

Impact Report 2007-2008



Celebrating Success

Contacts and Funders

With thanks to our funders

Home Office; National Asylum Support Service (NASS); Welsh Assembly Government; hact; Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund; Curiad Calon Cymru; Career Path Project; European Social Fund; Wrexham County Borough Council; Careers Wales; BBC Children in Need; Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund; Big Lottery Fund's Wrexham Fair Share Trust.

Welsh Refugee Council

Cardiff

Phoenix House
389 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 1TP
Tel: 029 2048 9800
Fax: 029 2043 2980
info@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Website

www.welshrefugeecouncil.org

Our Other Offices

Initial Accommodation Team - Cardiff

385 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 1RN
Tel: 029 2048 0150
Fax: 029 2047 1592
info@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Newport

High Street Chambers
51 High Street
Newport NP20 1GB
Tel: 01633 266420
Fax: 01633 266421
newport@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Swansea

Third Floor Grove House
Grove Place
Swansea SA1 5DF
Tel: 01792 630180
Fax: 01792 630181
swansea@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Wrexham

Trinity House
Trinity Street
Wrexham LL11 1NL
Tel: 01978 367890
Fax: 01978 367891
wrexham@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Company No:

4818136

Charity No:

1102449

Design by:

Cactus Design Ltd,
www.cactusdesignltd.co.uk

Photography by:

Kiran Ridley, Michael Hall,
Chris Ryder

Welcome

This report demonstrates the huge amount of work the organisation has undertaken again this year.

We have improved direct and indirect services to asylum seekers and refugees, and raised the profile of our policy and campaigning activities. All this is due to the enormous commitment of our staff, volunteers, my fellow trustees and our partners.

In Wales, we pride ourselves as a welcoming nation. We have seen wholehearted support for the needs of asylum seekers and refugees through the implementation of the Welsh Assembly Government's Refugee Inclusion Strategy. The strategy is unambiguous: "Refugee inclusion begins on day one of arrival in the UK."

The Minister of Health's decision in May, to ensure that asylum seekers are entitled to the same secondary healthcare services as any other members of society in Wales is significant and has been widely welcomed.

This year we have engaged with our stakeholders through our campaigning and briefing, and our attendance at events such as the National Eisteddfod and party political conferences. We work closely with our colleagues throughout the UK and play a leading part in the work of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, whose commitment to a Europe of asylum based on protection and sanctuary, will have a growing influence on the UK's refugee and asylum policy.

However, we are not sheltered from the constant changes of the UK Government's immigration and asylum policy, and it is vital that we are effective in the services we provide to asylum seekers and refugees in Wales.

We have an additional team of five people to deal with the increase in asylum seekers directed to Cardiff. This has increased the pressure upon our hard-working staff, and I must give my thanks to the hard work and commitment shown by the Chief Executive, Mike Lewis, and his team.

We have succeeded for the first time in ensuring additional funding beyond Government to support our activities. In particular, I am proud that we have been able to secure funding in order to make our work on behalf of children more effective, through the appointment of a Senior Children's Policy Officer (supported by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund), a Play Development Worker and the creation of a toy library (funded by BBC Children in Need).

We must not forget that it is for the benefit of asylum seekers and refugees that we dedicate our efforts. The main priority for this year will be to improve the quality of service that we are giving to the people we serve. We will improve our support and advice; we will ensure that we lead the work of the asylum and refugee sector in Wales, but also be an effective partner with our sister organisations, whether in local and central government or within the refugee community.



Aled Eirug
Chair



Board of Trustees

Aled Eirug (Chair)
Akmal Hanuk (Vice Chair)
Ian Summers (Treasurer)
Rev James Aylward
Amira Bakhiet
Julie Barton
Dr Heaven Crawley
Mohammed Ali Field
Maureen Gower
Themba Moyo
Teodros Seyoum
Prof Terry Threadgold



Our Mission

To empower refugees and asylum seekers to rebuild their lives in Wales

Our Values

The Welsh Refugee Council will:

- Remain independent and accountable.
- Treat everyone with equality, respect and empathy.
- Ensure that the voices of refugees and asylum seekers are heard throughout our organisation.
- Work in partnerships which are beneficial to refugees and asylum seekers.
- Promote the rich diversity that refugees and asylum seekers bring to the UK, and campaign to uphold their rights.
- Continually strive to improve and always act with honesty, transparency and integrity.

