

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACTION FOR  
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**



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09/01/19

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Dear Richard,

Thank you so much for the generous support you have shown to GARAS in your recent donation of £41.55. It is wonderful to receive such a very practical response to those asylum seekers and refugees with whom we are working.

The financial gifts we receive make such a difference to people, often in very practical ways. For instance getting a client to a solicitors appointment or, if they need to put in a fresh claim, they have to travel to Liverpool and the train fare is in the region of £100 so your gift more than helps towards make this possible. It is great to have this flexibility, as much of our grant funding can not be used this way, which is so necessary.

As we start the new year, we have a lot to remember from the past and be grateful for. We have seen asylum seekers gain their refugee status and start to build their new lives. Just this week an old client came back to GARAS after a few years dispersed elsewhere. After 11 long years she has finally received her refugee status. Wonderful news and great she is now starting her new life in Gloucester, but what a long dreadful time of waiting. A couple of weeks ago, a former client popped in to see us and we celebrated her life as a University student.

We have also now received over 200 Syrians into Gloucestershire on the Resettlement Scheme. All this along with the challenges of lives broken by their experiences is why it is so important to be able to keep going and we are grateful to all our donors who help us and encourage us through their donations.

This year will also see us move buildings at the end of March. After 17 years in Barton Street this will be an upheaval but we know that we will receive a lot of help from friends of GARAS to make this transition as smooth as possible. Financial donations will also help with the practical issues that we will require to help make the move.



PATRONS: DAVID DREW MP, MARTIN HORWOOD, PROF HEAVEN CRAWLEY  
THE RIGHT REVD RACHEL TREWEEK, BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER, ALEX CHALK MP

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1082388, COMPANY NO. 4026398



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Our website ([www.garas.org.uk](http://www.garas.org.uk)) has up-to date information of our work and suggestions of what people can do to help in different ways. This will be updated with our new address as soon as possible as will our blog, which responds to events and relevant issues, and can also be accessed on our website.

Yours gratefully

Adele Owen  
Director



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