







Prisoners Abroad,
89-93 Fonthill Road,
Finsbury Park,
London N4 3JH
Tel: 020 7561 6820
prisonersabroad.org.uk
info@prisonersabroad.org.uk

Join us on social media:

 PrisonersAbroadUK

 PrisonersAbroad

 PrisonersAbroad1

 Prisoners_Abroad

Registered Charity no 1093710.
Company limited by guarantee no. 04333963

FINDING A WAY THROUGH

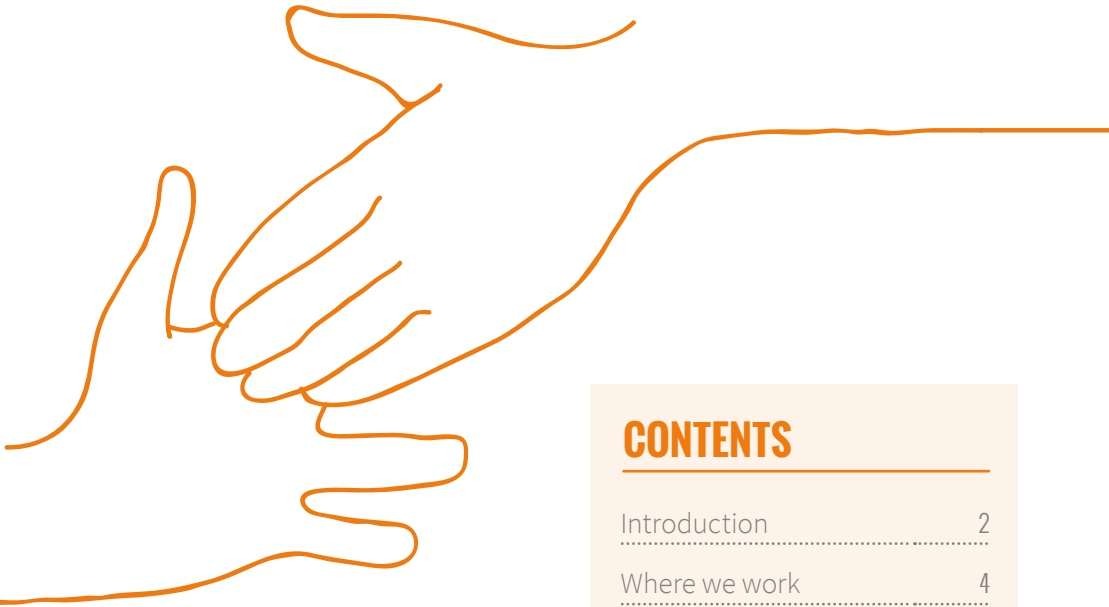
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

PRISONERS ABROAD IS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND WELFARE CHARITY

We provide humanitarian aid, advice and emotional support to people affected by overseas imprisonment.

We assist British citizens during their incarceration, when they return to the UK and need access to resettlement services, and we support their family and friends throughout the trauma. We are the only charity supporting people in this way.

Packing up newspaper and magazines to be sent overseas
(Photo: Julian Crowe)



The obstacles and challenges faced by prisoners overseas, their families and people returning to the UK at the end of their sentence are many and diverse.

Each of them needs help in finding a way through the maze of hardships and confusion that imprisonment creates not least of which are foreign jurisdictions, language, stigma, harsh conditions, distance, culture and exclusion.

Having been here to help people for the last 40 years, Prisoners Abroad is uniquely placed to understand the crisis that people go through and how to provide the help and support they need to make the experience bearable so that they can find a way of getting through it.

In doing this, our service users tell us how much Prisoners Abroad has saved their lives, transformed their futures and provided them with a new route forward in life. If we can continue to do this with the help of volunteers, donors, staff and supporters into our fifth decade and beyond, then we will be able to assist thousands more people in finding a way through. In this annual report you will find more stories from service users and updates about our work over the last year as well as our accounts for the financial year and also our ambitions for the years ahead.

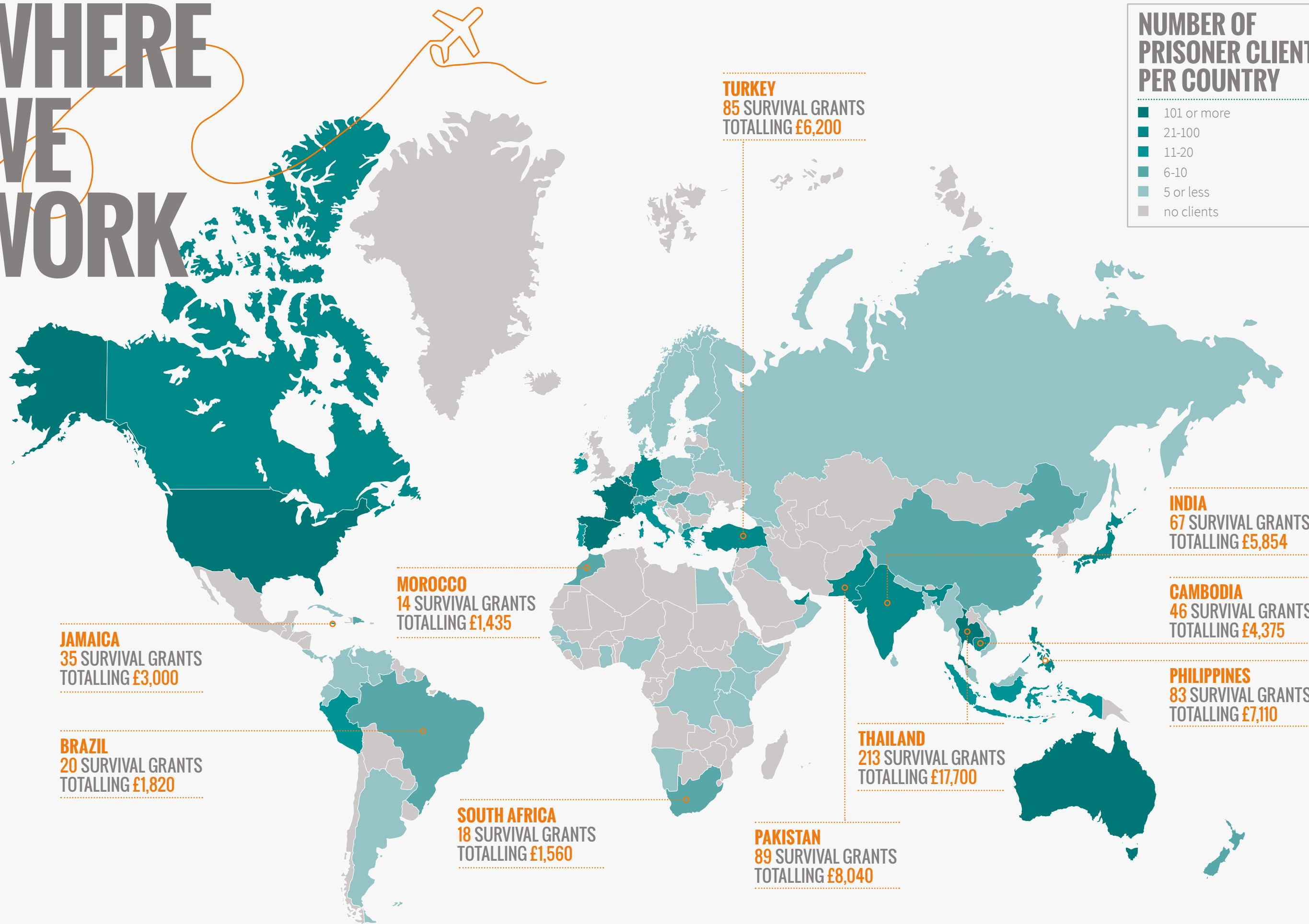
CONTENTS

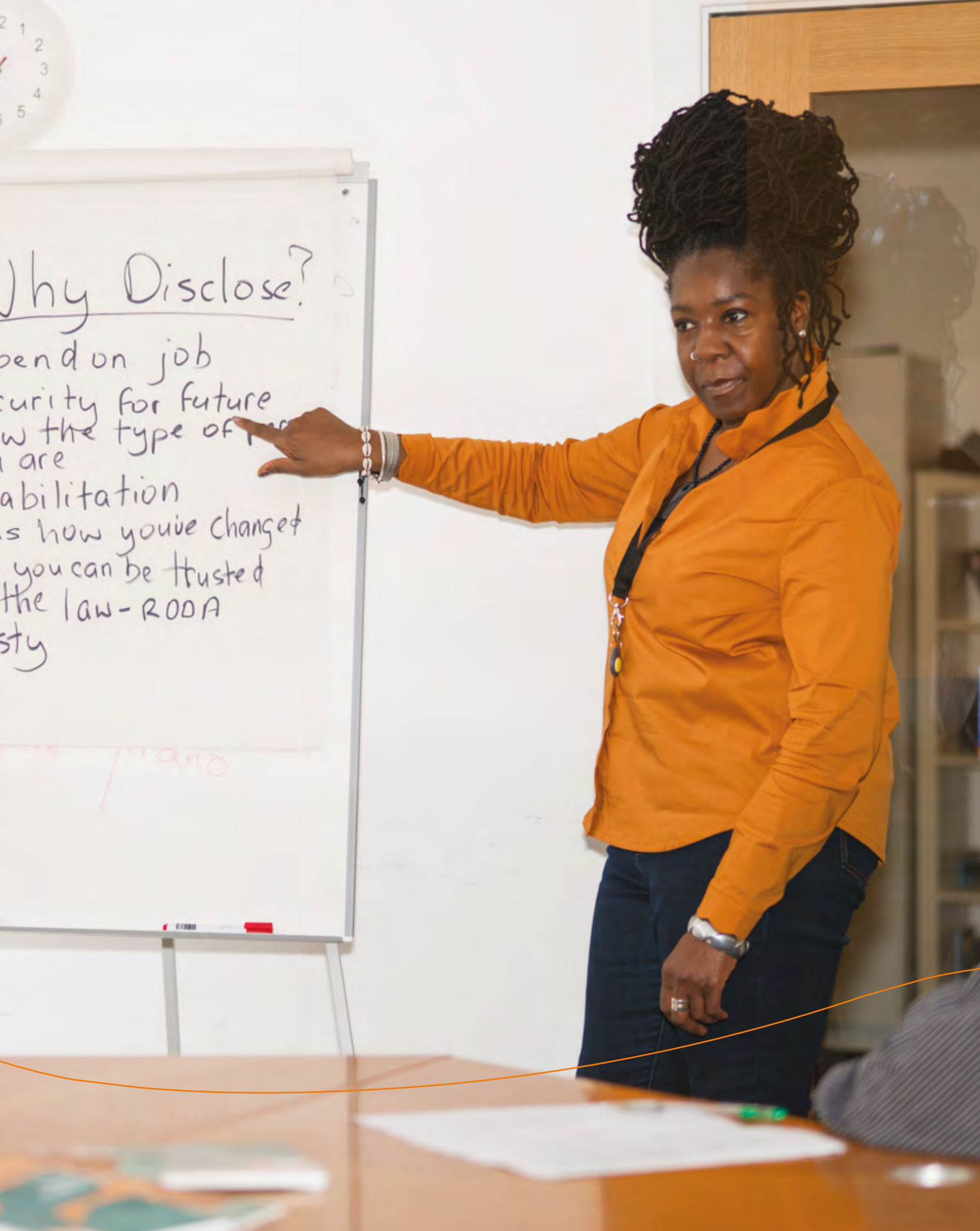
Introduction	2
Where we work	4
How we change lives for the better	6
Overseas	8
Family	12
Return to the UK	16
Spotlight	20
Japan	22
France	23
Women	24
What the future holds	26
About us	30
Message from the Chief Executive	30
Message from the Chairman	33
Financial summary	34
Thank you	35
Financial statements and auditor's report	36
Financial Review	38
Structure, governance and management	39
Our leadership team	42
What our auditors say	43
Statement of financial activities	46
Balance sheet	47
Statement of cash flows	48
Notes to the financial statements	49

