



**aims to promote the welfare of refugees & asylum seekers in and beyond the Lewes District by:**

- **raising awareness of issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers**
- **providing practical help and responding to local issues as they arise**
- **advocating and lobbying to improve the rights of refugees and asylum seekers**

**The group initially met in January 2002 for anyone interested in the issues of migration, asylum and safe refuge, from a perspective of human rights and civic responsibilities.**

**LOSRS became a charity and adopted its new name in October 2017.**

**Membership is open to all who share these aims, irrespective of personal affiliations or beliefs.**

### **Main achievements between October 2018 and September 2019**

A core of our activity since 2016 has been our befriender service to help support and settle families coming under the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. This work has continued to expand, and we are now supporting 35 individuals across 6 families in the District under the Syrian Relocation Scheme, as well as 9 people in 4 families or as individuals coming to us through various referral routes without the statutory support in place through the Syrian scheme.

As well as our role in lobbying for legal reform to end the use of indefinite immigration detention (see below), we have now re-established a foreign national visitors project at Lewes Prison to provide a listening ear and occasional help with referrals to prisoners facing the prospect of indefinite detention/deportation.

#### **This year's open meetings:**

Attendance at our open meetings has been so good this year that we have had to move from our traditional home at Friends House and into larger venues. We will continue to hold open meetings in and around Lewes, in different spaces as appropriate.

**14th November: *Island of Hungry Ghosts, film and talk.*** Introduced by Thomas Austin (University of Sussex) and followed by a short talk by Jean Gould (LOSRS), this vivid documentary, set on Christmas Island, explores the psychology of being on the move and the trauma of detention.

**12th February: *The Hummingbird Project: celebrating innovative work with young refugees.*** Elaine Ortiz (founder and director of the project) and young leader, Mohamad Aljasem talked about this Brighton initiative to provide aid and solidarity to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.

**8th May: *Academics and Advocates: how can research and action inform each other in Sussex?*** Held in collaboration with the IDS at Sussex University, three academics presented their migration research from Lebanon, Calais and Brighton, followed by a panel discussion with local activists.

**6th July: *Refugee Week Walk: A call to end indefinite immigration detention.***

In collaboration with Refugee Tales, author David Constantine read 'The Orphan's Tale'; actor Shobu Kapoor spoke the words of a former detainee who recently spent a year in Lewes; and Rihab Azar, a Syrian oud player, performed several beautiful pieces.

LOSRS remains committed to raising awareness of the issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees, especially those seeking to settle and rebuild lives in the South East. We also continue to



Charity name **LEWSES DRG .IN SUPPORT OF REFUGEES +ASYLUM SEEKERS**

Charity number (if any) **1176074**

For the period from (start date) **010918**

to (end date) **310819**

Section A		Receipts and payments				
		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
	SUBSCRIPTIONS	1428				1096
	DONATIONS	5753				4138
	SPONSORED EVENTS	4072				1142
	PLANT SALE	1296				1234
	TRAINING FEE	-				2000
	GRANT	-				1000
	GIFT AID	1187				762
	<i>Sub total</i>	13736				11372
	<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, etc</b>	-				-
	<i>Total receipts</i>	13736				11372
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
	GRANTS TO FAMILIES ETC.	6841				3465
	" " ORGANISATIONS	5600				2500
	ADMIN EXPENSES	1121				670
	<i>Sub total</i>	13862				6635
	<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc</b>	-				-
	<i>Total payments</i>	13862				6635
	<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	(126)				4737
	<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
	<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	6562				1825
	<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	6436				6562