmustfall.org)

Charity number 1192934. Company number 04026564

## RIGHT TO REMAIN IMPACT REPORT 2023/24

---

# CONTENTS

<b>1. DEVELOPING STRATEGY 2024–29</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>2. OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3. BUILDING KNOWLEDGE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4. BUILDING RADICAL SOLIDARITY</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>5. BUILDING POWER</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>7. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOLIDARITY</b>	<b>36</b>



# WE ARE RIGHT TO REMAIN

Right to Remain is a national migration justice organisation. We are building a world where everyone can exercise their right to remain where they need to be with dignity and humanity.

As a key anchor organisation within the migration justice movement, we work with hundreds of communities and groups across the UK. We uniquely combine public legal education that democratises knowledge, facilitates strategic convenings that harness radical solidarity with campaigning and community organising that builds power, further empowering people to establish their right to remain and collectively challenge injustices of the immigration and asylum system. Our values are agency, people power, mutual aid, solidarity, anti-racism and foregrounding people with lived experience.

The organisation was founded in 1995 as the National Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns, a coalition of grassroots groups fighting against the deportation of their friends, family members, neighbours and co-workers across the UK. Our name changed in 2014 to reflect the expanded scope of the organisation's work,

in response to our community's changing needs. As the landscape of asylum and migration law, policies and practices grew harsher, it became essential for our community to understand the asylum and immigration system better from the very beginning of their journey through the process, and campaign for their right to remain from day one. There are three reasons for this: in order to support one another to secure immigration status and the right to remain in the UK, to proactively protect the community from the risk of the violence and trauma of detention and deportation and, most importantly, to challenge injustice and human rights abuses that are inherent in the asylum and immigration system. We became a registered charity (1192934) in December 2020.







The main resource of our public legal education work about the asylum and immigration system, our Right to Remain Toolkit, has become the critical infrastructure for the entire asylum and migration field and beyond. It is the lifeline for many who are stuck in a Kafkaesque system: in 2023/24, it was used by an average of 60,000 unique users online every month. People use the Toolkit to practise for their asylum interviews, gather their own evidence, prepare for their own appeals when they cannot find a lawyer to represent them, and exercise agency by equipping themselves with the knowledge of what could happen to them and the options they have. Many groups, large and small, use it for their staff and volunteer training and for their work at large. Lawyers and students use it as a reference point and other professionals such as youth workers, ESOL teachers, and doctors use it to support people going through the system.

This popularity is due to the fact that our resources, workshops and outreach are accessible, practical and empowering. They are accessible because they are designed specifically for both non-specialists and people going through the system, based on feedback from our community collected over the years. They are practical because they include information about possible steps people can take to improve their chance of securing immigration status and their right to remain in the UK, also based on the tips contributed by our community. And they are empowering because they help people understand what might happen to them at each stage of the process, and how to help prepare for any given scenario, enabling them to take better control of their lives; with or without the help of legal advisors and solicitors.

We also demystify legal support. We explain clearly how allies and supporters who are not accredited to give legal advice and who, for this reason, are afraid to help others can still safely provide vital support in our community. While quality legal advice remains scarce, it is vital to scale up the amount of legal support available. This both alleviates the pressure faced by the struggling legal advice sector, and connects people in the system with their supporters, equipping them with knowledge and confidence to fight for the right to remain together, and seek ways to survive the system within their local community. This knowledge of the system will always remain central to our movement.

In fact, our legal education work goes beyond a simple gesture of information provision. Our work is relational. We carefully and consciously do this in a way that calls for solidarity to bring more people and groups into the movement, focussing on building power in our community. The Toolkit and our workshops act as a portal through which people can enter the shared struggle for migration justice and start taking collective action to change the system – because you need to understand the system in order to fight it, just as our community said when we developed the Toolkit over ten years ago. The Toolkit and our public legal education work is therefore the basis of our strategic convening and campaigning, including our experience-led community organising work, These Walls Must Fall.

**Our Right to Remain Toolkit, has become the critical infrastructure for the entire asylum and migration field and beyond. It is the lifeline for many who are stuck in a Kafkaesque system: in 2023/24, it was used by an average of 60,000 unique users online every month.**



# 1 BUILDING OUR FUTURE: DEVELOPING STRATEGY 2024-29

In 2023/24, the hostile environment for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum became even harsher due to two draconian laws: the Nationality and Borders Act and the Illegal Migration Act. These laws were poised to cancel the asylum system as we know it, condemning an untold number of undocumented migrants to permanent limbo, at risk of detention, destitution and exploitation. Coupled with the collapse of the legal advice sector that is now a permanent feature of our field, these changes further exacerbated people's struggle to regularise their immigration status and to secure their safety, let alone survival.

At the same time, the migration justice sector has been on its back-foot for decades, exhausted by an endless series of attacks on our migrant and refugee communities implemented through hostile policies and practices. Our community infrastructure has been hollowed out by austerity measures, testing our ability to respond to increasing needs and emerging crises. But polling shows that immigration is not people's top concern in the UK, even if it is

manufactured to be a 'problem' by politicians, the media and other power-holders who want to divert attention away from the real problems within our society. More people are waking up to the reality that the immigration system is inherently racist and must be dismantled. Appalled by the inhuman treatment of migrants, wider communities are more ready to take solidarity action with us as they see a parallel hostile condition in the creeping material deprivation and curtailment of their own rights.

Despite this, Right to Remain was able to significantly increase the scale, reach and

depth of our work to strengthen our presence as the anchor organisation for the migration justice movement. Our renewed focus on relationship-building and our strategic convenings such as Toolkit Festivals, Illegal Migration Act workshops and Solidarity Sessions energised and equipped our communities to face new challenges in 2023/24 and helped us to forge many new connections with people and groups across the UK. For example, the number of events and workshops we organised increased from 24 in 2022/23 to 37 in 2023/24, connecting directly with approximately 1100 people from 660 organisations from all over the UK. (Please note that these figures are not unique user figures and include some instances where the same people and groups are counted more than once.)

It is in this context that Right to Remain spent much of 2023/24 developing our new strategy for 2024-29, building on our track record and insights, and seizing this opportunity to mainstream migration justice, in order to strengthen our migration justice movement that catalyses systemic change. Our staff team continued our 'thinking with our community' exercise in 2023/24 which began in the previous year, speaking with groups across the UK to understand their most pressing needs and the changing nature of our working environment. The insight we gained from this exercise shaped our contextual analysis, which led to the development of our new strategy for 2024-29.