WHERE WE WORK

NUMBER OF PRISONER CLIENTS PER COUNTRY

- 101 or more
- 21-100
- 11-20
- 6-10
- 5 or less
- no clients





Shirley delivering our Work Preparation Programme (Photo: Julian Crowe)

HOW WE CHANGE LIVES FOR THE BETTER



**PRISONERS ABROAD ALWAYS MAKES TIME FOR YOU
AND ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS. FROM THE VERY
FIRST PHONE CALL I FELT I WAS NO LONGER ALONE."**

RELATIVE OF A PRISONER IN PORTUGAL

HELPING PRISONERS OVERSEAS

 **1,670** PEOPLE |  **87** COUNTRIES |  **31.6%** NEW CASES

We provide advice to prisoners and their families during detention and provide a vital link between prisoners detained overseas and agencies both in the UK and the country in which they are held.

Prisons around the world continue to be affected by economic instability, often resulting in an ongoing deterioration of prison conditions. This means that any people who are detained in these places do not have access to the fundamental basics that are necessary to keep them alive: food, clean water and medical care. In these situations, prisoners rely entirely on the partnership between Prisoners Abroad and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for this life-saving support.




We also offer information on foreign criminal justice systems, prisoners' rights, prison conditions, parole, remission and transfer to the UK. We also build long-term relationships with prisoners and provide reassurance and emotional support along with tailored practical support to help maintain their well-being.

Our tailored service ensures that prisoners are able to get the basic essentials to support their physical health such as a grant programme to access clean water and food and we help to prevent cultural and linguistic exclusion. We provide books and language materials so that our clients are able to communicate with other prisoners and prison staff when faced with an otherwise impenetrable language barrier. In countries that are culturally different from the UK, these materials help prisoners maintain their emotional and mental well-being. We offer freepost envelopes to all prisoners to help them stay in contact with family or loved ones. Sustaining positive relationships can help people to deal better with their imprisonment, and manage the dark loneliness so often experienced due to the distance from home. Importantly, these family connections can also mean prisoners have somewhere and someone to return to at the end of their sentence.



Packing up newspaper and magazines to be sent overseas
(Photo: Julian Crowe)

THIS IS THE IMPACT WE CREATE

-  Reduce isolation and deprivation and safeguard human rights
-  Maintain health and well-being
-  Increase knowledge and understanding of their situation
-  Relieve boredom and improve mental health
-  Prepare for release when the time comes

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Meetings in France this year have **developed our relationships** with prisons and consuls in the country. Longuenesse prison is our most frequently contacted prison overseas. Our French speaking caseworkers are in almost daily contact with the team of social workers at the prison. By visiting the prison in June and having face-to-face meetings with both staff and prisoners, it has helped to build lines of communication and ensure we are continuing to work effectively together to support British prisoners detained there. More specifically we were able to improve our understanding of the prison conditions, visit booking systems, fund distribution, access to healthcare and the processes around early release. A visit to Paris in November meant we could introduce our services to honorary consuls and meet embassy contacts to discuss our working partnership and prisoner cases.

One of our caseworkers travelled to Madrid in February to **gain in-depth knowledge of the Spanish criminal justice system**. The aim of the training was to provide participants with understanding of the progress of criminal court cases, prison procedures and increase confidence when discussing particular cases with lawyers, courts, law enforcement officers and prison staff. This enables our team to support prisoners in Spain more effectively, despite not providing any legal advice ourselves.

We made a submission to the **UK All Party Parliamentary Group** on deaths abroad and consular services to highlight the fact that since 2004, 76 of Prisoners Abroad's service users have died in prison overseas. This is an average of five people per year. We highlighted our concerns about poor quality (or total lack) of medical treatment available in many parts of the world, and other contributory factors such as poor diet and lack of hygiene which can lead to infection, as well as outlining how we are working to prevent these deaths; working with the British consulates in lobbying for fair and timely treatment; encouraging prisoner transfers to the UK when people seem at high risk; and increasing the consular visits people receive if they are particularly vulnerable.

We updated our '**In Prison Abroad**' booklet which is sent to prisoners once they sign up to be supported by us. This gives them information about all aspects of imprisonment and Prisoners Abroad services.

Behind the scenes consular staff often need fast access to the information and forms we provide to people recently detained in prison. We have **refreshed and updated our website** to increase the effectiveness of our partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This means that they can easily obtain the information we provide on arrest and imprisonment, approaching release and short notice referrals. This is part of our ongoing work to streamline and enhance the cooperation between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Prisoners Abroad so that together we can support British people detained overseas and their families in the best way possible.

We are working with one of our donors to create a **new fund** with flexible criteria to ensure that we can give prisoners the urgent help they need in areas that we weren't able to before.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

 **143** PEOPLE RECEIVED **VITAMIN GRANTS**

Vitamins protect the health of prisoners in countries where food has little nutritional value and prison conditions are poor.

 **343** PEOPLE RECEIVED **SURVIVAL GRANTS** TOTALLING **£85,303**

 **57** PEOPLE RECEIVED **LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL GRANTS**

Many countries do not have basic healthcare available to people in prison so these grants minimise the risk of short and long-term illness.

South East Asia continues to be the region requiring the highest number of medical grants.

LEARNING & WELL-BEING SERVICE


providing practical support to help alleviate the mental health impact of isolation. Last year, we sent:

 **5,312** NEWSPAPERS

 **2,951** MAGAZINES

 **1,798** BOOKS

We send fiction books to individuals and in large packages to prison libraries.

2,951 LANGUAGE GUIDES AND DICTIONARIES 

 **2,888** NEWSLETTERS

Our newsletter is sent three times a year to everyone we are supporting who has access to mail services in prison.

 **2,245** CHRISTMAS CARDS **908** BIRTHDAY CARDS



SIMON'S STORY

Simon was imprisoned in Bulgaria in very difficult conditions.

My first experience of being locked up was in the detention centre at the police station. This was my worst nightmare and the hardest thing I have ever had to deal with. It took me weeks to come to terms with what had happened and the change in my life. I was locked up all day and was only let out to go to the toilet and one hour for a walk and to use the phone – and that's only if you had filled in an application to do so. You only got to take a shower once a week and not for long and laundry once a week. Apart from to see a lawyer and the police I was in my cell with the light on 24 hours a day.

This was my worst nightmare and the hardest thing I have ever had to deal with.

My cell was about two and a half metres by three and a half metres and shared it with two other men. We all smoked and the cell smelt so bad of every smell you can think of and so did we. Not being able to wash or eat properly as the food was awful, a dog would not have eaten it. I was missing my family and friends. I was worried sick about my case and for my family and was as nervous as hell. I was not sleeping, I was stressed out and I'd lost a lot of weight. I was a mess.

I got a visit from my partner who brought me clothes, food, cigarettes, hygiene stuff, photos and some money. Seeing her made me worse.

I did reading, drawing, learning Bulgarian. Having something to do helps, having nothing to do can break you.

A letter came for me a month later to say I was going to Sofia prison. I was still nervous but nowhere near as much as

I used to be. I had stopped smoking but I still did not know if I was doing the right thing by moving. The travel was OK. Me and a few others were handcuffed together in a van and stopped to pick up others along the way. We made it to another prison where we were staying the night on the way. Our bags were checked and were emptied on the table and we were given a blanket and mattress and were put into a room with one other man. I wanted to die it was one bunk bed, one sink and a hole in the ground. By the morning I was bitten all over with bed bugs and there was no time to wash.

Making contacting with Prisoners Abroad is the best thing I've done.

I arrived at the new prison and went through all the relevant checks. The group I was put with were good, I was eating more and had people to talk to. I got to go outside for an hour a day and could eat, cook, read, write and draw when I wanted. As for the prison guards I don't have a problem with them, some are better than others, if you respect them it goes a long way.

Weekends I draw and need to go to see others in the group and phone my boy on a Sunday. I so miss him and the outside life.

Prisoners Abroad has never let me down: I could not have got this far without you.

The British Embassy were the people that told me about Prisoners Abroad when I first came to this place. I contacted Prisoners Abroad the same day. Making contact is the best thing I've done while being in here. Just knowing that somebody cares and is there and wants to help you is one big comfort. You have never let me down and you all deserve a medal for what you do. As for me I cannot thank you all enough, everyone should help to support you as we would be lost without the service you provide. You have made my stay here so much easier and I could not have got this far without you.

COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE HARDER TO REACH

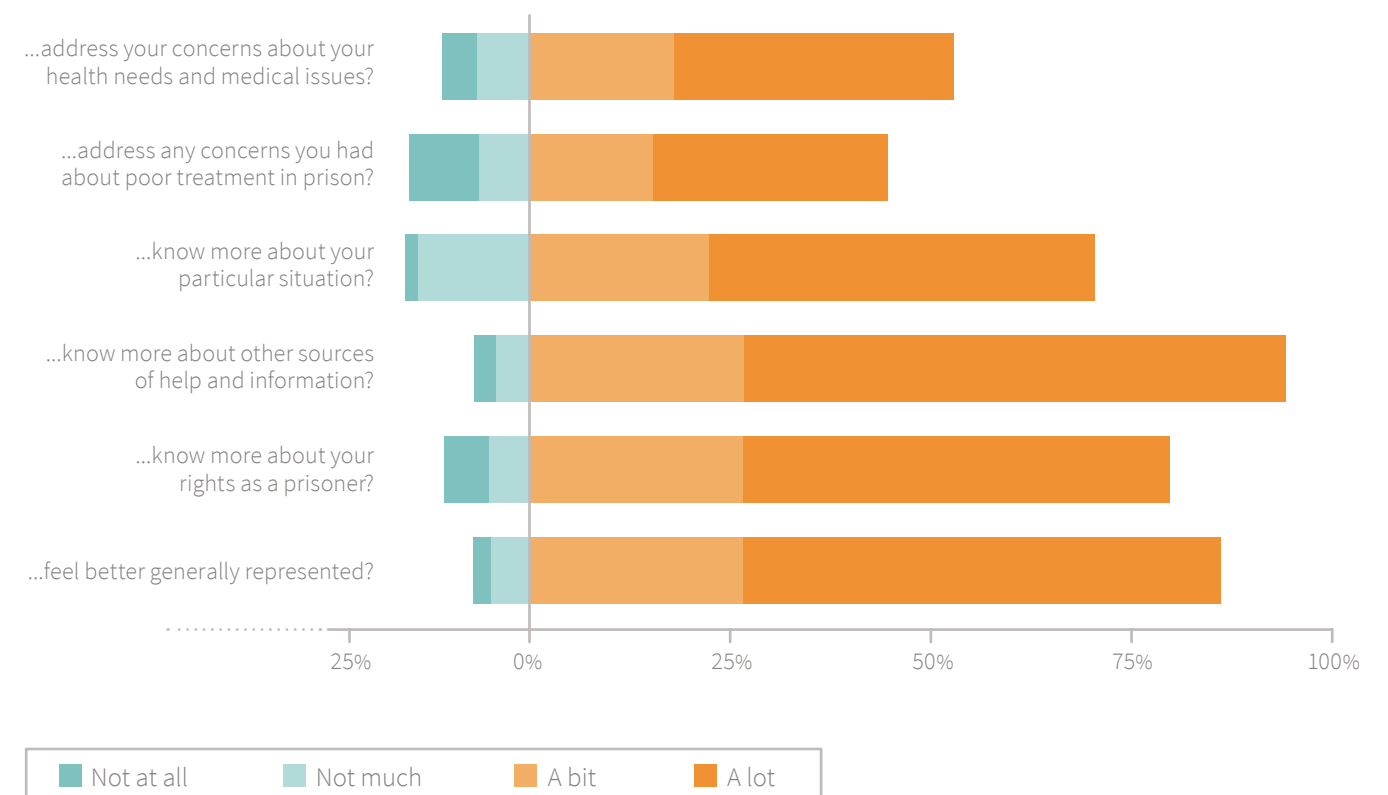
Isolation has one of the greatest impacts on individuals when detained far from the UK. In addition to surviving difficult conditions and being often far from home, issues that exacerbate isolation for people around the world include difficulties communicating with the outside world because of unreliable postal services or internal prison administration problems. We offer freepost envelopes and a letter forwarding service to help maintain and improve communication between prisoners and their families. The language materials we send can also help prisoners communicate with fellow inmates if people are detained in a country where they do not speak the language.

Our fundamental priority is to **protect the human rights of people in prison overseas** through practical support and to ensure our services reach the people who need them, as they are life-saving and life-changing. However, in many

areas this is increasingly hard because of restrictive prison rules that prevent materials reaching our service users. Across Asia we encounter a number of such issues; some areas restrict certain materials getting into the prison and rules can change frequently from prison to prison in some countries which make it hard to know what we are allowed to send. To combat these issues we have created separate mailing rules and guidelines for specific countries and prisons so that we communicate with people as often as we can by sending newsletters, birthday cards and donated books. We also coordinate with British consular staff to ensure we have up-to-date information on whether books, magazines and vitamins are permitted in certain prisons and countries. Additionally, we have translated some of our materials into the local language in some countries so that prison staff know who we are and what we do, which has eased communication.

IMPACT

We asked prisoners how we have helped them deal with their situation and understand more about their needs. We asked: "Has Prisoners Abroad helped you to..."



HELPING FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



1863 FAMILY MEMBERS USED OUR SERVICES | **44%** NEW CASES

There are many challenges that will be encountered when having a relative imprisoned in another country and Prisoners Abroad helps to alleviate some of the difficulties that families face when dealing with this trauma.

We host family information days and support groups throughout the UK during the year. Importantly, we offer a safe non-judgemental space for family members and friends to talk about what they are going through. It is an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation to themselves; finding solidarity in sharing their experience and helping combat the stigma attached to imprisonment.

We aim to reduce the suffering and isolation of this vulnerable and often invisible group, and help alleviate stress. We provide information about foreign prison conditions and criminal justice systems, and our multilingual team provides a wide range of practical and emotional support.



Family support groups help those affected by overseas imprisonment overcome stigma they face (Photo: Julian Crowe)

THIS IS THE IMPACT WE CREATE

- ➡ Reduce isolation and deprivation
- ➡ Increase knowledge of imprisonment
- ➡ Improve emotional well-being and resilience
- ➡ Improve communications between prisoners and families and friends
- ➡ Prepare for prisoners' release when the time comes

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

At family information days throughout the UK speakers from external organisations came to tell us about their work and how they could assist people affected by overseas imprisonment. From the FCO we had consular staff from Spain, France and London, as well as the Head of Assistance Policy and the Vice Consul from Lisbon. They spoke about how consular assistance works to support prisoners and families, as well as discussing their experiences of visiting prisoners. Families Outside in Scotland was able to advise people at the Glasgow group how to access additional support that fall outside of Prisoners Abroad's remit, such as mental health services. Our Bath Support Group Volunteer, Poppy, also presented at a family day and ran a session on coping with loss and change. These talks are to help family members understand their situation better and ways they can support their relative, as well as giving them the tools to deal with the emotional challenges and stigma surrounding imprisonment.

Over the last year we have conducted a review of services throughout the UK and planned to increase the volunteer support groups and family information days. This is due to there being significant numbers of relatives and friends who are based in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey and Essex – who are currently served by the London support group which isn't easily accessible for some people. We are aiming to implement new locations next year to support even more family members facing the challenges of overseas imprisonment of a relative.



Our 'Welcome Home' booklet is there to guide people on the key issues to consider once a relative or friend has been released; information about housing, healthcare and access to benefits. We have refreshed this publication to provide up-to-date information on these critical support areas needed by people when they return to the UK. Our Family Events leaflet has also been updated to offer information on accessibility at event venues and options for childcare to encourage as many family members as possible to attend.

The needs assessment questionnaire conducted by telephone in 2017-18 ascertained what issues family members were facing after release and it was successful in gathering in depth information about specific challenges e.g. financial difficulties and family break-ups. In 2018-19 we used these responses to develop a leaflet called 'After Release' to help guide people how to deal with some of these issues, and the ways in which Prisoners Abroad can help.

New funding has enabled us to employ a part time family support worker who is assisting in the expansion and development of our family work and our learning and well-being programme.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



6 FAMILY INFORMATION DAYS

in Bath, Birmingham, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Peterborough

65 ATTENDEES



25 FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

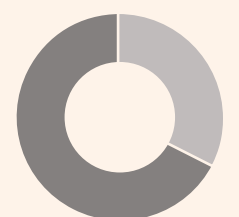
in Bath, Birmingham, London, Manchester and York

90 ATTENDEES



OVER **60%**

attended more than one support group meeting



RACHAEL'S STORY

My Dad spent three years in jail in Australia. It was mid-way through his sentence that he was told that anyone who was not a citizen and who had spent more than 12 months incarcerated, would be deported.

Dad had lived in Australia for 60 years when he was deported back to the UK. His life was and had always been here in Australia. He knew no one back in the UK, had no family left there, had no savings and not much money to his name at all and was just about to turn 77.

My world just collapsed in front of me. I didn't want to lose my Dad. I wanted him to be here with us, see me going through life. I wanted him to walk me down the aisle at my wedding, for him to see me have children, and for him to be around while they were growing up. My Dad was my rock in life, full of experience and wisdom and someone I looked up to. The thought of losing him was incredibly painful. I felt Dad had been isolated enough. Friendships and relationships had already been lost here in Australia; he only had the support of a few people.

Dad being incarcerated was hard enough on us. Even though it was him in prison, I always felt like I was serving a sentence too. Staff gave you little respect, just because you chose to support someone incarcerated, and often you were treated like you had done something wrong too. This in itself was a lonely experience, day by day, pretending to others my life was normal. This saddened me enough, let alone the thought of him being in a country alone.

We were introduced to Prisoners Abroad through word of mouth from another prisoner. After our initial contact in 2016 I had a sense of calm. Prisoners Abroad didn't judge you. They offered a service when no one else wanted to help you. Prisoners Abroad guided us through what Dad needed to do before leaving. This was a completely different world to me. I didn't know the UK systems and processes and trying to find identification and documentation for someone who was currently detained and couldn't make the calls themselves was difficult, let alone someone who hadn't lived there for 60 years.

While Dad was in detention he had some heart issues. This prompted me to make the decision to fly to the UK when we

were notified of Dad's deportation date. A cost I had never dreamed of, and a life here in Australia that I put on hold.

When Dad arrived in the UK we were allocated Rob as our resettlement officer and he was amazing. He made contact with us not long after we landed and within a day we were meeting with him. Rob directed us to the right places and the right people to find a place to live, open a bank account, access medical services and all the things in between.

There were days that just felt like we were going around in circles, but no matter how hard or frustrating things were, Rob was still there supporting us to keep going and not give up. When our days were tough, he would try to find another way to help us. These were some of the biggest challenges, along with knowing that I was due to leave in a few days and I could be leaving Dad homeless still.

Six weeks after landing in the UK, and 12 hours before I was about to fly out, Dad was advised that a unit had been found for him. Unfortunately this was 3 hours outside of London, something unexpected but it was better than what he had currently; nothing. It was by far the hardest day of my life; saying goodbye to my Dad on a London tube as he was off to his new home not knowing when I would see him again.

One of my biggest fears with Dad being deported was isolation. I was scared he would die alone. Dad has now been in the UK for 7 months, and although he is pretty well set up, he is still quite lonely.

We wouldn't be this far if we didn't have the assistance from Prisoners Abroad, and for that I'm so thankful. Rob still touches base with Dad and I'm appreciative of this. I feel comfortable knowing that Dad has support; Rob can answer his questions and point him in the right direction.

Prisoners Abroad has given my Dad a life, they have given him hope that this was not the end and they have given him opportunity, something everyone else, including my own country, had taken away from him. I cannot thank Prisoners Abroad enough, especially Rob, for all they do, not just for my Dad but for everyone else that deserves dignity, equality and hope in life.