Aims

- Welsh Refugee Council aims to become a mission-focused, value-driven organisation, with refugees and asylum seekers at the heart of everything we do.
- Welsh Refugee Council aims to deliver high quality, direct services to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Working closely with partners, Welsh Refugee Council aims to proactively advocate and campaign for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Welsh Refugee Council aims to deliver a targeted range of second tier services to refugee community and other organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers.
- Welsh Refugee Council aims to develop a secure and diversified funding base to enable us to fulfil our mission.
- Welsh Refugee Council aims to develop a robust infrastructure to enable us to achieve our mission.

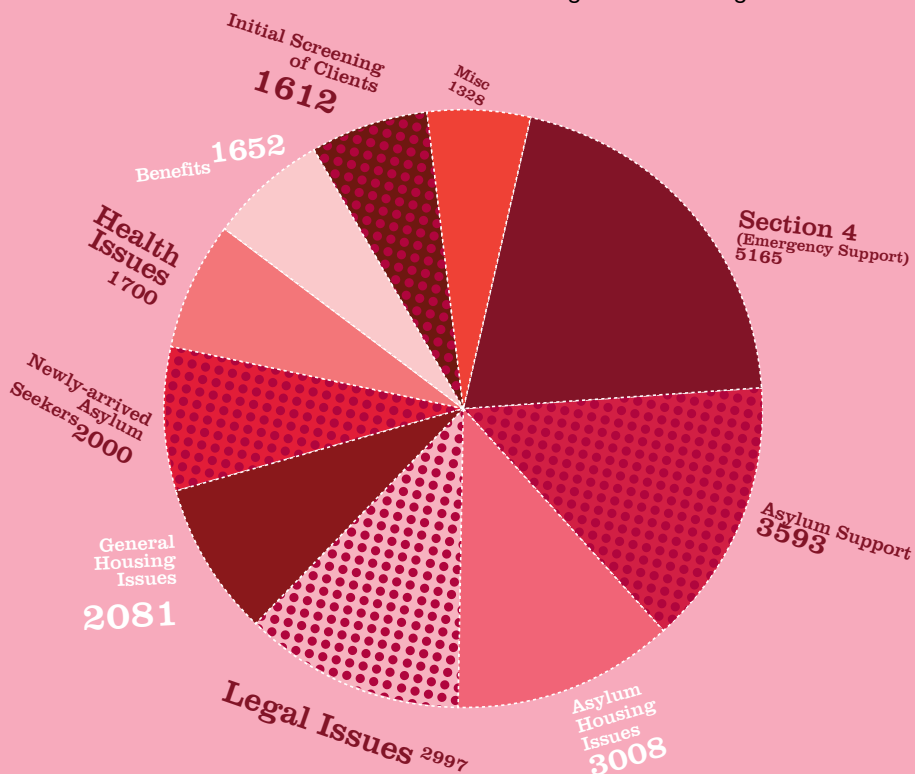
These are some
of the
languages
we
work in

Arabic
يَبْرَع

Advice and Support

Helping refugees while they go through the process of seeking asylum is a huge part of our work – from the time they arrive in Wales right through to rebuilding a new life.

Top 10 enquiries



Arriving in Wales

At the start of 2008, our Initial Accommodation team in Cardiff moved into new premises in the Lynx Hotel – one of the hostels where newly-arrived asylum seekers are housed by the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) when they are dispersed to Cardiff.

The dedicated team give clients briefings on the asylum process, means of support, orientation and dispersal. These sessions help asylum seekers to understand the asylum process, find a solicitor, and access longer-term housing and social care.

Seeking Asylum

Our teams of caseworkers provide practical advice and support to asylum seekers and refugees. Clients can discuss any problems they may be facing as an asylum seeker or refugee, including the asylum and move-on processes and support and entitlement.

Although we do not provide legal advice, we can refer clients to solicitors and other organisations that can help them with their asylum claim and legal issues.

We ensure that everyone gets access to our services. For refugees with limited or no English language skills, we provide a face-to-face interpreter service. On the rare occasions where this is not possible, we use the telephone interpretation service The Big Word, so everyone is able to get the advice that they need.

From
April 2007 to
March 2008:

There were

24,419

visits to our One Stop Services
across Wales.

We dealt with 16,312
telephone enquiries from clients.

Our case workers gave

27,827

advice sessions.

For clients who have been granted
refugee status, we conducted

15,399

Move-On advice sessions.