The centrepiece of the new Right to Remain strategy is our refreshed Theory of Change. It rearticulates how we use the elements of our work – building knowledge (public legal education), building radical solidarity (strategic convening) and building power (campaigning and organising) – which build upon each other to boost the migration justice movement and achieve our vision with our communities. Each stage acts as a connective tissue to the



London Toolkit Festival,  
May 2023



other two – and we need all of them to galvanise the migration justice movement. We have also designed our output/outcome/impact framework that ties in with this refreshed Theory of Change, in order to be more strategic about our work planning and to boost our overall impact.

**[Our new framework] has already brought clearer focus and a stronger sense of purpose, as well as dynamism, to our work as we continue to develop our organisation and the team to be able to deliver our new strategy successfully.**

We began consciously deploying this framework to organise our work in the latter part of 2023/24, to be ready for its full implementation for 2024/25 onwards. It has already brought clearer focus and a stronger sense of purpose, as well as dynamism, to our work as we continue to develop our organisation and the team to be

able to deliver our new strategy successfully. It has also strengthened our own and our communities' understanding of the iterative and process-oriented nature of our work, generating a lot of reflection as well as solidarity.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

We will implement our new strategy and Theory of Change, made up of three interconnected stages: building knowledge, radical solidarity and power.

**RIGHT  
TO REMAIN**

### BUILDING KNOWLEDGE (PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION):

We increase our communities' legal knowledge, capacity and confidence to navigate the asylum and immigration system, empowering them to exercise their rights and access justice. We will:

- Maintain and update our open-source Toolkit on asylum and immigration law. Develop further resources on detention, destitution and exploitation, with a focus on undocumented migrants.
- Produce legal updates, covering the latest developments in law and policy.
- Run interactive training sessions on relevant Toolkit topics to ensure our communities utilise legal support effectively and safely.

### BUILDING RADICAL SOLIDARITY:

We design and deliver strategic convening to strengthen our communities' connection with each other and across social justice spheres to produce coordinated collective responses to the challenges we face. We will:

- Run regular Radical Solidarity Hub meetings for Toolkit users.
- Run thematic workshops (eg on the impact of the Illegal Migration Act).
- Run place-based Solidarity Sessions where people meet one another and share learning and updates to expand and deepen the hub of radical solidarity.

### BUILDING POWER:

We initiate and facilitate campaigns in selected geographical locations that advocate for migration justice via lived-experience community organising. With our communities, we will:

- Name and analyse problems.
- Develop campaign plans to tackle them.
- Implement the plan. As we gain traction, we amplify our message to bring more people into the migration justice movement so that we can win bigger.



[www.righttoremain.org.uk](http://www.righttoremain.org.uk)  
[www.wallsmustfall.org](http://www.wallsmustfall.org)

C/O Common Knowledge, St Margaret's House,  
21 Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL

Charity number 1192934,  
Company number 04026564

# 2 OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

2023/24 was another busy year for Right to Remain. We are proud that we built and achieved so much more since 2022/23.

(You can read our 2022/23 previous impact report at [righttoremain.org.uk/right-to-remain-impact-report-2022-23/](http://righttoremain.org.uk/right-to-remain-impact-report-2022-23/))

Through our public legal education work, we helped more people to understand the asylum and immigration system better, increasing their confidence to take appropriate steps for themselves and help people they are supporting to do so.



- Our Toolkit remains as relevant as ever, being used online by at least 60,000 users a month in 2023/24.
- We maintained and updated the toolkit (16 sections) and added 6 new sections.
- We ran a total of four flagship Knowledge is Power sessions, increasing the knowledge of 113 individuals from 62 organisations.
- We published 36 legal updates (doubled from 2022/23) responding to our community's immediate queries.





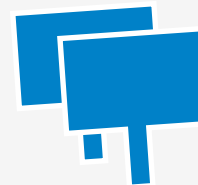
**Through our strategic convening work, we connected and brought more individuals and groups into the migration justice movement so that they can work together to protect our communities from the harm of the asylum and immigration system.**

- In 2023/24, we organised a total of 37 events, compared to 24 events in 2022/23. We reached 1,160 people from 660 groups in 2023/24: 322 groups connected directly with us for the first time. Each event combined public legal education with solidarity development.
- In September 2023, we successfully concluded our Toolkit festivals which began in February 2023. Through the festivals, we (re)introduced our Toolkit to 306 people from 177 organisations, increasing their ability to provide legal support to people who are going through the asylum and immigration process.
- We held a number of 'Preparing our community for the impact of the Illegal Migration Act' workshops, for our community who were fearful of its introduction.
- We launched our Directory, listing groups that we know are using the Toolkit.



**Through our campaigning and organising work under These Walls Must Fall, we continued to support people with lived experience of the asylum and immigration system to raise their voices and campaign together.**

- With allies in Liverpool, Manchester, Halifax, Sheffield and surrounding areas, we organised a number of vigils, demonstrations and events to challenge the Hostile Environment.
- These Walls Must Fall campaigners co-delivered many of our workshops and events, enabling the participants to learn from their experiences and also start centering people's lived-experience of the system when challenging the injustice of the asylum and immigration system.
- We started regular Solidarity Sessions in Greater Manchester and Liverpool which strengthened our relationships with our allies. At the sessions, community groups and organisations get together to discuss and collaborate; to build knowledge, radical solidarity, and the power to make change.
- These Walls Must Fall was nominated for the Amplifying Voices Award by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation.



# 3 BUILDING KNOWLEDGE: PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

Our public legal education work increased our communities' legal knowledge, capacity and confidence to navigate the asylum and immigration system and empowered them to exercise their rights and access justice. This developed a shared understanding of the asylum and immigration system within our communities, creating an optimal environment for building solidarity and challenging the injustice of the system.

With the second legal education officer post that we created at the end of 2022/23, whose remit focused specifically on immigration matters outside asylum, we significantly increased our public legal education outputs in 2023/24, addressing the emerging legal information needs of our refugee and migrant communities and their supporters with agility. In particular, we responded to anticipated challenges posed by the Illegal Migration Act – which created a great deal of anxiety and panic in the sector – with a focus on destitution, detention and migrant exploitation.

Working with Lawyers pilot workshop, February 2024





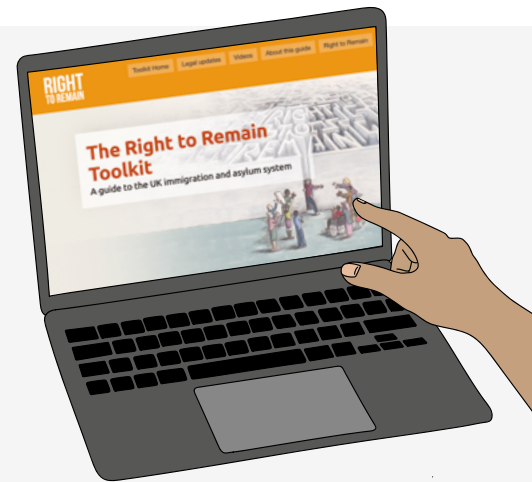
## WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN TOOLKIT: THE GUIDE TO THE ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION SYSTEM IN THE UK

The Right to Remain Toolkit ('the Toolkit') is an online, step-by-step guide to the UK asylum and immigration process. Though the Toolkit once existed as a physical booklet, since 2020 the Toolkit has existed solely online due to the frequency of changes to immigration and asylum law and policy. In this way, it can be regularly updated.