GIVING FAMILY MEMBERS A VOICE

We always want to hear from the people we support, to understand how we can help them better through the emotional and practical challenges, as well as listening to their problems. Stigma that people face creates a level of secrecy and prevents them from having a voice.

We are developing new family information days and support groups in both Chelmsford and Liverpool. These safe and non-judgmental spaces offer family members much needed respite from day-to-day worries and the opportunity to speak openly about their situation.

A prominent theme is the stigma surrounding imprisonment, and features in contributions to newsletters and publications, one of which is our family newsletter 'Family Voices'. Other issues that have been discussed include: the impact of imprisonment on the entire family; financial and health issues that people have as a direct result of their loved one's imprisonment; and the challenges of reintegration back into society once their relative has returned to the UK. Being able to share experiences in this way can be cathartic for people and it also gives us useful

insight into their concerns and needs in these situations, so that we can help them overcome the challenges. Seven volunteers have been involved in a new film focusing on our family work and how we help to build connections, 27 people have attended our events throughout the year, sharing their experiences with supporters and helping them to understand the reality of life with a relative in prison. In total 110 service users have been proactively involved in our work in some way, whether writing for a publication, sharing their stories in a fundraising appeal letter or participating in a focus group.

As we continue to develop our services, we have now held two focus groups with family members, talking about isolation and loneliness. This gives people the opportunity to talk honestly about the support we have given them; how it has provided relief from difficulties e.g. suffering from stigma or financial hardship. Their responses and insights help us to ensure our services continue to meet the needs of our service users.

IMPACT

Understanding our service users' needs helps us to refer people to different organisations locally where they live, so that we can encourage families to engage with support available near them.

Focus Group – Loneliness and Isolation

The loneliness described by family members came from the inability to talk openly and honestly about their situation with other people, notably with other family members.

The majority of service users were not 'lonely' in the sense that they had the company of friends, neighbours, colleagues and other family. However, they described how the imprisonment had caused rifts between themselves and other family members who had become very judgmental, not only of the person in prison, but also of them for supporting that person. Some family members refused to talk about the situation at all, meaning some of them had been left entirely alone to deal with the situation.

One service user said the support received from Prisoners Abroad along with the realisation that there are other people in the same situation had been uplifting. This has been invaluable in helping him communicate with his relative in

prison. Many others also said that Prisoners Abroad's non-judgmental approach had helped to reduce their isolation and they did not feel so stigmatised by the issue.



Alan and Sara, prisoner and family support team members
(Photo: Julian Crowe)

HELPING PEOPLE ON RETURN TO THE UK



 **352** EX-PRISONERS USED THE SERVICE

 **46%** NEW CASES

Every year, many people are deported back to the UK at the end of their sentence – often they have lived abroad for a number of years, sometimes decades, and arrive with nothing; no money, nowhere to sleep and very often no family or friends to call on for help.

Our caseworkers help to prepare prisoners for their return to the UK when they are approaching the end of their sentence by sending information and a needs questionnaire. Our resettlement officers work closely with each person who needs our support once they have returned to the UK.

A total of 352 ex-prisoners used the service last year. Of these people, 162 were newly returned. Due to authorities taking a stricter stance on legislation in Australia, we have seen an increase in numbers of people being deported to the UK. We are also seeing an increasing number of people being deported from the US after long periods of incarceration. These returnees tend to need more support than others, as they have


been living out of the UK for many years and usually have no connections left here, making it harder for them to integrate into society.

People returning to the UK from prison overseas are at the greatest risk of street homelessness and destitution. Our crisis service helps them to access accommodation, first of all temporary and later permanent, and access to the welfare system for benefits and healthcare, specialist training and employment services. This is crucial work with a particularly vulnerable and marginalised group of people to keep them off the street and provide them with opportunities to change their lives.

THIS IS THE IMPACT WE CREATE


 Prevent street homelessness and destitution

 Provide a second chance to rebuild a crime-free life

 Reduce isolation

 Prepare for employment

 Improve health and well-being

 Increase knowledge and understanding of their situation

 Enable access to UK social support system

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We have successfully piloted the **Online Network** which is for resettlement service users to access round the clock support and advice through discussion forums. It offers a platform for people to talk about issues they might be facing and give support to others through their own experience. The platform is monitored by resettlement staff and we encourage people to use it as much as possible. We were pleased to have a service user deliver IT support to other network users at a support group meeting, and the resettlement team offers additional IT support when needed. We have found that lack of access to the internet and minimal IT skills make it challenging for some people to use easily but these are very important skills for people to learn and increasingly an essential part of daily life.

In addition to our regular support group, we are now running the new '**Rebuild Support Group**' every other month. The group focuses on people who have recently moved into permanent accommodation. Every meeting has a theme which addresses a relevant topic; isolation, getting to know your area, housing issues etc. We also introduce the topic beforehand on the online resettlement network so that people who attend are prepared to discuss the topic in depth.



Our resettlement team greet returnees on arrival at our office in Finsbury Park (Photo: Julian Crowe)

A new booklet has been developed specifically for female service users when they are still in prison and preparing to return to the UK. The booklet is called '**Your Journey**' and contains information on issues such as separation, coming home to family, recovery, building self esteem and other issues from and for a female perspective.

We have developed **new partnerships** with organisations for young people (New Horizons, Switchback), women (Minerva) and to promote creativity for ex-prisoners (Fine Cell Work), in order to help our service users with a wide range of specific and tailored support. We have also strengthened our relationship with the Department of Work and Pensions since the rollout of Universal Credit in Islington (our local borough), which is especially important as many people rely on this money in order to start living independently.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

 **£89,178**
FOR EMERGENCY
ACCOMMODATION

 **£26,380**
FOR FOOD

 **£25,621**
IN EMERGENCY
GRANTS FOR TRAVEL

 **£36,063**
IN GRANTS FOR
HOUSING DEPOSITS
due to difficulties
securing social housing

 **£2,240**
FOR PASSPORTS
Essential identity for bank
accounts, welfare and jobs

Much of this critical support activity preventing destitution was able to happen because of the

**CITY BRIDGE
TRUST LONDON
HARDSHIP FUND**

NIKOL'S STORY



(Photo: Julian Crowe)

In 1977, Nikol left England when just 5 years old and moved to the US. She grew up in the States, met her partner and got married. Not long into the marriage she became a victim of domestic violence and dealing with physical and emotional abuse she became addicted to drugs to deal with it.

She was caught committing fraud by using a fake cheque.

Nikol has said that prison both physically saved her but mentally destroyed her at the same time.

After serving 10 months in a prison in Florida, Nikol was taken to an immigration detention centre and spent 9 months there – awaiting deportation to a country she knew nothing of since the age of 5. She was moved around various different camps and would watch people being dragged out of their cells on a daily basis, crying and shouting. These people were being deported too.

There were so many hold ups due to paperwork, which took its toll on Nikol. People around her being chained up, being sick, screaming about their situation, but there was nothing anyone could do. Nikol was suffering from mental health problems – repercussions from the mental abuse, not helped by being treated in a degrading way. She felt abandoned, then while waiting in detention, Nikol found out that her mother had passed away. It just added to the trauma she was dealing with.

I didn't have time to be weak. I still have moments of weakness now, but I have to be strong for other women like me."

The day finally came when the documents had been accepted and the deportation was going through. One of her daughters had got in touch with Prisoners Abroad from the consulate in Orlando, the fact that we knew she was coming offered Nikol and her family much needed reassurance during this challenging time.

When she was put on the plane by US officers, she had the clothes she was wearing and a handbag, nothing else. Once she landed she came straight to Prisoners Abroad and was met by Nadine, a resettlement officer.

Nadine met me with such a welcome that it made me tearful, grateful and relieved."

Nikol still faced many uncertainties, but she knew she was safe which she hadn't felt for sometime. Nikol said that our support helped to restore her and feel secure again. She says she feels like she is living again now, but is still healing. Nadine was able to help her get access to healthcare which was really important during those first few days. It helped her to take control of her mental health rather than it controlling her.

They impart no judgment but instead help people when they need it most."

The housing process continues to be frustrating for many people on return to the UK, but Nadine helped Nikol through it and found somewhere short term and later somewhere more permanent and suitable.

The help that Prisoners Abroad has given me has helped me to deal with everyday life, which in some ways has been the biggest struggle."

She has said that the community feel of meeting others at Prisoners Abroad's support groups has helped her deal with her own situation better, knowing that others are going through it too. The community can give the security of a family when real family are so far away. Nikol is now following her head as well as her heart and giving back to society in the UK through teaching and volunteering.

I owe it all to Prisoners Abroad, they caught me before I fell too far."

THROUGH THE GATE

Over the last year we have developed a new element to our work, supporting people 'through the gate' which is preparing them for release from prison, while they are still there. Primarily, the service is to ensure people don't fall through the gap during the transition from prison to life back in the UK. We explain our support and services in a clear way so people know how we can help them and what to expect.

Our resettlement officer who gives this support, Amber, contacts service users in prison overseas between 10 and 12 weeks prior to their release. We initially send a letter introducing our resettlement service and the help we can offer, along with our 'Coming Home' booklet which gives a lot more detail about the ways we are able to support people after release e.g. finding emergency accommodation, applying for welfare benefits and employment.

The first contact offers a great deal of relief to people who know they will have to adapt to life not only outside prison, but in a different country, often hundreds or thousands of miles from anyone they know.

Amber's sound advice and clear thinking made it all seem easy, and I took everything she said seriously, like a fresh pair of eyes." A RESETTLEMENT SERVICE USER

Many people have not lived in the UK for a number of years and London is not a familiar place. We ensure people are fully aware of Heathrow Travel Care; the agency that is their first stop when landing in the UK. From here, they travel to our offices in Finsbury Park.



Our resettlement team at work (Photo: Julian Crowe)

One of the crucial elements of this service is to ensure people have a realistic expectation of what we can provide on their return. We give detailed information to consular staff so that they can communicate the realities of what returnees can access, and other areas that might be a challenge. We are in daily contact with consular staff about who will be released and make sure each person is as ready as they can be. We also work hard to ensure people have their medical records with them when they get back to the UK as it makes the process of accessing healthcare a lot quicker. Consular staff who are in the country of detention help us to understand the situation each person is in, as no two cases are the same.

This service is not just to provide reassurance to people in prison, but helps their relatives and friends as well. We reassure them that they won't be facing this challenging time alone as we will be there to support them.

IMPACT

We asked overseas prisoners what they consider to be the most useful aspect of Prisoners Abroad's resettlement service:



A PRISONER IN AUSTRALIA

"Allaying the anguish and fear of resettlement is the most useful aspect. Understanding there is a support network in place upon arrival will help reduce the concern of isolation."