Moving On

Once a refugee's claim for asylum has been approved, they can start to rebuild their lives here in Wales. We now have a dedicated 'Move On' case worker in each of our offices who can help with practical advice on everything from housing and education to finding furniture and family reunion.

The Move On case workers collaborate with other organisations – such as local authority asylum teams, housing associations and Jobcentre Plus – to ensure that refugees can access these services.

Hardship Fund

The Hardship Fund was set up in 2003 to support the growing number of asylum seekers who living in abject poverty. The Fund provides basic support to destitute asylum seekers who have no access to money to buy essentials like food and toiletries. The fund pays for food parcels and, in cases of extreme hardship, small amounts of cash.

The Hardship Fund relies on generous donations from individuals, community and faith groups, as well as fundraising initiatives. In 2008, a member of staff completed a week-long cycle to tour of India to raise an impressive £1,500 for the fund. At our Eisteddfod tent, we served refreshments in exchange for donations towards the Hardship Fund.

At the end of 2008, we will be relaunching the Hardship Fund. We hope to attract more donors to the fund, which provides a lifeline to these extremely vulnerable people, and will be introducing electronic giving to make donating easier. We have also registered for Gift Aid to optimise the generosity of our individual donors.

These are some
of the
languages
we
work in

Chinese
中文

Dari
دري

Developing Refugee Communities

Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) are a vital part of the integration process of refugees into the wider community. We aim to provide advice and mentor support to existing and emerging RCOs.

We continue to provide office space and IT resources to Refugee Voice Wales, an umbrella organisation that represents RCOs in Wales, as well as supporting several Cardiff-based RCOs.

Working with Displaced People in Action (DPiA), Refugee Voice Wales and the University of Glamorgan, we are conducting a Refugee Needs Analysis. This project is exploring the development needs of a selection of RCOs across Wales to provide stronger, better coordinated services to them in the future.

We helped RCOs with applications for funding through one-to-one mentoring sessions. We also delivered training sessions on starting a community group, governance and financial management to individuals from seven different refugee communities.

This year, we secured funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Fair Share Trust for a three-year project to establish a refugee forum in Wrexham. The part-time project coordinator is based at our Wrexham office and is working with refugee communities and other agencies in the area to assess the needs of and develop services for asylum seekers and refugees. This is a much-needed post in this area, as refugees have only been coming to Wrexham for a relatively short time.





Finding Employment

At the end of 2007, our Equal project came to an end. This two-year project helped refugees to find employment, training and volunteer placements and took innovative approaches to tackle employment barriers specifically relating to refugees.

Over 300 people took part in the project, which included elements such as getting recognition for overseas qualifications, 'up-skilling' those with existing qualifications and helping refugees get experience of British work ethics through work-based placements.

The project culminated in a conference on Refugee Employment and Inclusion, where we launched the Refugee Skills Audit report – the first of its kind in Wales. The report revealed that refugees have a huge amount to offer the job market:

- 60% have a further or higher education qualification
- 78% were working for employers, were self employed or working in a family business before they were forced to flee their country of origin
- 64% are currently unemployed

The report also identified the barriers that were making it difficult for refugees to find jobs, like the lack of ESOL classes and the non-recognition of overseas qualifications and experience.

Speakers at the conference included Eluned Morgan MEP and the then Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Gill Bird.

After the success of the All Wales Conference on Refugee Employment and

Inclusion in 2007, three regional events took place in Swansea, Newport and Wrexham. Attracting almost 100 local delegates from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors, the events addressed the themes of the conference and provided an opportunity to discuss issues around capacity, resources, education, employment and housing.

Now the project has come to an end, our Inclusion team have continued to take this work forward, and improving the employability of refugees remains central to the team's work. We will be registering with City & Guilds to become an accredited training centre, which will help refugees to gain recognised UK qualifications.

In Cardiff and Newport we have developed conversational ESOL classes for clients. Not only do these classes provide invaluable lessons for clients who are unable to access classes elsewhere, they also provide practical opportunities for some WRC staff and volunteers (who are studying for their PGCE) to develop their teaching skills and get classroom experience. In Swansea, we're working in partnership with ESOL providers and the local council to develop a policy for ESOL provision in the city.

We continue to work in partnership with Careers Wales to provide information and advice on education, training and employment for people at all stages of the asylum process. A secondee from Careers Wales continues to be based at our Cardiff office, providing an advice and advocacy service to clients.