The Toolkit comprises a chronological guide to the asylum process, detailed pages outlining other immigration routes, and a series of thematic 'Key Guides' that summarise issues such as gathering evidence, providing legal support, modern slavery / human trafficking, and destitution and housing.

The Toolkit is of particular importance to people who are moving through the system without legal representation. Being without a lawyer does not mean that they cannot pursue their right to remain. It is for this reason that the Toolkit is presented in simple language, and there is an option to translate its contents on each page. Further, we are aware of the fact that many people with lived experience access the Toolkit from their smartphones as opposed to a computer or tablet. As such, the Toolkit is formatted to best suit a phone screen.

Nevertheless, our audience is also composed of people who do have legal representation. Indeed, the Toolkit is used as a reference point for lawyers, volunteers and caseworkers in the charity sector, and asylum and migration support groups: generally, it is regarded as the infrastructure for the migration justice movement.



What sets the Toolkit apart from other summaries of the asylum and immigration is the practical, community focus of the guide. The ethos underpinning the Toolkit is the empowerment of communities moving through the system, and the people supporting them to do so. Each page features an 'Action Section' in which tips and information on how to engage with your rights or progress forward are collated from people with lived experience of that stage, or allied experts (such as lawyers, support groups, and charities).

Further, through our relationships of continued solidarity with the hundreds of groups we work with across the UK, we have an established feedback loop regarding the contents of the Toolkit: what is particularly relevant? What is missing? How are the Home Office's policies experienced by our communities? What are the true, on-the-ground experiences of a new Home Office policy?

The Toolkit is maintained by our two legally trained Legal Education Officers. A further element of quality control is provided by our informal Legal Advisory Group, formed in late 2022, with whom we meet quarterly to provide updates (and receive feedback) on our public legal education work.



## THROUGH LEGAL RESEARCH, WORKING WITH OTHER SPECIALIST ORGANISATIONS AND ENGAGING ACTIVELY WITH A NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS' FORA, WE:

- Maintained and updated our open-source Toolkit on asylum and immigration law, which was used by an average of 64,141 unique users every month in 2023/24. (In 2022/23, the monthly average was 34,888, but part of this increase could be attributed to a change in the analytics system which was introduced in June 2024.) We updated 16 sections of the Toolkit and added six brand-new sections, including 'Applying for work permission (asylum)', '10 year route to indefinite leave to remain', 'Work exploitation and migrant workers' rights (guide)', 'Modern slavery and human trafficking (guide)', 'destitution and housing (guide)' and 'Migrants affected by domestic abuse (guide)'.

- Produced a total of 36 legal updates covering the latest developments in law and policy, doubling the number of 2022/23
- Delivered interactive training sessions on relevant Toolkit topics to ensure groups supporting asylum seekers and migrants utilise legal support effectively and safely. We consistently receive very positive feedback from the participants. We ran a total of four flagship Knowledge is Power sessions during the year (24 April 2023, 25 July 2023, 11 January 2024 and 4 March 2024), increasing the knowledge of 113 individuals from 62 organisations about the stages of the asylum system and the difference between legal support and legal advice. In addition, we ran workshops for a variety of groups including Alliance for Better GP Federation (Surrey/Sussex), Union Chapel Church (London), Swansea Asylum Seekers Support, Refugees at Home, Portland Global Friendship Group, Napier Friends, Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group/AVID, Unity Sisters, Scottish Detainee Visitors, Sharpen Her, Community Info Source, Scottish Refugee Council and Herts Welcome Refugees.





## WHAT IS A 'KNOWLEDGE IS POWER' SESSION?

Knowledge is Power is our flagship interactive online workshop series, designed to assist an increasing number of people who are new to the asylum and immigration system and new to the Toolkit. It is a public, regular workshop, free for those who are going through the asylum and immigration system or from an organisation with no funding, and with a small charge for each individual from a funded group so as to ensure attendance.

The workshops are run by at least one of our legal education officers several times per year. They are often oversubscribed and remain in demand. Each session follows a basic structure of introducing the work of Right to Remain and explaining how to use the Toolkit and other resources, before launching into substantive content. This typically includes going through the stages

of the asylum process, and understanding the definitions and differences between providing legal advice and legal support to someone with a legal case.

The sessions are a good starting point for those who are navigating the system or supporting others through it, and use the Toolkit as a reference point. During the sessions, we focus on interactivity, including group exercises, polls, a quiz, and time for questions is allocated throughout. We believe that our approachable, open and inclusive manner of session delivery enhances the participants' confidence level and knowledge retention, compared to when their exposure to the Toolkit is confined solely to the digital interface. This is particularly important because of the hostile and disempowering nature of the asylum and immigration system.

## WE ALSO DID THE FOLLOWING WORK TO BUILD OUR COMMUNITY'S KNOWLEDGE

- We updated and relaunched our **Young Asylum Guide in September 2023**. This online resource is designed specifically for young unaccompanied children going through the asylum system and those who work with them. The relaunch event was attended by a wide range of practitioners all working with young people going through the asylum system.
- We piloted our brand new **'Lawyers and evidence' workshop in February 2024**. The workshop is designed to increase people's understanding of how to work effectively with their lawyers regarding their asylum and immigration cases. We repeated a mini-version of the workshop at our Annual Gathering in March 2024 too.

## WHAT IS THE YOUNG ASYLUM GUIDE?

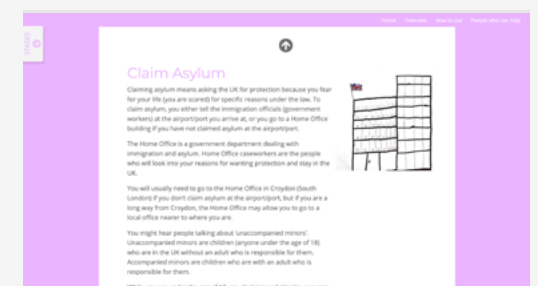
The Young Asylum Guide is a visual guide through the stages of a young person's asylum journey, which differs slightly from the journey of an adult.

It was developed by Croydon Council and Right to Remain. It is based on the Right to Remain Asylum Navigation board, and was first developed by Right to Remain, Dr Victoria Canning and Calverts Cooperative.

The Guide is aimed at young people navigating the asylum process, as well as their supporters. The Guide is best experienced by young people navigating it with a support worker.