A PRISONER IN USA

"The 'Coming Home' booklets and newsletters. They teach survival tactics more than anything."



A PRISONER IN CANADA

"For me just knowing I won't be left on my own upon possible release and that I will have help to navigate the social system, housing etc."

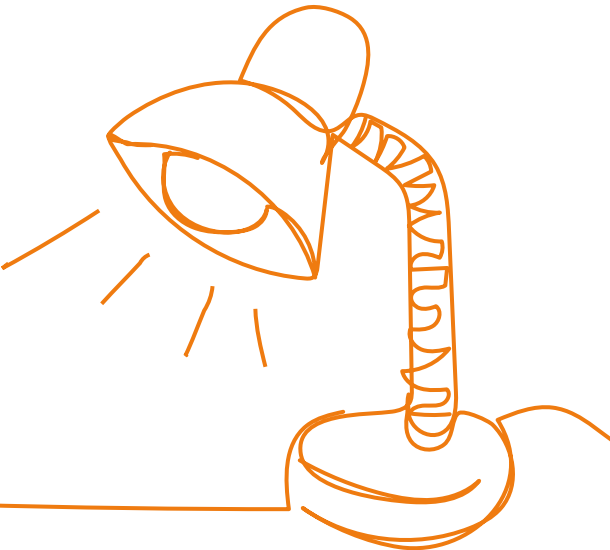


SPOTLIGHT

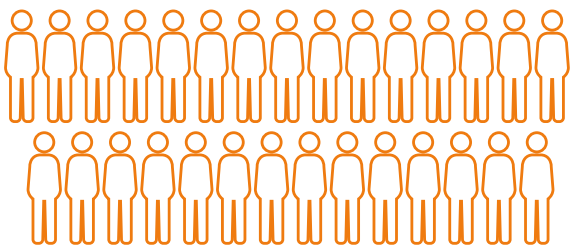
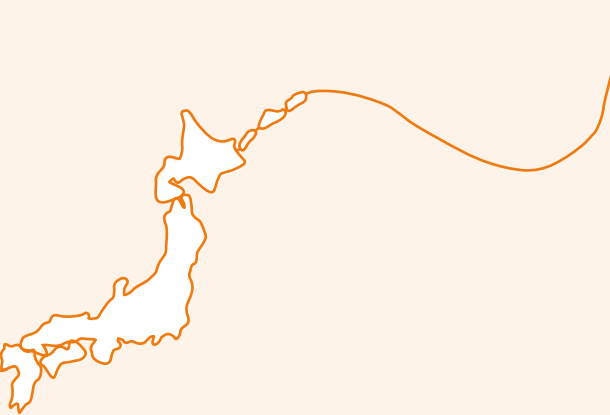


I SIMPLY CANNOT STRESS HOW VALUABLE THE SERVICE IS. HAVING SOMEONE TO REACH OUT TO IS LITERALLY SAVING LIVES. WITHOUT THESE PEOPLE, I DREAD TO THINK HOW I'D COPE."

A PRISONER IN SPAIN



SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN



IN 2018-19 WE SUPPORTED **29 PRISONERS**

“Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all the help that you have given me over the past 6 years. You have helped me translate documents; sent me magazine subscriptions that helped pass the time in pre-trial solitary; provided me with educational books so I can begin a new life upon my release; and most important of all, you have given me a little peace of mind in all the mayhem just by being there. No matter what happened I always knew that there was a small group of people thinking of me, and my fellow inmates around the world. [This] helped hold back despair [and] get through some of the darkest hours of my life. Prisoners Abroad is a lantern in the storm: you provide a lifeline for us prisoners lost at sea with no land in sight.”

A PRISONER IN JAPAN



SINCE 2013 **16 PRISONERS** HAVE TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE UK FROM JAPAN

DRUG-RELATED CASES



WOMEN PRISONERS



“Thank you for everything you’ve done for me – all of your information on the transfer process, transgender treatments available in prison, emotional support and good counsel, the magazines and books – they’ve helped me cope in here and I’m so grateful to you. The sense of accomplishment I felt knowing that my story then helped you to raise money for all the amazing good works you do, gave me such a glow. Knowing you were there was enough for me somehow. It reassured me that there were people out there who didn’t know me who would accept me for who I am and not judge me. It gave me hope for the future and still does. Thank you for that.”

A PRISONER IN JAPAN

SPOTLIGHT ON FRANCE



France is one of our nearest neighbouring countries and is our closest border. Last year British people in France made up 7% of our overseas cases, yet it remains the busiest country for our team of caseworkers.

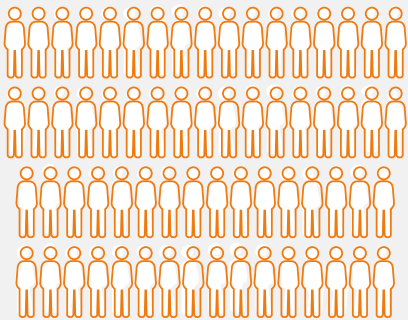
France has a completely different judicial system which for many is hard to understand. The different language immediately creates a barrier; the sudden isolation and exclusion leaves relatives or friends of those in prison without communication at a time when they are desperate to know what is happening.

For France the amount of information and support that families require is greater than for many other countries due to the relative proximity of the prisoners and the greater scope for frequent visits. Relatively short sentences coupled with high turnover of cases needing continued support throughout the period of detention, from arrest right through to release, mean that our work with cases in France is complex and very demanding.

People smuggling is an offence that, tragically, is becoming increasingly common. We dealt with 84 cases of non-drug related smuggling last year. 71 of these were in France and only three of these did not involve smuggling people.

THERE WERE **66 NEW CASES** IN FRANCE IN 2018

(the second highest number in the last 15 years)



KHALID’S STORY

“I was sentenced to three years in prison in France for people smuggling. From the start it was very hard as I didn’t know the language. Visits were difficult and rare and I instantly felt isolated. It was a challenge coming to terms with my situation. I became rather depressed as the solitary life started to take its toll on me, and I lost my appetite. I lost 12 kilos in two weeks. I could see people through the window of the prison and I wondered when that would be me, when I would be free again.

“I was allowed about 2 hours out of the cell a day which wasn’t much but I made the best of it. Work was available but you needed to know the language so I had to study instead. I chatted to inmates to help me manage my loneliness and to break down the isolation in some way.

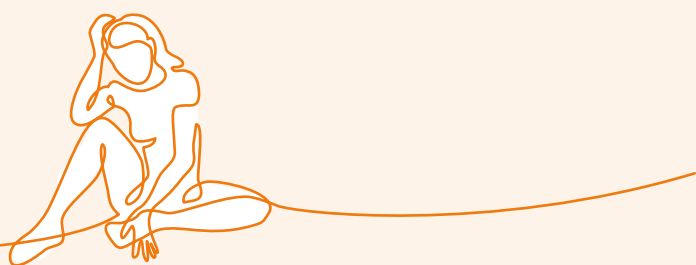
“The embassy visited me and told me about Prisoners Abroad. They got in touch with me and sent me envelopes and newsletters and cards. Without them

I wouldn’t have been able to contact my family. They cared about me. I built more power within myself and more patience and started thinking ahead. My family believed in me which really helped me get through the 20 months without them.

“Without Prisoners Abroad I don’t think I would have been able to get through what happened to me. I thank them with my life.”

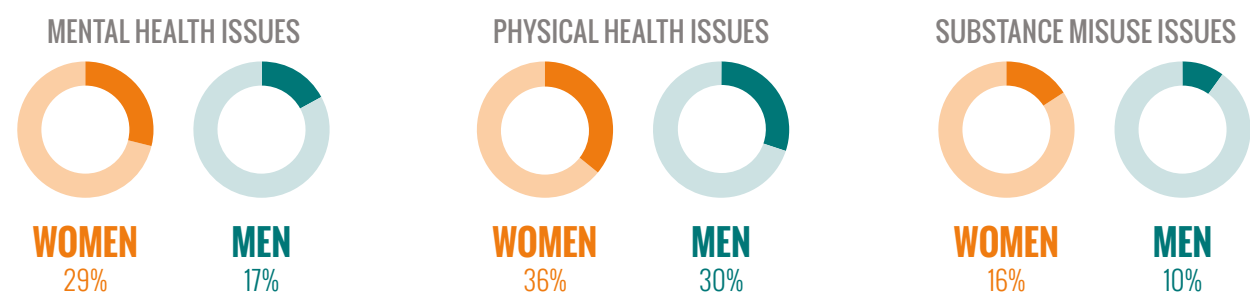
“When I was released it felt great to be able to go back to my family, but it got harder as I tried to find work and reintegrate into society. In some ways it is like being in prison outside of prison. Finding work with a criminal record certainly has its challenges but I have found a job now so I am doing OK. I am trying my best to forget about being in prison, but have used the experience to become a better person and I now feel like a stronger person.”

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN



There have always been more men in prison compared to women. Because of this, prison systems are built for men, and women's needs are not always taken into account.

DIFFERENT NEEDS OF WOMEN AND MEN

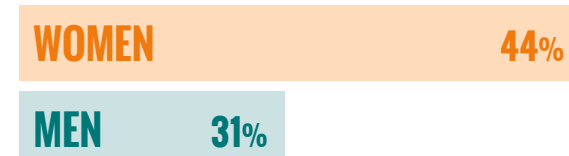


The need for a different approach to women's imprisonment has been acknowledged by the United Nations; although certain rules have been put in place about the treatment of women in prison, the reality is that being in prison creates challenges and concerns whatever the regime may be.

In 2008 we saw a huge increase in women being used for drug trafficking in the Caribbean and South America.

Since then drug routes have changed and possibly new demographics have been targeted, resulting in a significant drop in female prisoners for Prisoners Abroad. However we still see a greater proportion of women than men are imprisoned for drug-related offences.

PROPORTION IMPRISONED FOR DRUG OFFENCES



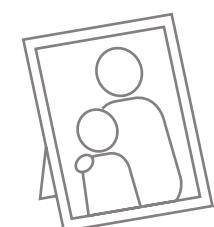
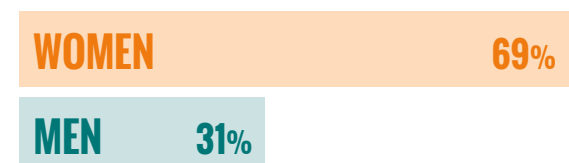
In global figures, the number of women in prison has gone up significantly; since 2000 we have seen a rise of more than 50% worldwide, while the male population increased by just 20%.