Investing in Volunteers

Volunteers are hugely important to us – they make an enormous contribution to our services, in everything from reception duties to interpretation to policy work to IT support. To show our commitment to our volunteers, we are currently working towards applying for Investing in Volunteering accreditation, which we hope to achieve in 2009.

Two of our volunteers – Jenny Hayford and Mamoun Bashir – were nominated for Wales Council for Voluntary Action's (WCVA) Volunteer of the Year. Although they didn't win their categories, both were highly commended by the judges.

We have developed an interpreter database, and now have volunteer interpreters who can speak over 43 different languages. These interpreters are being trained and accredited on short courses at Cardiff University. We are also in discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government about some of our interpreters taking a two-year diploma course in Public Services Interpreting.

We're lucky to have so many people who want to volunteer for us, that we've started to work with other voluntary organisations, like Women's Aid, to place volunteers in suitable roles when we don't have vacancies. With the experience they gained at WRC and partner organisations on their CV, two of our volunteers have secured full-time employment with Taff Housing Association and Ludlow Healthcare.

A Place to Call Home

The Refugee Housing Development Project is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Housing Development Officer runs awareness-raising sessions about asylum and refugee issues for housing providers, works with RCOs to provide advice on housing issues and works towards influencing housing policy in Wales.

Working with Taff Housing Association in Cardiff, we have secured two properties exclusively for the use of single refugees, once they have achieved refugee status. The refugees live in the property for six months. As well as a place to live, they are also given intensive support to rebuild their lives here in Wales. They get support with an Access to Work scheme, advice on managing a budget and assistance to find private sector housing. The scheme has been so successful that we're working to establish similar schemes with other housing associations.

This year, we ran a week-long training course for refugees in association with housing charity hact. Refugees who have recently been granted status to stay in the UK were trained in areas like integration, finding employment, housing benefit and accessing private sector housing.



Volunteers gave
an incredible

15,735
hours

of their time to
Welsh Refugee
Council in
2007/08.



Speaking Out For Refugees

Through
policy,
publicity and
campaigning,
we work
to uphold
the rights
of refugees
and asylum
seekers in
Wales.

Refugee Rights and Realities in Wales

In July 2008, we supported a conference at Swansea University in conjunction with its Centre for Migration Policy Research. Refugee Rights and Realities in Wales brought together practitioners, policy makers and academics to explore the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers living in Wales.

At the conference, the Independent Asylum Commission (IAC) launched its report, Deserving Dignity. The Commission's third report of recommendations marked the end of the most comprehensive enquiry into asylum in the UK ever conducted.

Welsh Refugee Council was one of the agencies in Wales that gave evidence at the IAC's citizen's enquiry into vulnerable groups within the asylum system, which took place in Cardiff in May 2007. It focused on the experiences of the particularly vulnerable asylum seekers which are the subject of this report – young people, disabled people, women, gay and lesbian asylum seekers, torture survivors, and victims of trafficking who have claimed asylum.

Eisteddfod

The National Eisteddfod came to Cardiff in 2008, and we hosted a tent for the refugee sector in Wales, joined by organisations like Displaced People in Action (DPiA), Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP) and Sova. It was a great opportunity to talk to festival-goers about our work, network with other organisations and raise money for our Hardship Fund.

Visitors to our stand met refugees from across the globe who have found sanctuary in Wales, looked at displays of our campaigning work and discovered the myths and facts about asylum seekers. We were even treated to a poetry reading from some refugee writers from the Swansea Bay Asylum Seeker Support Group.



Refugee Inclusion Strategy

Social Justice Minister Dr Brian Gibbons launched the Welsh Assembly Government's Refugee Inclusion Strategy during Refugee Week in June. The Strategy sets out a positive agenda to support refugees and asylum seekers to rebuild their lives in Wales. It outlines plans to help refugees access basic services like healthcare and education, fulfill their potential through employment and play an active part in Welsh community life.

The empowerment and involvement of refugees has been a key part of the strategy's development. Welsh Refugee Council and Refugee Voice Wales trained 16 refugees and asylum seekers to facilitate consultation sessions in their communities. Over 430 people participated in events in Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham.

In the coming year, we hope to work closely with the Welsh Assembly Government, refugee communities and other voluntary sector organisations in Wales to implement the strategy.

Keep a Welcome

In 2007, Welsh Refugee Council led a coalition of organisations that urged the candidates in the National Assembly Elections to sign up to a manifesto of five key pledges to improve the lives of asylum seekers and refugees in Wales. At the 2008 local government elections, candidates were again asked to pledge their support for the campaign.