Users are able to read simple information about each stage of the asylum process, and contemplate a series of 'problem cards', the solutions to which they may discuss before revealing the correct answers.

The Guide also features a 'People who can help' page which features the contact details for various services such as community organisations, foster carers, key workers, and more.





Based on the monitoring information and feedback received, these activities achieved the following outcomes:

- More people understand the asylum and immigration system better, with increased knowledge of the system and confidence to take appropriate steps for themselves;
- More people are able to provide legal support safely and with more confidence.

The feedback also indicated that the clarity and strength of our guidance and messaging, and our ability to hold space for reflection and planning amidst the chaos stabilises our communities to move beyond the panic phase and start facing challenges with more confidence. We capitalised on this to create stronger relationships and connections with more groups.

## 'YOUR WORK IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE' WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT RIGHT TO REMAIN'S WORK:

**'The (asylum) process is very long as the number of applicants is higher. The most reliable and official information are available on gov.uk but to find more details and explanation, the Toolkit is the best. In the beginning, I was afraid of the interview and anxious about what can happen during the whole asylum process. After using Toolkit I felt confident as the videos explained exactly what is going to happen and clarify all my rights. After my interview, I have confirmed that Toolkit information are correct and genuine. The preparation and the clarification provided by Toolkit further with the explanation of (my case worker) helped me a lot to be more confident and to prepare my next step. Thank you so much for lighting my path.'**

— A person using the Toolkit.

**'This has been the most helpful training I have been on for years. Thank you for the way you have facilitated the session and made a very complex subject understandable.'**

— A bespoke workshop participant.

**'I'm a caseworker at an immigration support charity in London. I just wanted to reach out and say; thank you. I've been following your work in my private life for a while now and I've always had massive admiration for what you do. In my line of work, I visit your website every single day. You provide reliable, jargon free, well structured information. I signpost clients to your site for legal information every single day. I realised today, I actually don't know what I'd do without Right to Remain. Your work empowers me to support clients. I think sometimes in our line of work, we can feel overwhelmed with the HUGE task of fighting the hostile environment. This is why it is EXTRA important to support each other, praise each other and thank each other. Keep doing what you are doing. Your work is an ESSENTIAL service. The more migrants know about their rights, their entitlements, UK systems and processes, the safer they feel. Knowledge is power. Thank you for everything. All the best!'**

— Unsolicited feedback we received about our work.

**'I was confused before. After using the Toolkit I felt confident. After using the Toolkit, I came to know about the process.'**

— A person using the Toolkit.

**'I've been on a steep learning curve, and the workshop this morning was so helpful to me in understanding more about what we can do and what we shouldn't do. (Up until now I've been avoiding talking to people about a lot of things because I didn't know the difference between 'advice' and 'support'). I will share the resources with our volunteers and my colleagues, and I hope that we'll approach things a bit more confidently now, even more so that I know about all of the resources in the Toolkit too.'**

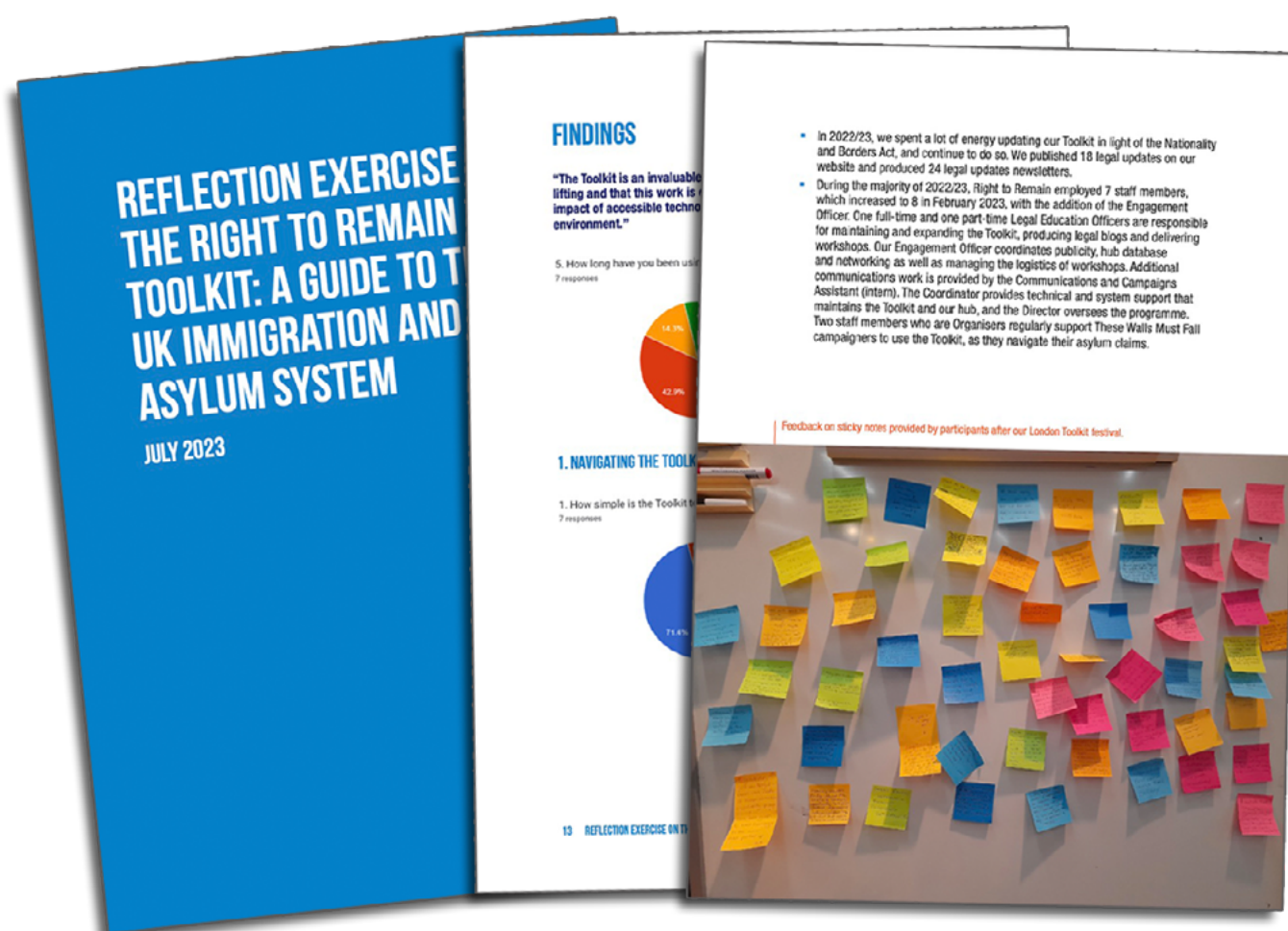
— Knowledge is Power workshop participant.