In 2017, there were more than 700,000 women and girls in prison throughout the world. Over 200,000 were in prison in the US alone. However, the number of women in prison is still small compared to 10.35 million men that are in prison.*

INCREASE IN PRISON POPULATION



FAMILY MEMBERS HELPED LAST YEAR



OF **1,863** FAMILY MEMBERS HELPED LAST YEAR, **69% WERE WOMEN**

*Walmsley, R. 2015. World Female Imprisonment List. Institute for Criminal Policy Research



The greatest acts of courage I have seen are how women support each other through challenges of imprisonment and deportation. Our ability to stand together is our greatest strength as women."

UMME, RESETTLEMENT OFFICER

HOW WE HELP WOMEN



Even though the number of women in prison we are supporting has decreased, the women we are helping continue to face challenges. With global prison systems built for men, there are many things that women have difficulty with; hygiene, pregnancy, and a higher susceptibility to physical and mental health issues. We support women in a number of ways to help protect their dignity and well-being.



HEALTH

Women can experience a range of symptoms during their monthly cycle; cramps, headaches, mood swings. Having to deal with this every month can be a nuisance for many women, let alone if you are in prison with very little privacy. We can provide funds for sanitary products for women in prison and on return to the UK, as well as contribute towards medical costs to help make dealing with health in prison a little easier.



PREGNANT AND IN PRISON

Being pregnant in prison comes with a whole range of issues and concerns. Prison systems are not normally designed for children or mothers-to-be, so women might have many unanswered questions and are likely to have to go through these things alone. In some prisons, after giving birth the baby can stay with the mother for a certain amount of time. Depending on where someone is in the world and what their circumstances are, we are sometimes able to send extra funds to pay for food, vitamins and medical care, we can also provide information on how to stay healthy. As the child gets older we can also send activities for the child such as puzzles and colouring books.



ON RETURN TO THE UK

We run a female-only support group where people can discuss privately and confidentially any difficulties they may face on return to the UK, it gives the opportunity to share information and experiences with others. We also have an Online Women's Network where women can share what they've been through in a safe, anonymous and confidential space.



It's so nice to have an outlet for just women. It's a place where we can talk safely. The regular mixed support meetings are helpful, but the women's support group deals with issues that are just for us – I love it!"

KAREN, SERVICE USER

(Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com)





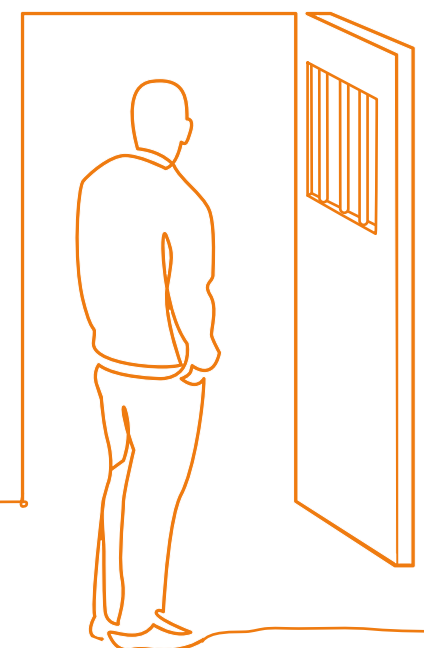
Maison d'arrêt of Villepinte (Île de France) Bernard Bolze CGLPL

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS



THANK YOU AGAIN FOR REMINDING ME THAT THERE IS A BETTER WORLD WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CONCRETE WALLS AND RAZOR WIRE."

PRISONER IN PORTUGAL





PRISONERS ABROAD: LOOKING FORWARD

OVERSEAS



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Provide a more flexible, tailored and proactive support service

For those whose circumstances are acute our response needs to be swift. This means using our service delivery partnership with the FCO to get people the help they need – a grant for food and clean water, advocacy support, to challenge allegations of torture and mistreatment or to assess health needs amongst others. Ensuring that people who are most vulnerable get appropriate help and increased support from our learning and well-being services.

Improve our contact with those who are hard to reach

Overcoming communication barriers is critical in ensuring people get the right support. Developing and extending our grant programmes to reach further and safeguard more people by providing the resources and materials such as phone cards so that people can communicate with their families.

Gather more information on people we support and their prison conditions

Collecting and collating prison information from around the world will help us to tailor our services for new service users and have better informed preparation for release. An information repository could contain details from debriefing information from returning service users and case studies amongst other sources of information.

PLANS FOR 19-20

- ➡ Expand our capabilities for supporting prisoners with a more flexible grant criteria for those who are struggling but whose needs don't fit into our usual grant programmes.
- ➡ Review our factsheets and information to reflect the new reality of Brexit.
- ➡ Develop written materials and web content on the theme of loneliness and isolation, to reduce the impact these issues have on the mental health of our service users.

Roanne Detention Centre in France, Bernard Bolze CGLPL



FAMILY



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Increase the number of family members and friends we help

Increasing the number of family members we reach is a real challenge because of the stigma around imprisonment. We know that our online family network, family information days and regional support groups can be immensely helpful for those who participate. We want to increase the number of information events and create new support groups which will broaden our geographic reach.

Improve our contact with those who are hard to reach

Families and friends can experience times of great need and providing extra support to those who are hard to reach, the most isolated and vulnerable, is vital. Developing a telephone support programme, travel grants for prison visiting and signposting to specialist agencies would all help achieve to this.

Increase the involvement of people we help in service design and development

Increasing the evaluation we do with families and friends and holding more feedback sessions will identify service gaps, adjust existing support services and help to design new ones. This will ensure we continue to meet the needs of people who have different issues and challenges.

PLANS FOR 19-20

- ➡ Establish family support groups and family information days in Liverpool and Brighton.
- ➡ Pilot a telephone support service with trained volunteers.
- ➡ Review the impact of our project on isolation and loneliness.

RESETTLEMENT

WELCOME

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Provide a more tailored service based on need and vulnerability

Greater preparation for release will ensure the acute needs of returning prisoners are met through our grant programmes and our network of partnerships in health and housing prior to the UK's welfare system taking over. Longer term support for returnees would help relieve their isolation after their arrival and thereby their mental health too.

Offer a crime-free future through reintegration with society

By building the confidence of returnees through preparing them for the workplace, providing support groups, and equipping them with information, we can improve their reintegration with society. We will continue our network of relationships with other agencies to promote a positive and crime-free future.

PLANS FOR 19-20

- ➡ Strengthen and develop pre-release assessment and information gathering.
- ➡ Strengthen and develop resettlement pathways, our structure for supporting people on return to the UK.
- ➡ Once established in accommodation improve chance of maintaining tenancies to avoid repeat homelessness.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE **PAULINE CROWE OBE**

The 40th anniversary of Prisoners Abroad was a moment to celebrate the hard work of so many volunteers and staff and to acknowledge the achievements of Joe Parham and our founders. We reconnected with some people we had lost touch with and had opportunities to make new friends – we were delighted when Simon Callow CBE agreed to be the voice of our Radio 4 appeal.

However the anniversary was a sharp reminder that the issues we work with will never simply disappear.

“Ensuring that we are here for the long term is vital as our work saves lives and it changes people’s futures.”

For prisoners overseas we must remain sensitive to different needs in different countries. To do so we need to increase the capacity of our evaluation work and continue reaching out to people who are the most vulnerable by increasing our multi-lingual team of caseworkers. More resources would also enable us to visit to assess conditions and trouble-shoot any problems. We could also collect data for our information repository – the creation of this is another of our ambitions.

Next year we will continue the development of our volunteer-led family groups around the country with three new groups.

The resettlement service continues to build on the success of the Work Preparation Programme, and expanding its network of partnership organisations. Our increased focus on preparation for release has improved the way people can access the services they need – health, housing etc. Our ambition is to be able to work with people for longer – beyond the trauma of immediate return to support their reintegration to the UK and in some cases to their families, more effectively.

Three years ago we moved office – thank goodness we did or we could not have dealt with the influx of resettlement service users from Australia. It required considerable planning and investment of our reserves which we are now rebuilding. We move into our fifth decade able to reassure our service users that they can rely on the support we provide – this is far more important to people in prison than those of us on the outside can ever realise.

Next year will include the recruitment processes for our next Chair of Trustees and some other trustees too whose terms of office expire. Their dedication and commitment is demonstrated in so many ways – as volunteers, as donors and they each lend us their skills and experience as well as their time, attention and guidance. As always we are immensely grateful for all they have contributed and look forward to working with their successors.

ABOUT US

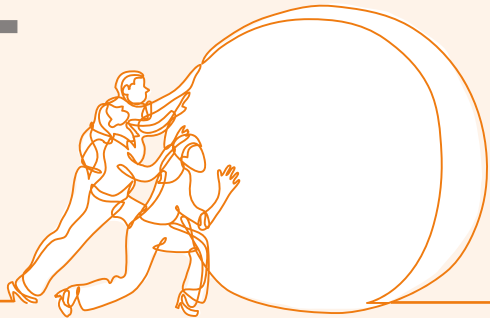


YOU HAVE ALWAYS TREATED ME WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY, NEVER JUDGED ME OR QUESTIONED MY PAST. THIS HAS GIVEN ME AN OUTLET TO UNBURDEN MY SOUL.”

A SERVICE USER RETURNED FROM USA

(Photo: Julian Crowe)

OUR TEAM WORKS TIRELESSLY TO MAKE OUR VISION AND MISSION A REALITY.



OUR VISION

That people survive imprisonment overseas with dignity and hope.

OUR MISSION

To provide a lifeline for British citizens and their families during and after overseas imprisonment.

OUR PURPOSE

To safeguard the welfare and human rights of British citizens detained overseas.

To reduce the isolation and deprivation experienced by both prisoners overseas and their families.

To prevent destitution and street homelessness among British citizens returning from overseas and give them a second chance to rebuild their lives.

We can only deliver our mission with dedicated and well-motivated staff and volunteers. We continue to invest in our people to do the best they can, using their caring, passion and knowledge. We do this by supporting them with training and technology.

Last year we ran multiple training sessions to equip the team in dealing with practical and emotional challenges they may face at work. Twelve service delivery staff took part in mental health awareness training. Seven caseworkers completed training with the Samaritans about use of language, as much of our contact with prisoners is by letter. Seven caseworkers were trained by Families Outside on working with family members of serious offenders. Five resettlement workers received training from Child Poverty Action Group about Universal Credit. One caseworker attended external media training. Three digital training sessions were attended by our Communications team. Our office move in 2017 increased the safety and security of staff and service users working together at our office in Finsbury Park. We now have five trained first-aiders on site, representing 20% of our staff. Since the relaunch of our website 18 months ago we have maximised our use of digital technology and trained staff to create and update online content and information to help them work more efficiently.