One of the key pledges was to allow refused asylum seekers access to healthcare, and in May 2008, Health Minister Edwina Hart announced that the Welsh Assembly Government would do just that. Welsh Refugee Council welcomed this decision, which gives a clear message that all people in Wales should be treated with a basic level of humanity.

MPs Get Asylum Training

A team from Welsh Refugee Council visited Westminster to train Welsh MPs on what it's like to seek asylum in Wales. The briefing session explained the asylum process, from initial arrival in Wales to services available to those who have been granted refugee status and can begin to rebuild their lives here.

Politicians also learnt about the policy framework for issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers, and heard the Welsh Refugee Council's key concerns about current legislation.

We also joined forces with the English and Scottish Refugee Councils to fund a joint Parliamentary Officer post, acting as a liaison between Westminster and the three charities.

These are some
of the
languages
we
work in

French
Français

Kurdish Sorani
کوردی سۆرانی

Highlighting Destitution at the Senedd

As part of the Still Human Still Here Cymru campaign, we organised an event at the Senedd to highlight the plight of hundreds of destitute asylum seekers in Wales who have come to this country looking to escape from persecution, but who end up leading invisible lives on our streets.

The event coincided with the launch of a survey by the leading refugee agencies in the UK which revealed shocking levels of destitution among their client group. More than 40 per cent of asylum seekers and refugees using their services had no access to any means of support, and were street homeless or staying with friends or acquaintances only temporarily.

The number also includes people who are at the end of the asylum process and, despite being unable to return home, are left on the streets, not able to access food or shelter and with no right to work to support themselves. Others were entitled to support, but administrative failures in the system meant they were left destitute.

WRC at the Spring Party Conferences

This year, we ran information stalls at the main Spring party political conferences in Wales for the first time. At the Labour conference in Llandudno, we launched the second phase of our Keep a Welcome campaign, calling on candidates in the local government elections not to campaign negatively on asylum issues. At the conferences, we spoke to hundreds of party members about the issues that impact the lives of asylum seekers and refugees living in Wales today.

Sister Charity Wins Law Society Award

Pro-bono asylum charity, Asylum Justice, was rewarded for its hard work in providing legal advice to asylum seekers. Fflur Jones was awarded the Law Society's Young Probono Lawyer of the Year prize during National Pro-bono week for her voluntary work with the charity.

Asylum Justice is a charity which provides legal advice to asylum seekers in Swansea, Cardiff and Newport and is run entirely on a voluntary basis: there are no paid employees, lawyers or administrators. It works within the legal framework of the Welsh Refugee Council, as a sister charity providing services not accessible to the WRC. Recently, the team has been set up as the Asylum Justice Division of the Welsh Refugee Council, and its work continues on that basis.

These are
of the
language
we
work

stillhumanstillhere

The campaign to end destitution of refused asylum seekers

Protecting Refugee Children

In 2008, we secured funding for two children's projects. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has funded a Senior Children's Policy Officer for three years. The postholder will work together with English and Scottish colleagues to affect policy change relating to children who are refugees or seeking asylum and ensure immigration legislation and policy meets international standards on children's rights.

We have also secured three years' funding from BBC Children in Need for a toy library and part-time Play Development Worker. These will be based in our Cardiff office, providing and promoting opportunities for asylum seeking children to play.

Some
images
in

Somali
Af Soomaali

Farsi
یسراف



Celebrating Diversity: Refugee Week

Refugee Week Wales continues to go from strength to strength, celebrating the contribution that refugees have made to life in Wales.

Refugee Week Wales is a partnership of agencies, coordinated by the Refugee Week Wales Steering Group, which includes: Communities First, Displaced People in Action, Oxfam, Refugee Voice Wales, Save the Children, WCVA and the Welsh Refugee Council. The Refugee Week Wales Coordinator is based at Welsh Refugee Council, and coordinates the main events on behalf of the group, as well as supporting events organisers across Wales.

This year's Refugee Week was bigger than ever, with all sorts of events taking place across the whole of Wales. There was media coverage of the event in the South Wales Echo, Welsh language magazine Golwg, the Western Mail, The Politics Show on BBC1, the South Wales Argus, Big Issue Cymru and the South Wales Evening Post. The theme of the week was 'Different Pasts, Shared Futures'.