To investigate the impact of the Toolkit, we also conducted a reflection exercise between May and July 2023. We consulted a small number of trusted colleagues and organisations whom we know are regular users of the Toolkit to get a deeper understanding of how they are using the Toolkit.

They shared their current thoughts about the asylum sections of the Toolkit in four key areas:

- 1 **THEIR EXPERIENCE OF NAVIGATING THE (ONLINE) TOOLKIT**
- 2 **THEIR HABITS WHEN USING AND SHARING THE TOOLKIT**
- 3 **THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT THE TOOLKIT HAS HAD UPON THEIR WORK AND/OR COMMUNITY**
- 4 **HOW THEY THINK WE CAN DO BETTER.**



## THE GROUPS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING AS THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE TOOLKIT:

- The Toolkit boosts knowledge and level of understanding in their staff and volunteers – both within their organisations and across the wider sector – supporting our field's capacity to create impact.
- The Toolkit directly assists the groups' work, including their interaction with people going through the system.
- The Toolkit leads to positive and valued activities and experiences for the groups through interactions with Right to Remain. How Right to Remain works via the Toolkit is critical in equipping and galvanising our colleagues to build more solidarity in and out of our community. Our work is relational and people and groups who come into direct contact with us recognise its power.
- The Toolkit acts as a general educational tool, particularly for people who have less experience in the migration justice sector when they begin to understand the restrictiveness of the asylum system, and the impact this has on people seeking safety. This demonstrates that the Toolkit is functioning as intended: a portal to bring more people who are unfamiliar with the issue into our migration justice movement.

You can download our Toolkit Reflection Report at [righttoremain.org.uk/reflecting-on-the-toolkit-a-portal-to-the-shared-struggle-for-migration-justice/](https://righttoremain.org.uk/reflecting-on-the-toolkit-a-portal-to-the-shared-struggle-for-migration-justice/)

Here is another piece of feedback from one of our users.

'I wanted to say when the Reflection Report on the Toolkit came into my inbox, I had someone beside me who has been in the asylum and related process for over nine years long now. She's found the Toolkit amazing. Barely a day when she hasn't checked it for something or confirmed what something meant. So THANK YOU! It truly is invaluable!'



# 4 BUILDING RADICAL SOLIDARITY: STRATEGIC CONVENING AND ENGAGEMENT

We designed and delivered a strategic convening on the critical themes impacting our communities to strengthen our connections with each other and across social justice spheres and to produce coordinated collective responses to the challenges of the asylum and migration system. In doing so, we mainstreamed the migration justice movement in order to bring in new people, new groups and new voices into the movement.

This work is dynamic, often incorporating all elements of our organisation's work. It also provides opportunities to understand the challenges our communities are facing and how they are responding to them, enabling us to adjust and refine our work to ensure we are meeting their needs.

The new post of Engagement Officer added much needed logistical support to the organisation to facilitate more events and workshops. As a result, we were more effective in forging new relationships with groups unfamiliar with Right to Remain and reconnecting with long-term allies. In 2023/24, we organised a total of 37 events, compared to 24 events in 2022/23 reaching 1,160 people from 660 groups in 2023/24 (please note that these figures are not unique user figures and include some instances whereby the same people and groups are counted more than once).

Came to meet  
people and get  
energised  
Met people ☒  
Got energised ☒

## OUR KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- In September 2023, we concluded our Toolkit Festivals which began in February 2023. Through the Festivals, which celebrated the 10 years of the Toolkit's history, we reintroduced our Toolkit, our new team and our work to many new and old users, after a relatively quiet period until spring 2022. All the festivals were co-organised with local groups to maximise our reach to small grassroots groups and non-specialist groups that we are unaware of, who also support people seeking asylum and migrants. Through the festivals, we worked with 306 people from 177 organisations, increasing their understanding of how to use the Toolkit, and the difference between legal advice and legal support, as well as co-learning about local challenges and exploring possible solutions.
- Between September 2023 to February 2024, we held several workshops on 'Preparing our community for the impact of the Illegal Migration Act'. We ran in-person sessions in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Leeds and three online sessions, connecting with over 200 individuals, targeting groups already working with people seeking asylum and migrants, and groups who provide support that ensures survival of our communities such as those focused on healthcare, housing, food distribution and many others. We broke down the Act in simple language, focusing on its key aspects and how they might impact our communities. We also held space for the participants to share their concerns and discuss actions we can take.





## PREPARING OUR COMMUNITY FOR THE IMPACT OF THE ILLEGAL MIGRATION ACT EVENTS – SEP ‘23 TO FEB ‘24

‘Preparing our community for the impact of the Illegal Migration Act’. We held three online and four in-person sessions in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Leeds.

When the Act was haphazardly passed in July 2023, we, and our community, remained largely uncertain about how or even when most of its sections would be implemented. We were also aware, however, that the Act did not need to be implemented in its entirety to have a devastating impact upon the migrant community in the UK – fear and misinformation about the Act alone have the potential to destroy lives.

For this reason, we decided to share what we know so far about the Act with our community, but more importantly, to share the steps we are all taking to address these legal/non-legal impacts, and to pledge ourselves to forming a united front against these atrocities. The sessions were aimed at individuals from grassroots and smaller groups working or volunteering on the frontlines of the migration justice sector, but also in surrounding fields (social care, healthcare, housing and destitution, etc), as we were mindful that the Act could fundamentally jeopardize our community’s day-to-day survival.

We started each session by asking three questions. The participants’ answers were illustrative of the uncertainty and confusion our community is faced with, as well as mixed levels of preparedness.

- Do you feel confident that you know

exactly what is going to change as a result of the Illegal Migration Act 2023?

- Do you receive more questions and queries about the asylum and immigration system from people?
- Has your group changed the way you work in response to or in preparation for the Illegal Migration Act 2023?

After this, one of our Legal Education Officers took us through a whistle-stop tour of the Act to explain what has been commenced, what has not been commenced, and why the operation of the Act is so ambiguous and confusing. For example, many sections of the Act turn upon Section 2 (removal conditions) which is yet to be commenced. This makes it hard for us to grasp what the Act could really mean in its entirety, or how to explain this confusing concept to people who could potentially be impacted by it. In this third session, we covered the commencement of Section 12 of the Act (powers to detain), which is a reminder that our knowledge base will be rapidly changing in real time. As in all of our workshops, we avoided the use of overly legalistic jargon in preference of simpler and easier-to-grasp language, in order to lower the barrier for comprehension and disengagement.

We then led the participants to consider how the Act is likely to have an impact on an individual level, on a community/organisational level, and on a societal level. The participants broke into small groups to further discuss these impacts, share their

concerns with each other, and to consider what we can do about them.