We work positively against unfair discrimination across the world by ensuring as many external agencies as possible that we work with, provide appropriate advice and support to our service users whilst in prison. In the UK we dispute councils' unwillingness to house people and challenge the habitual residency test.

We are proud to work alongside motivated and dedicated volunteers to help to deliver our work with their expertise and enthusiasm.



SAFEGUARDING AND GOVERNANCE

We understand the importance of safeguarding and continue to assess and revise our policies on working with vulnerable adults and seeking to ensure personal safety of staff so that these policies deliver clarity and reassurance to everyone involved with the charity.

Governance is important at Prisoners Abroad. We continue to invest in our high-quality leadership – Trustees and senior managers. Our Trustees (including three ex-service users) not only attend the quarterly Board meetings but also two additional days per year to focus on strategy and key issues and updates. We are implementing the Governance Code; are proud of our clean audit record and also continue to identify and manage organisational risk. Following an initial review of the Governance Code we have created a Working Group of Trustees which will prioritise and monitor our progress.

Finding your way around London can be a real challenge for newly returned service users
(Photo: Julian Crowe)

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

Protecting human rights is critical in ensuring our world is fair and just.

Deprivation of liberty is the punishment so when imprisonment starts rehabilitation should begin and the human rights of the individual should be upheld and respected. We strive to protect the human rights of our service users in every eventuality and through all areas of our work. Other organisations campaign hard for laws to be changed and human rights issues to be addressed which is crucial. But importantly, we provide a practical response to human rights concerns, and work with our human rights advisor to address these for our service users at every opportunity.

While charities continue to be scrutinised for the way they are run and the help they are offering, we remain confident in the way we work with our service users and how we spend the donations from so many people and organisations. Our trustees care passionately about our work and we take our responsibilities very seriously to ensure we create the greatest impact we can for our service users with the money that is donated by individuals, charitable trusts and tax payers.



ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

An internal piece of research was conducted by Oliver Wyman through its social impact programme to evaluate our resettlement service. They looked at our costs in working with people who would otherwise be homeless, unemployed and at far greater risk of reoffending. They calculated that our resettlement services provide a cost saving to Britain of over £3.5 million per annum. Our resettlement service offers support to a particularly vulnerable group of people with immediate needs. We are grateful to Oliver Wyman for this valuable report.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN RICHARD PRICE



During this period of so much political instability, our 40th anniversary provided us with a timely reminder from our service users (British prisoners overseas, their families and those who return after years away from the UK) of how much they need and rely on Prisoners Abroad's support in their lives over often extremely long periods of time. So we need to be here well into the future.

As a Board of Trustees we know that a key part of our role is to ensure the sustainability of the organisation, a responsibility that we take seriously as we strive to achieve best practice in all areas of our governance. We care deeply about the work we do and its impact on our service users and we aim to ensure that Prisoners Abroad operates effectively so that it continues to be worthy of public support. We owe this to our service users and to our funders and supporters without whom we wouldn't exist at all.

Transparency is a fundamental element of building both trust and long term relationships with the people and organisations that support us as we seek to deliver much needed high quality services. It is heartening and reassuring to know that, at a time when the emphasis on governance plays such a large part in the in-depth reviews undertaken before large grants are awarded, that Prisoners Abroad is being supported by key funders such as the National Lottery Community Fund and Comic Relief. It is also encouraging that our auditors have not found any management issues to raise in their reports in recent years which means that our financial systems are working well and our scrutiny is being applied in the right way.

However recent scandals highlighted in the media help to remind us of the vital importance of maintaining good governance. Therefore we continue to review our processes and procedures that assess risk, safeguard our service users, volunteers and staff and check our progress against the Governance Code

I am most grateful to the members of the Board of Trustees for their commitment and involvement in the governance of Prisoners Abroad.

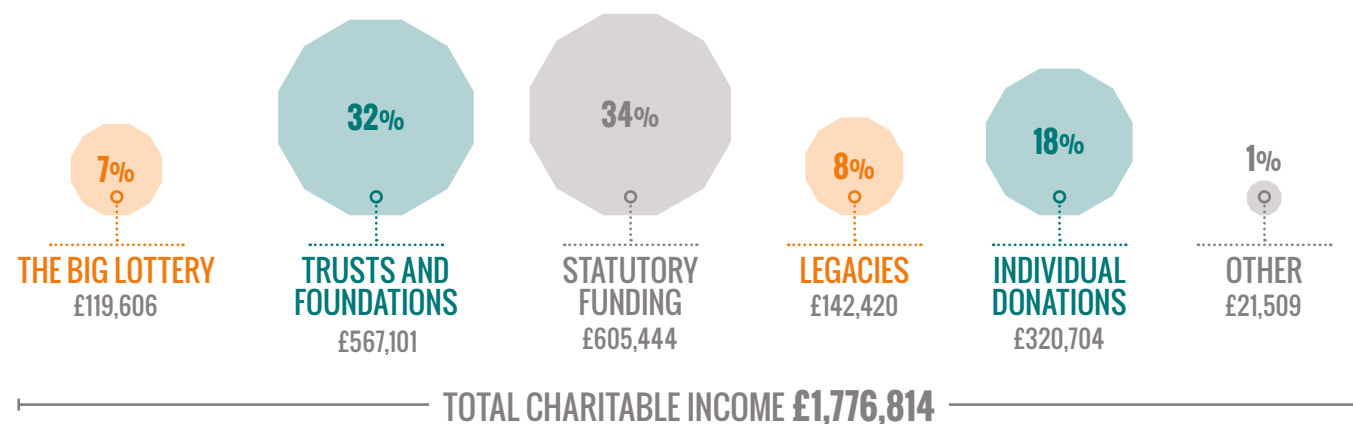
(Photo: Julian Crowe)



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



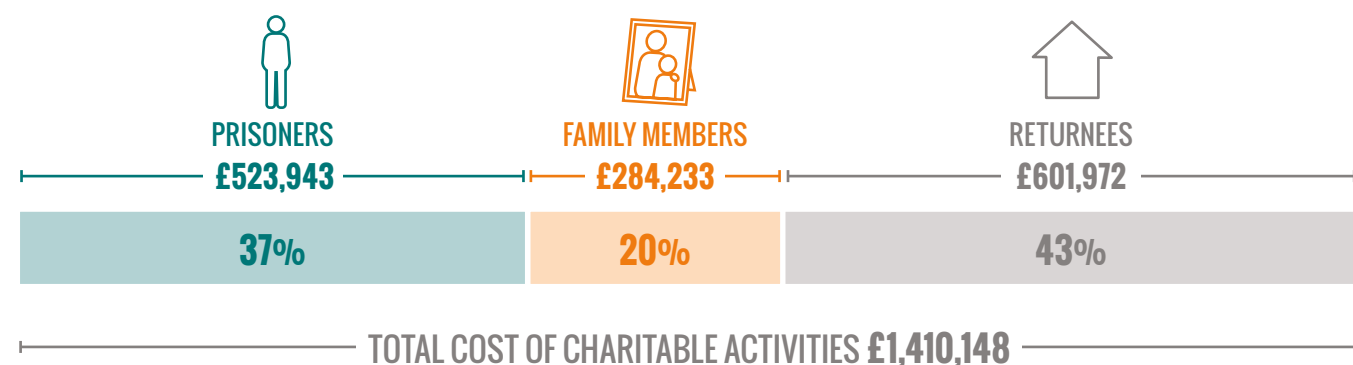
HOW YOU CONTRIBUTED



HOW WE SPENT OUR INCOME



WHO WE HELPED



THANK YOU



Thank you to the generous people who have each made a significant contribution to help save and improve lives.

Chris and Rhondda Barney	Tim Denham	Ed Knox and Jo Walton	Dick and Stella Stroud
Guy Beringer CBE and Margaret Beringer	Kate Dugdale	Lynda Martin Alegi	Nick and Hilary Studer
Lady Diana Brittan	Paul Double	Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury	Rev. John Wates OBE JP and Mrs Carol Wates
Lady Biddy Brooke	Catherine and Guy English	Neil Osborn	Justin Watts
Lord and Lady Charles Cecil	Kevin Fitzgerald CMG	Sarah and Philip Richards	Stuart Wheeler
Oliver and Barbara Clauson	Michael Gray	Linda Ridgers-Waite	Yvonne Williamson
Professor Jeremy Cooper	Robert Hayward OBE	Harry Scott	Sir David Wootton
Pauline Crowe OBE	Gaynor and Edward Humphreys	Fiona Shaw and Bob Hallewell	
	Stephen Jones	The Lady Slynn of Hadley	

Thank you to the following people for their time, support and generosity.

Anne	Devres	Imogen Hill	Nikol	Our Student Brand Ambassadors
Barry	Terry Dunne	Horace	Joe Parham	Nick Studer
Romha Berhane	Matthew Fallon	John Hutchings OBE	David Parkinson	Susan
Rachel Boser	Kevin Fitzgerald CMG	Kapil	Alistair Romanes	Tim
Simon Callow	Helen Ford	Lynn	John Rose	Dulcie Walker
Julian Crowe	Kate Fraser	Harold Mozley	Lily Ross	Sir David Wootton
Daryl	Nick Hardwick CBE	Mark Natanawan	Paul Sizeland CMG	
Desmond	Harvey	Lindsey Naylor	Fiona Shaw	

Thank you to the following trusts, foundations and other organisations that have made so much of our work possible in 2018-19.

The Aldo Trust	Fitton Trust	Oakdale Foundation
Baker and Mackenzie	The Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Oliver Wyman
The Bluston Charitable Settlement	Gilbert Edgar Trust	The Persula Foundation
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust	G M Morrison	The Royal Marsden Conference Centre
Charles Hayward Foundation	Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service	Sir James Reckitt Charity
City Bridge Trust	Hogan Lovells	Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
Constance Travis Charitable Trust	Jessie Spencer Trust	Stationers Hall
D G Charitable Settlement	Langdale Trust	The Tolkien Trust
Edith and Ferdinand Porjes Charitable Trust	The Leigh Trust	The Travellers Club
Edith Murphy Foundation	Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust	The Tregelles Trust
Elizabeth Frankland Moore and Star Foundation	National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities	Souter Charitable Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	National Lottery Community Fund and her Majesty's Government: Building Connections Fund	Tory Family Foundation
Evan Cornish Foundation		The Valentine Charitable Trust

Thank you to the following people who have pledged a legacy gift in their will. Their generosity will help ensure that people affected by overseas imprisonment can be supported long into the future.