Booklet and Launch Event

We produced a booklet on the theme of 'Encounters' between refugees and the wider community. It featured real-life stories of friendships between refugees and people from Wales, along with facts and figures about refugees and the countries that they come from. The booklet was distributed widely during Refugee Week, and at other events, spreading the messages of Refugee Week throughout the year.

This year's launch event was hosted by the Newport & District Refugee Support Group at the Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre in Newport. The Welsh Assembly Minister for Social Justice, Dr Brian Gibbons, opened the event, which featured dance, poetry and drumming from refugee artists.

Refugee World Cup

For the fourth year running, the Refugee World Cup united diverse nationalities and cultures in their passion for football. Twelve teams took part in the competition, which was won by the Newport Kurdish Stars.



Refugee Week 2009

Refugee Week in 2009 will
take place from

15th to 21st June

To keep updated on events, email:
refugeeweek@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Art Competition

School children from across Wales were invited to design a poster depicting the themes of Refugee Week. We received over 600 entries this year, and the winners were presented with their prizes at a ceremony held at the Senedd during Refugee Week.

Community Activities Fund

The Community Activities Fund supports events that encourage positive encounters between host communities and refugees. This year, we had a record number of applications to the fund, and £6,500 was awarded to refugee community organisations (RCOs), community groups, faith groups and other organisations that work with refugees and asylum seekers.

Events included a multi-ethnic family trip and picnic to the St Fagan's National History Museum; art, photography and pottery sessions at Dragon Arts in Swansea; a weekend festival at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea; an evening of Sudanese and Welsh cultural celebrations; and an interactive arts workshop run by Arts Call for Darfur.

Independent Events

The themes and messages of Refugee Week have spread throughout Wales and this year, lots of organisations got on board and organised their own events to celebrate the week. These included:

- Suitcases in Sanctuary, an exhibition at Wrexham Library of myth-busting images and information about refugees in the area.
- A Games Day at Taff Housing Association in Cardiff.
- An evening of poetry and music with the writer Patrick Jones.
- The launch of www.Swansea-Arrivals.net at Swansea University.

These are some
of the
languages
we
work in

Turkish
Af Türkçe



Financial Statement for 2007-08

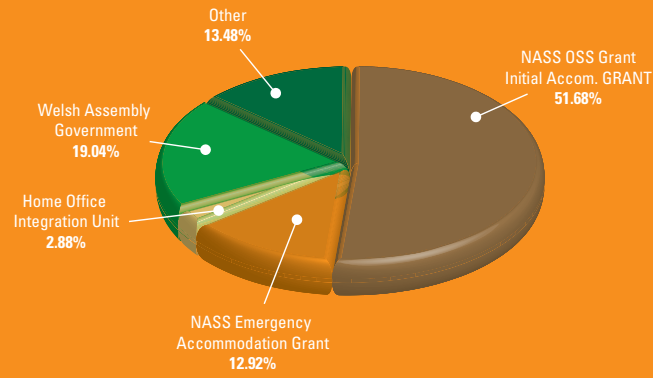
Income 2007

Restricted Grant Income

NASS - Home Office Grants.	£1,052,442
NASS - Emergency Accommodation Grant.	£263,105
Home Office Social Policy Unit	£58,632
hact - Housing Officer	£12,500
Prisoners of Conscience appeal fund	£350
Donations to Hardship Fund.	£16,002
Welsh Assembly Government - Health Dev. Project	£8,777
Welsh Assembly Government - Housing Project	£135,288
Welsh Assembly Government - Policy & Campaign	£59,208
Welsh Assembly Government - Comm. & Events.	£38,004
Welsh Assembly Government - Housing Dev. Officer	£21,980
Welsh Assembly Government - Inclusion Strategy	£14,700
Welsh Assembly Government - H.R. & Support	£16,000
Welsh Assembly Government - CEO/PA	£93,656
Curiad Calon Cymru - ESF EQUAL	£62,409
Career Path Project	£4,000
Refugee Voice Wales	£26,698
EQUAL - Healthy Minds at Work	£16,668
Wrexham County Borough Council - Grant.	£6,162
Refugee Week	£57,925
Social Services.	£5,643

Unrestricted Funds (Other)

Subscriptions	£15
Donations	£1,036
Interest Received	£8,410
Management Fees	£41,204
Sundry Income (misc. recovery).	£15,463
TOTAL INCOME	£2,036,277