At the end of the sessions, we shared three key messages from us at Right to Remain for our community, everyone we are working with, and beyond:

- We will do this together: the struggle against this Act is something we are all fighting, and we must do so as one to have a chance at standing against it.
- Stay informed and keep informing each other: we do not know how the Act will work in practice, and things are likely to change in the future. It is so important for groups to stay up to date with the latest and most accurate information and ensure this is a channel that allows individuals in and out of the asylum and immigration system to access this

information.

- Time to build a bigger tent: the Act is likely to interfere with our community’s ability to survive. We need to expand our community of care, support and radical solidarity by looking outwards and seeking more allies in our local community.

We continued to refer back to our three key messages outside these Illegal Migration Act events to cultivate a shared, confident approach within the migration justice movement, which was creaking under an enormous level of stress and fear. Our messages helped to sustain the movement’s energy level and coherence, as they were repeated by others and disseminated further afield.

## RADICAL SOLIDARITY HUB

- We launched quarterly Radical Solidarity Hub online meetings for Toolkit users and our allies. These meetings are our response to the overwhelming feedback we receive from our convenings: that the participants want to regularly receive the latest updates on the asylum and immigration system and they value the energy and solidarity they get from sharing experiences, especially when our operating environment is hostile and exhausting. We use the meetings to update the participants on what Right to Remain is working on and give a platform to small groups and thematic experts to encourage co-learning and foster solidarity.





## WHAT DO RADICAL SOLIDARITY HUB MEETINGS LOOK LIKE?

In February 2024, we began running a quarterly, one-hour workshop called the Radical Solidarity Hub. The Hub is an informal space to keep in touch, share updates to the Toolkit and Legal Updates Blog, and to build connections and find solutions together where we can. There is no formal membership of the hub, and our meetings are open for all to join.

We believe relationships forged over time in spaces like Radical Solidarity Hub are

crucial in building the migration justice movement.

The Hub meetings also provide a platform where others - particularly small grassroots groups - can share information about their work and campaigns and expand connections within and beyond the refugee and migration sector. It is a great learning opportunity for Right to Remain too, hearing directly from small groups their day to day struggles and challenges.

Based on the monitoring information and feedback received, these activities achieved the following outcomes:

- More people are more willing and energised to support themselves and others to navigate the asylum and immigration system
- More individuals and groups communicate with each other to protect our communities from the harm of the asylum and immigration system
- A wider variety of individuals and groups in more geographical areas are working together for the migration justice movement.

In February 2024, we launched our Directory which lists the groups across the UK who use the Toolkit and/or have attended Right to Remain events and workshops. This was in response to requests from some of our users who wished to connect with like-minded groups in the same geographical area to

deepen local collaboration and also others in other geographical areas when the individuals they are working with have moved to a new location and want to contact local groups.

In March 2024, we hosted our Annual Gathering which was put on hold since 2017. Our staff team and a group of These Walls Must Fall campaigners brought together over 65 people from over 50 organisations across the UK, for a day of connecting, learning, sharing best practices and to think ahead. Our aim was to provide a physical experience of radical solidarity, and for this feeling to influence thinking and actions. We wanted to demonstrate and invite others to understand what lies beyond our public legal education work: to create an environment that encouraged radical action taking and movement building. The event was enthusiastically received by the participants and strengthened our connections with each other. Some of the feedback we received is as follows:

## 'SUCH GOOD INTERCONNECTIONS, SUCH FINE, INSPIRING INFORMATIVE SESSIONS' — WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT OUR ANNUAL GATHERING:

'So this is to THANK YOU for a wonderful gathering, such good interconnections, such fine, inspiring, informative sessions. It was beautifully organised and facilitated - thank you for the committed effort and work behind it, and the different zones of energy - physical, emotional and political - that you are so clearly infused into it all. It is all so CRUCIAL. So much to be addressed. So much hangs on persistent and well-informed engagement. And Right to Remain is right at the key crossroad of insight, vision, creativity and the passion needed to enable the challenges, information, support and power contestations in and around the asylum and refugee systems. THANK YOU! I was very moved to be there, meet people... digest so many things - and bring insights and ideas back to our network here. ONWARDS! love to you all.'

'We just wanted to say a big thank you to you and the team for the excellent event yesterday. Everything was so well organised and we are very grateful for all the effort that went into making the day so successful. Not only was it a great chance to network and meet many people striving for the same goals, we found ourselves challenged and inspired in many ways. Our thinking about the development of our own services and organisation has been greatly enriched.'

'Thank you so much for having me at the gathering. It was inspiring and wonderful to be there. For me, it was so useful to be able to situate the work that we're doing at xxxxx in a wider context of resistance to the border regime. We are restricted in what we can openly campaign about, but when we can feed into the work of others, it helps to make our work more transformative. It was great to see lots of people that I know from other organising spaces and some overlap with other grassroots networks such as xxxxx as well. Thanks for all your great work - we'd love to keep collaborating at xxxxx and we will keep bringing the toolkit into the work we're doing. The directory is also super helpful in signposting people when they're moving on.'



# 5 BUILDING POWER: THESE WALLS MUST FALL CAMPAIGNING AND ORGANISING

In 2023/24, under These Walls Must Fall, we continued to support people with lived experience of the asylum and immigration system to raise their voices and campaign together and with allies in Liverpool, Manchester, Halifax, Sheffield and their surrounding areas.

Our campaigners stood against harsh policies and practices of the Hostile Environment, while widening a circle of groups and people who are prepared to stand in solidarity and campaign with them. The number of lived-experience campaigners we worked with fluctuated throughout the year, between 20 and 40, who met regularly in person and

online to support and learn from each other and plan their action.

In the year marked by the threats of the Rwanda deportation plan, the Illegal Migration Act, the asylum barge (the Bibby Stockholm) and many other frightening developments, These Walls Must Fall campaigners led and/or participated in 15 campaigning events and workshops in the year.

For example, in April 2023, we organised a public solidarity event against the Illegal Migration Act in Halifax, involving 8 campaigners. The event attracted over 100 participants from 10 local groups, including local councillors, providing opportunities for information sharing and relationship building.



## THESE WALLS MUST FALL CAMPAIGNERS MARKING INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY WITH A VIGIL AND MARCH FOR HUMANITY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

On International Migrants Day – December 18, 2023 – These Walls Must Fall campaigners joined hands with Merseyside Solidarity Knows No Borders to organise a vigil at the headquarters of Bibby Marine in Liverpool to commemorate the life of a brother, Leonard Farruku, who died on board the Bibby Stockholm prison-like asylum accommodation barge. We gathered in the city centre, followed by a silent march to Bibby HQ and then on to the Home Office Reporting Centre.

