



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	4	2019		31	03	2020

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Across Borders

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1170882

Charity's principal address

20 Nottingham Road

Gotham

Postcode

NG11 0HL

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Emma Goldie	Treasurer		
2	Rosie Watt	Secretary		
3	Fiona Cameron	Chair		
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

## Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

## Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

There are no paid staff

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Company
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Other trustees

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Across Borders is a new charity which has only been fully functional in the last year. The charity currently has three trustees who do the majority of the work. A remote legal project is also staffed by volunteers from the University of Nottingham.

Across Borders works in partnership with the University of Nottingham and St Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- (1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)
- (2) in particular but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations that provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrews Refugee

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

<p>Services.</p> <p>(3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for the public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees.</p>
<p>Across Borders was awarded a grant of £3000 by the Souter charitable trust in 2019 to set up and run a pilot scheme working with the University of Nottingham Law School and St Andrew's Refugee Services in Egypt.</p> <p>In January 2019, Across Borders facilitated the training of six volunteers from the Human Rights Law Department, through bringing the Manager of the Refugee Status Determination team at StARS to the UK. She trained these students intensively over a period of five days to give them sufficient skills and knowledge to take on the preparation of statements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Cairo to present to UNHCR. The project was initially very successful and they completed several cases but unfortunately in the middle of March the Covid-19 virus interrupted the activities of the project, and Across Borders started to raise funds for cash grants to be distributed to refugees through its partner charity St Andrew's Refugee Services in Egypt.</p> <p>We plan to re-open the project as soon as UNHCR resumes its RSD work. Because the project was designed to work remotely, it does not depend on the university being open.</p>

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Across Borders continues to develop its policies and procedures as it develops its activities, this will be particularly important in view of the Covid-19 appeal. We will ask our partner organisations (currently St Andrew's Refugee Services) to write a brief funding proposal detailing their needs, and their own policies and procedures for assessing grant applications, along with reporting procedures.

All the activities of Across Borders are performed by volunteers. We would be unable to do anything without their help.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

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### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2019/20 was the first year in which the charity started its activities.

Our major achievement this year have been:

Getting a grant from the Souter Charitable Trust  
Training six students from the University of Nottingham Human Rights Law course on Refugee Status Determination  
Setting up remote legal clinic model where university students can work on unaccompanied children's legal cases

At the end of March we set up an emergency fundraising campaign for the Covid-19 response.

We recruited new volunteers to work on the legal project, and for the charity.

We set up social media channels including twitter, facebook, Instagram and a new website in order to help us raise awareness in the UK and abroad.

## Section E Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Across borders has a policy in which three months of running costs for the charities activities should be held in the case of the charity winding down.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A grant has been received from the Souter Charitable Trust.

Other funds have been raised through individual donations.

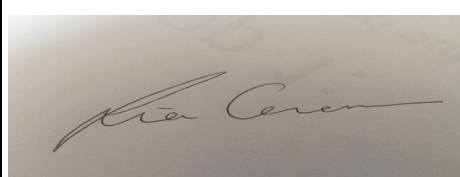
## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Fiona Cameron

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair of Trustees

Date

27/04/2020



**ACROSS BORDERS**  
CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

**Annual Report 2019-2020**

## Trustees Report

Emma Goldie – Treasurer  
Rosie Watt – Secretary  
Fiona Cameron – Chair

Across Borders is a new charity which has only been fully functional in the last year. The charity currently has three trustees who do the majority of the work. A remote legal project is also staffed by volunteers from the University of Nottingham.

Across Borders works in partnership with the University of Nottingham and St Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo.

The objectives of the charity are as follows:

- (1) To advance the human rights of and relieve poverty of migrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa (Across Borders engages with refugee and migrant service providers operating in the MENA region, which we define as Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.)
- (2) In particular, but not exclusively by working in partnership with organisations provide advice, training and assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, including but not limited to St Andrew's Refugee Services.
- (3) To advance education and promote racial harmony for public benefit by providing information, sharing best practice and raising awareness on issues relating to migration and refugees

All the activities of Across Borders are performed by volunteers. We would be unable to do anything without their help.

The charity was founded in 2017, but for various reasons including trustee resignations and problems getting a bank account, 2019/20 was the first year in which the charity started its activities.

New trustees Emma Goldie and Rosie Watt were very instrumental in getting these activities started.

Our major achievement this year have been:

- Getting our social media set up, including a website, facebook, Instagram and twitter accounts.
- Setting up a remote legal clinic in partnership with the University of Nottingham
- At the end of March we set up an emergency fundraising campaign for the Covid-19 response.
- We recruited new volunteers to work on the legal project, and for the charity.