Income 2008

Restricted Grant Income

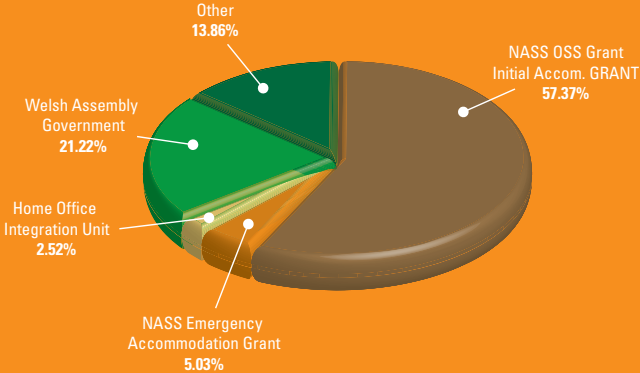
NASS - Home Office Grants.	£1,369,561
NASS - Emergency Accommodation Grant.	£120,171
Home Office Social Policy Unit	£60,098
Donations to Hardship Fund.	£19,844
Welsh Assembly Government - Housing Project	£149,503
Welsh Assembly Government - Policy & Campaign	£50,110
Welsh Assembly Government - Comm. & Events.	£39,924
Welsh Assembly Government - Housing Dev. Officer	£45,092
Welsh Assembly Government - CEO/PA	£131,330
Welsh Assembly Government - Child Advocacy	£20,000
Welsh Assembly Government - Fundraising Manager	£50,732
Welsh Assembly Government - Development Officer	£19,913
Curriad Calon Cymru - ESF EQUAL	£91,564
Career Path Project	£4,000
Refugee Voice Wales	£35,837
EQUAL - Healthy Minds at Work	£15,332
Wrexham Borough Council - Grant	£6,000
hact Project Grant	£4,000
Big Lottery Fund Wrexham Fair Share Trust (Resource Centre) .	£21,832
Asylum Justice.	£1,118
Refugee Week	£47,516
Social Services.	£2,444

Unrestricted Grant Income	
Development Forum.	£20,000

Unrestricted Funds (Other)	
Donations	£1,038
Interest Received	£13,437
Management Fees	£38,540
Sundry Income (misc. recovery).	£8,296

TOTAL INCOME

£2,387,232



Analysis of Charitable expenditure

Pre Status expenditure	£1,627,790
Refugee Status	£418,834
Policy & Campaign	£263,792
Governance	£75,274
	£2,385,690

Net movement in funds	£1,542
Funds - brought forward	£222,745
Funds - carried forward.	£224,287

These summarised statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full annual accounts and auditor's report on these accounts should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from:

The Chief Executive's Office, Welsh Refugee Council,
Phoenix House, 389 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 1TP.

Looking Ahead

I am pleased to contribute to our annual report for 2007-2008. In my first full year at WRC I continue to be impressed with the professionalism of staff and volunteers in often difficult circumstances. This is especially so as workloads continue to increase exponentially throughout the organisation. This is a challenge that many of our partners also face, and one that we are all committed to addressing together. I am pleased that as a sector we are beginning to attract additional funding to meet these increasing demands, but we have much more to do to ensure demand needs are met.

I am sure that the next year will be as challenging as the last, as we deal with the implications of the changes to the asylum system that cause us concern as an organisation. We can also expect changes to European policy on asylum, some of which will make life more difficult for the people we support.

I look forward to increasing our capacity to deliver better resourced casework, policy development and campaigning work over the next year. I am pleased that we are developing a broader range of funders and some exciting initiatives have started and will develop in 2009.

Despite the challenges that we will face as an organisation and as a sector, I hope some of the changes that we have made on improving and developing our partnership working will address some of the issues around lack of effective welfare provision. This is especially so as we develop new initiatives and approaches to meet continued and increasing need.

As we deal with our internal challenges I have also been keen to engage with our service users and partner organisations and I look forward to doing this even more over the next year. The joy and passion shown during Refugee Week continues to be a positive reminder about the refugee experience in Wales and the contributions which asylum seekers and refugees have made and continue to make in Wales and throughout the UK.

I look forward to us working together collectively to support the development of the refugee sector in Wales. I relish the prospect of continued growth and development of our organisation, so that we become better at supporting and working with our service users.

I would like to thank all my colleagues, trustees and members of other organisations and service users who make this challenging job a joy to hold. I look forward to working with you all over the next year.



Mike Lewis
Chief Executive