**Together, we strive for a world where everyone has the right to live where they choose, and the fundamental right to life. In honour of those affected, we organised a solemn vigil at the offices of Bibby, fostering solidarity and advocating for a more compassionate and inclusive global community.**

Maggy Moyo, Organiser, Right to Remain

The vigil began in the city centre at lunchtime. We wondered if anyone would come to join

us, amidst the rain, but as more people arrived, the crowd grew in numbers. Our allies' energetic presence and the arrival of passionate supporters set a resilient tone. Some passers-by attempted to dismiss the cause, and it was sad to hear disparaging remarks about immigrants even as we were marking the death of a young man. However, these voices were quickly silenced by others chanting messages of solidarity.

Local Councillor, Alan Gibbons (Liverpool Community Independents), read a statement of support:

**Our group of councillors, the Liverpool Community Independents, supports today's vigil for Leonard Farruku, who died on the Bibby Stockholm. Corraling people into what amounts to prison ships is inhumane and will contribute to more tragedies like Leonard's. Without hope, people succumb to despair. The established parties share**



one assumption, that immigration is a problem. We dispute that. The furore over small boats labels people as 'illegal.' No human being is illegal. We are talking about some people risking everything to cross the Channel, fleeing war, oppression and want. They want what everyone wants, a safe, secure home and the ability to contribute to society. This is a country and a city that has been built on immigration. We all share the same hopes, dreams and aspirations. Where there are problems in this country, it is not to do with migration; it is to do with poverty caused by cuts and austerity. This is one of the richest countries in the world. Migration made it this way. Migrants and refugees are welcome here.

Councillor Alan Gibbons

## SILENT MARCH TO BIBBY MARINE HQ

This was not our first visit to the Bibby Marine headquarters. Twice before we have visited, to ask the company to reconsider their contract with the Home Office. We warned Bibby of the suffering they would be inflicting upon people, and the consequences that this would have on mental health. They refused to listen, and now a young man has died on their prison ship. We peacefully marched to Bibby's prison barge with the intention of submitting a collective statement expressing our concerns about the facility and the well-being of its residents. Unfortunately, our representative was denied access, and security exhibited aggression despite our respectful approach. However, we remained undeterred, laying flowers for our brother to honour his memory and affirming our belief in the importance of respect, love, and dignity for every individual.

Manono, a local These Walls Must Fall campaigner, addressed the crowd, speaking from direct experience of detention.

**Bibby's barge is just like a detention centre, and that is why it should be shut down. Some of us have had that experience and let me break it down for you. Detention triggers the mental [health] of detainees and there is no care on release, you keep living with it. The guards lack empathy. People harm themselves, but they are used to it, it's just another day for them, nothing new. A policy that disadvantages human liberty like this is unjustifiable. And it is a terrible waste of taxpayers' money. I am a migrant and a human being. I am not asking for a lot, only that we should be treated with dignity, equality and fairness. Shut Bibby's prison ship now!**  
Manono, These Walls Must Fall campaigner

A statement from Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants was also read out:

**"Today, we come together to remember the life lost onboard the Bibby prison ship. The UK has a duty to protect people seeking safety, and support them to start new lives, free from persecution and abuse. Instead it oppresses them. From the announcement of plans to use this boat to accommodate 500 refugees, consistent concerns and warnings were raised as to the boat being unsuitable, oppressive and dangerous. Such concerns were repeatedly ignored and dismissed in favour of supposed political gain, over human life.**

**"People escaping horrific violence and conflict face abandonment at sea, abuse and intimidation from European border forces and the continued violation of**





**their human rights. This increasingly harsh border regime has led to the deaths of many migrants, including refugees, in the UK and across Europe. At this time of remembrance and reflection, we remember the life lost at Bibby Stockholm but also all those who have died trying to reach safety or at the hands of the State. We must not let any more people die at the cost of our borders. We call for safe passage and sanctuary for everyone**

Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants

Our final destination was the regional Home Office headquarters, where people are forced to report each month, with every appointment carrying the risk of being taken to detention. Our visit was a symbolic stand against policies that push people to mental health breakdowns. The government's prevailing hostility and

unnecessary measures must be replaced with justice and humane treatment. People need support, not reporting and detention centres. The impact of these reporting conditions was highlighted when we met a young man, anxiously waiting for his sister who had gone in to report. He was visibly distressed, concerned that she might be detained. He waited outside, and we stood with him for support. To our relief, she emerged, and there was a wave of joy and applause. Their emotional reunion underscored the mental strain caused by Home Office reporting. Our commitment remains steadfast – we will not falter, we will not tire; the fight continues for the dignity and humanity of all.

[righttoremain.org.uk/liverpool-vigil-at-the-hq-of-bibby-marine/](https://righttoremain.org.uk/liverpool-vigil-at-the-hq-of-bibby-marine/)



Solidarity Session,  
Manchester, February 2024

Between December 2023 and February 2024, we ran Solidarity Sessions in Manchester and Liverpool to bring local allies together through public legal education work and community discussions that encourage joint action. Our lived-experience campaigners were involved in the delivery of the sessions on the day, so that they could practise their leadership skills. The sessions allowed us to strengthen our presence in the area, to provide much-needed space for campaigners and groups to share challenges and seek solutions and maintain our working relationships with other groups in the area.

During the year, we also increased joint working across the organisation to generate impact in a way that coherently utilises our unique strengths, such as the Solidarity Sessions mentioned above. After the Organiser for the North East (Halifax and Sheffield) left the organisation, we carried out more engagement activities in the North East, such as the Illegal Migration Act workshops in Newcastle (December 2023) and Leeds (February 2024). While the Organiser for the North West was on maternity leave until July

2023, our Communications and Campaign Intern (paid) also worked with our lived-experience campaigners, helping them to get to grips with how to use the social media for influencing, capturing their voices and stories for our blogs and assisted them with their joint work with Migrants in Culture, producing artwork which can be used to promote their campaigning.

Our relationship building work in Greater Manchester progressed well, through the Organiser and our lived-experience campaigners' outreach work to a number of organisations. A stand-out activity that deserves special mention is the local event organised by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Step Change Consortium in November 2023, bringing together organisations and groups working with people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants across the Greater Manchester area. Our Organiser co-chaired the event and our lived-experience were invited to participate in a session run by Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) and AsylumMatters.