## **Remote Legal Clinic**

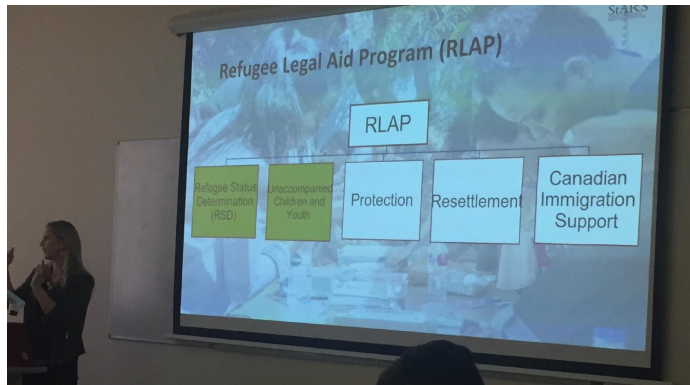
This project is funded by a small grant from the Souter Charitable Trust. StARS is an organisation which provides legal services to refugees and vulnerable migrants in Egypt, particularly around Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement. The amount of legal services that can be delivered by StARS is limited by several factors: The fact that all legal work has to be written in English The willingness or otherwise of western staff to travel to and live in the uncertain security environment in Cairo, for a very low remuneration The physical space on the premises of StARS The retention of RLAP staff due to burnout There is a need to increase the capacity of such projects, through the use of technology and other innovative projects. There is also an unmet desire in universities to work with community projects.

At the same time, legal projects in the UK are difficult for universities to set up due to complex regulation, but there is a real desire from students to work in this area. Universities are encouraged to give back to the



community, and individual students want to gain experience in addition to their degrees from their experience at university.

In addition, the environment StARS operates in and the fact that they are the sole service provider for refugees providing drop-in services means that staff the legal aid program constantly have to manage unplanned urgent/emergency cases as well as the regular and steady casework. We believe that relying on the volunteers in UK universities will free up legal advisors present at StARS to be able to work on emergencies and urgent cases. The volunteers' ability to draft legal submissions and client testimonies for RSD and resettlement will enhance the quality of RSD and resettlement services.



In January 2020, Siobhan Allen, the Refugee Status Determination Team Leader from StARS flew to the UK to provide three days of intensive training for Law students from the University of Nottingham as a pilot project. Five students were trained during this time, and work began almost immediately on cases of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

It was hoped that as the project developed legal advisers' time would be freed up to accompany this very vulnerable young people to their interviews, and

that a dedicated project adviser would be employed at StARS to oversee and develop the project.

Unfortunately the project has come to a standstill because UNHCR has stopped all refugee status determination interviews, but we hope to pick it up again as soon as this changes.

## Fundraising for StARS

At the end of February/beginning of March, it became very apparent that something unprecedented was happening all over the world. Suspending all our operations, we started to raise funds for refugees in Cairo, who were being disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Reports of that fundraising exercise will not be available until next year.

## Plans for 2020/2021

We hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to restart the remote legal project pilot, and if it is successful to raise further funds to develop it.

We would also like to develop a new project, linking refugee staff in the UK with refugee staff at StARS to share experiences, information and best practice.

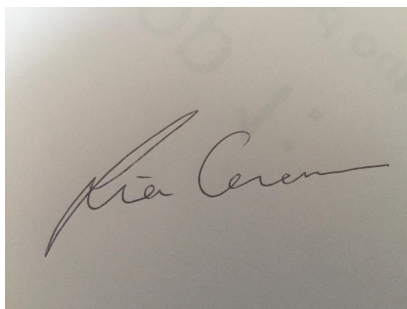
If you are interested in volunteering for the organisation or becoming a trustee, please contact us on [menarefugee@gmail.com](mailto:menarefugee@gmail.com).

If you would like to donate to StARS, or to Across Borders please go to <https://www.acrossborders.org.uk/donate>.

## Accounts 2019/2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Last Year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
<b>Receipts</b>			
Souter Trust	-	3,000	-
Individual donations	-	789	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	-	3,789	-
<b>Payments</b>			
Training for volunteer students - expenses	-	1,069	-
Costs for maintaining website	-	209	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	1,278	-
<b>Cash on hand</b>	-	2,511	

Signed, on behalf of the Trustees,



Fiona Cameron

Independent Examiner: Temitope Yusuf