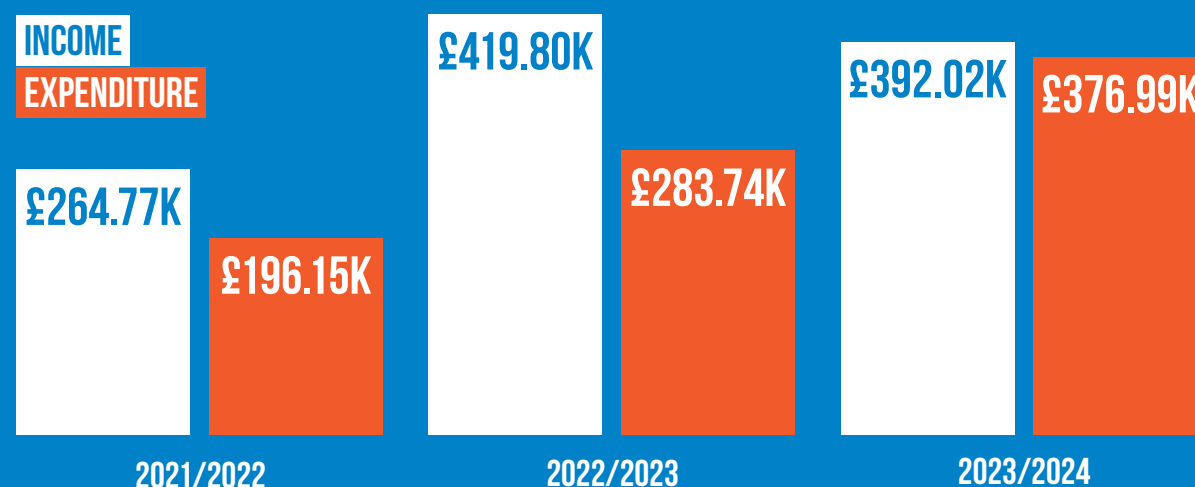
# 6 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE

Since 2022, Right to Remain's organisational structure, office processes and methodology have been transformed to amplify our impact and improve our monitoring, evaluation and planning.

Our organisational review in 2022 showed that a chronic shortage of funding for our vital work as an anchor organisation supporting hundreds of other organisations and thousands of individuals was a major risk to Right to Remain, to the sector as a whole and to our communities. In 2023/24, we continued to take steps towards adapting a full-cost recovery principle in every aspect of our planning, budgeting and fundraising, to develop our organisation further. There was also an urgent need for a clearer longer-term plan that guides

our work. As described in the earlier part of the report we spent 2023/24 developing a new strategy and refreshing our Theory of Change.

Our total income for 2023/24 was £392,019, 7% less than 2022/23 (£419,804) when our income was unusually high due to a much-welcomed, unexpected large one-off strategic grant. We rely largely on grants from charitable foundations, which made up 88% of our income in 2023/24. We are grateful for their support as well as the generosity of many individuals who make one-off and monthly donations to support our work. We increased our expenditure significantly by nearly a third, from £283,744 in 2022/23 to £376,992 in 2023/24, in order to boost our outputs and outcomes, to be ready for the implementation of the new strategy. 84% of all our spending in 2023/24 was for staff costs.



Many charities are struggling in a very competitive fundraising environment and are confronted by increasing costs in all areas of operation. The majority of refugee, asylum and migration charities are small to medium sized organisations whose income fall well below £1 million. Like us, they are without dedicated fundraisers, communications/marketing personnel or finance management support and face an additional hurdle in attracting donations. Our cause is generally unpopular and smaller charities find it hard to reach new donors and supporters. In order to implement our ambitious new strategy from 2024/25, we expect to spend increasing funds year on year to create new posts for the organisation, to strengthen our ability to sustain ourselves and to increase our reach and activities. For these reasons and an ever-present challenge of multi-year grants coming to an end, our policy is to try to secure a reserves level of at least six-months' operating costs of the following year's budget.

Two unexpected grants towards the end of 2023/24 and the doubled amount of donations we achieved due to our 10-year anniversary fundraising events increased our income beyond our estimate. We were planning to create a new finance and administration officer post during the year who would be responsible for overall office and finance management but this was delayed, decreasing our planned expenditure. Creating this post is one of our priorities for 2024/25 as it should strengthen our organisation's foundation and free up the Director's capacity to focus on directing our public legal education, strategic convening and campaigning and organising work as well as developing the organisation and fundraising.

In terms of our operation in 2023/24, we finally began to benefit from the impact of the generous, one-off strategic grants secured in summer 2022 on our organisation's structure. We were able to create the new temporary post of Engagement Officer (from February 2023) which supported the delivery of our Toolkit Festivals and greatly enhanced our logistical capacity to reach and (re)connect with many grassroots groups, and a new second Legal Education Officer post (from December 2022), with a focus on non-asylum matters, which enabled us to expand our public legal education to cover the areas of great need outside the scope of legal aid. They joined the existing staff team of Director, Coordinator, two Organisers and Senior Legal Education Officer.

As a result, our staff team size grew from 5 (4.6 FTE) at the start of 2022/23 to 8 (7.2 FTE) at the start of 2023/24, averaging at 7 staff members during 2023/24. In 2023/24, we also benefited from additional help from our first-ever Communications and Campaigns Intern (paid). We ended the 2023/24 with 6 staff members (6 FTE) after a staff departure in August 2023 and the end of the trial internship programme in December 2023. We are far from having a team structure that is necessary for us to implement our strategy fully, and will continue to seek more resources to support our work.



# 7

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOLIDARITY

We would like to thank everyone who has worked with Right to Remain in 2023/24.

Everyone who came to our Toolkit Festivals, Solidarity Sessions and other events, used our Toolkit, shared our social media posts, wore our No One Is Illegal T-shirts - everyone one of you helped us reach closer to our goal of creating a world where everyone has the right to remain where they need to be.

We are grateful to the funders who believe in our vision and have supported our work, including A B Charitable Trust, Blue Thread, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Legal Education Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Society of Holy Child Jesus and Treebeard Trust.

In particular, we appreciate individual donors, who make regular and one-off donations to us.

Last but not least, thank you to our community of migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum and everyone else who stands in radical solidarity with us and has joined our journey to create a world where no one is illegal. You gift us with courage, and are the reason we fight on.

We dream of a world where everyone has the right to remain where they want to be – not because they are “deserving”, not because they are “hard working”, not because they are made “vulnerable”, not because they are “exceptional”, but because they love, they live and they are human.

Actually, we are not dreaming – we are building that world today, right now, by being here.

In solidarity, always.

From Right to Remain



**Right to Remain**

[www.righttoremain.org.uk](http://www.righttoremain.org.uk)

[contact@righttoremain.org.uk](mailto:contact@righttoremain.org.uk)

**These Walls Must Fall**

[www.wallsmustfall.org](http://www.wallsmustfall.org)

[contact@wallsmustfall.org](mailto:contact@wallsmustfall.org)

Charity number 1192934

Company number 04026564

**RIGHT  
TO REMAIN**

---

**THESE WALLS  
MUST FALL**

**MIGRATION IS LIFE.  
NO ONE IS ILLEGAL.  
THESE WALLS MUST FALL.**