Chris and Rhondda Barney	Ian Cox	Mrs H A Lewis	Simon Taylor
Sir Martin Berthoud	Catherine and Julian Demetriadi	Linda Marsh and Patrick Smith	John and Irene Walters
Dr. Brian Block	Kevin Fitzgerald, CMG	Maureen Parker	Anne Woollett
Alison Capey	Helen Ford	Ian Proctor	
Mary Catterall		Fiona Shaw and Bob Hallewell	

Thank you to all our volunteer translators breaking down language barriers for families negotiating overseas prison systems; and everyone who has sent in books, magazines and Christmas cards that help to show people overseas that they are not alone. And thank you to our Trustees and Patrons for their expertise, commitment and passion for our work.



Eppie, a caseworker (Photo: Julian Crowe)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS



FINANCIAL REVIEW

We were pleased to end the year with an overall surplus of £29,841. Our income increased slightly over last year (by just over £5,000) to a total of £1,777,602.

The 40th anniversary enabled us to do a number of activities to celebrate the people who have supported our work as volunteers, donors, partner organisations and staff, not least of these was the BBC Radio 4 appeal, read by Simon Callow CBE and match-funded by a long term trust funder. These activities were reflected in the increased income from individuals by over £75,000.

We continue to be grateful to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office not only for its financial support of our overseas work and our Human Rights Advisor post, but for enabling us to host our 40th anniversary reception in the Locarno Suite with both Minister Harriett Baldwin, MP and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, MP present.

A number of generous supporters left us legacies in their wills during this year which are so important for us to be able to continue our life-saving work both now and into the future.

This year we have seen that the proportion of restricted income continues to increase from 50% in 2017-18 to 65% in 2018-19. This includes the grants from HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and a number of grants from some of the charitable trusts. We value their ongoing support for our important work.

We have continued our National Lottery Community Fund grant which still has three more years to run for the Rebuilding Troubled Lives Project. We are now in the final months of our City Bridge Trust grant which will finish during the next financial year. These two grants have enabled us to tackle the issues of homelessness and access to basic welfare services for Britons returning to London from overseas imprisonment and the support we have provided has transformed their lives and offered them hope for the future.

A new two-year grant has started courtesy of the Building Connections Fund run by the National Lottery Community Fund and HM Government. This is part of the government's strategy on loneliness prevention. It is focused on our family support work and enables us to:

- Increase the number of volunteer-led support groups to reach more families;
- Pilot a befriending service to reach more isolated families; and
- Develop links to other organisations for referrals to provide local support;

Over the year, expenditure has remained reasonably stable with only a small increase of £25,398 to an annual total of £1,747,761. Cost of raising funds increased by £23,516 mainly due to increased staff costs. The total cost of delivering all our client services remained steady with a minor increase of £1,882.

Overall this resulted in an increase in our reserves to £497,387 although because of the arrival of a restricted grant towards the end of the year which increased our restricted reserves by £55,361, our total free reserves fell by £22,646 to £238,240.

There was little change to the value of tangible fixed assets as the addition of new purchases were offset by the depreciation charge for the year.

Debtors increased by £61,333 due to legacy income and the final quarterly payment due from a funder which were not received at year end.

Cash at bank and in-hand decreased by £124,594 from the prior year because of the increase in money owed to us by debtors.

The bank loan taken out in 2017 will be paid in full by November 2019 on schedule.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

CONSTITUTION

The Charity was incorporated on 4 December 2001 and is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee obtaining charitable status on 4 September 2002. The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, last amended September 2018.

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, and consequently the liability of Trustees is limited, subject to an undertaking by each Trustee to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the charitable company on winding up such amounts as might be required not exceeding £1.

The Charity was originally established as The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad in 1978 (charity number 280030). With effect from 31 March 2003, the Trustees approved the transfer of all assets, liabilities, rights and obligations to the charitable company, Prisoners Abroad.

METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OF THE TRUSTEES

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Board of Trustees, which should consist of no fewer than three Trustees, appoints new Trustees mainly through open recruitment to ensure a balance of skills and experience. The term of office for a Trustee is limited to two terms of three years each. However, a Trustee can be proposed for re-appointment by the Chairman for one year following an appraisal discussion. Re-appointment may happen in this way no more than three times.

To ensure that the Trustees are able to make informed decisions about the strategic direction of our services, we have reserved places in the Trustee complement for former service users, both ex-prisoners (with the consent of the Charity Commission) and families.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

Decisions on strategic direction, key policies and financial and legal requirements are taken at Trustee meetings. Some Board members also participate in committees and working groups which consider in detail such matters as finance and provide recommendations to the main Board for consideration and decision. Trustee meetings are held at least four times a year and are attended by the Chief Executive, the senior management team and a staff representative. Day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive and the senior management team.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURES

We raise money from a broad mix of sources and most of this work is conducted by our fundraising team. Our funding streams include statutory government grants, individual giving, trusts and corporates.

We are a member of the Fundraising Regulator, and we adhere to the standards set out by them.

We have a system to record complaints that we receive at Prisoners Abroad. These are dealt with on an individual basis. During the year we received no complaints.

Our fundraising approach is to only contact people who have signed up to receiving communications from us. We have procedures in place to ensure people who ask not to be contacted / mailed / thanked do not receive communications from us that they do not want.

We work with three Payroll Giving agencies, helping us to recruit long term supporters. This third party fundraiser adheres to the fundraising regulations.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

All new Trustees are required to complete an induction programme. They are given a comprehensive pack containing copies of key documents, organisational details and information relating to their duties as Trustees. They then spend time in the office in each department to obtain more in-depth knowledge of the services provided and operations. Ongoing training needs are identified as appropriate and addressed through a variety of means, including Board papers, two leadership days each year and seminars. In addition, all new Trustees are matched with a more experienced board member to support them and their preparation for the first few board meetings.

Each Trustee signs a declaration of eligibility to serve as a Trustee. Declarations of interest are updated annually and are also included on the agenda of each Board meeting.

PAY POLICY FOR SENIOR STAFF

The senior management team consists of the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of running and operating the organisation on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of all Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.

In order to recruit and retain the best staff to deliver the services provided to our beneficiaries, the Trustees consider that it is important to offer a competitive salary package, as benchmarked with similar sized charitable organisations.

The salary and other rewards (annual leave and pension contribution) of the Chief Executive are benchmarked and approved by the Trustees on appointment and are reviewed annually by the Trustees in accordance with the contract of employment.

All other staff roles, including the senior management team, are evaluated against a number of criteria, including responsibilities, skills and expertise required. These determine on which band each role lies within the pay scales.

Normally, members of the senior management team are recruited to their assigned salary band. Occasionally, the Trustees will determine if the rate of pay needs to be amended to take account of significant external factors affecting recruitment to a specific role. Staff receive a range of enhanced benefits e.g. sick pay, maternity/paternity pay as well as annual leave and pension contributions.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Charity works closely with the FCO and HMPPS to support its clients. It also has an extensive network of relationships with other non-profit organisations.

VOLUNTEERS

The Charity is enormously grateful for the contribution made by many volunteers who help us provide our services including family support group leaders, office based volunteers, foreign language translators and individual lawyers and law firms.

RISK MANAGEMENT

During the year the Risk Working Group, comprising Trustees and senior staff, reviewed how we assess and measure risk. The key items that ranked most highly in the risk register were:

- ‘Risk of inadequate level of fundraising’ – this is an ongoing concern in a challenging economic environment.
- ‘Risk of safeguarding incident occurring’ – the steps to mitigate this risk that we have identified are training for staff and volunteers, a named safeguarding lead on the Board of Trustees and monitoring and regular review of policies.

The high risk items are reported on at each board meeting and reviewed regularly by the senior management team and twice a year by the Risk Working Group. The Trustee Board reviews the full risk register once a year.

This Working Group has now become the Governance & Risk Working Group. Its remit has been expanded to include prioritising the work plan for the implementation of the Governance Code. The review of the Code highlighted some areas for development including diversity on the Board and further development of our Safeguarding policy.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES’ RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, including FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- state whether a Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applies and has been followed, subject to any material departures which are explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in any contract to which the Charity was party during the year.

AUDITORS

Following an open tender process, on 18 September 2014 Kingston Smith were appointed as auditors. Trustees have elected to dispense with the obligation to appoint auditors on an annual basis and therefore Kingston Smith will remain as auditors until such time as the resolution is revoked.

APPROVAL

The report was approved by the Trustees on 26 September 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Richard Price
Chair

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

TRUSTEES

- Chrissie Ashley (appointed 10 December 2014)
- Mark Atkinson (appointed 10 December 2015)
- Martin Atkinson, Treasurer (appointed 4 July 2017)
- Mary Catterall (appointed 10 December 2015)
- Emma Douglas (appointed 4 July 2019)
- Nick Hardwick, Vice Chair (appointed 30 March 2016)
- Dean Harris (appointed 4 July 2019)
- Phil Maguire (appointed 4 July 2019)
- Vivienne Nathanson (appointed 10 December 2015)
- Lord Neuberger (appointed 11 December 2017)
- Richard Price, Chair (appointed 12 March 2014)
- Toby Rogers (appointed 4 July 2017)
- Matthew Rhodes (appointed 12 March 2014)
- Naetha Uren (appointed 26 June 2018)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Zeta MacDonald

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Pauline Crowe (Chief Executive)
- Zeta MacDonald (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Theresa Gilson (Head of Service Delivery)
- Nancy Wright (Head of Finance)

AUDITORS

Moore Kingston Smith,
Devonshire House,
60 Goswell Road,
EC1M 7AD

SOLICITORS

Hogan Lovells,
Atlantic House,
Holborn Viaduct,
London EC1A 2FG

BANKERS

National Westminster Bank plc,
218 Upper Street,
London N1 1SA

CCLA Investment Management Ltd COIF Charity Funds,
85 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC2V

REGISTERED OFFICE

89-93 Fonthill Road
London, N4 3JH
Telephone: 020 7561 6820
Website: www.prisonersabroad.org.uk
Registered company number. 04333963.
Registered Charity number. 1093710.

WHAT OUR AUDITORS SAY

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Prisoners Abroad (‘the company’) for the year ended 31 March 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 ‘The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland’ (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company’s affairs as at 31 March 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the audit of financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO ONGOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company’s ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees’ annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees’ annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 41, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error,

and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

USE OF THIS REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Luke Holt (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP,
Statutory Auditor 30th September 2019

Devonshire House,
60 Goswell Road,
London EC1M 7AD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 March 2019

	Note	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
INCOME FROM							
Donations and legacies	2	1,159,431	617,383	1,776,814	892,709	879,306	1,772,015
Investments – bank interest		-	788	788	-	388	388
Total income		1,159,431	618,171	1,777,602	892,709	879,694	1,772,403
EXPENDITURE ON							
Raising funds	3	1,500	336,113	337,613	-	314,097	314,097
Charitable activities	4	1,102,570	307,578	1,410,148	875,835	532,431	1,408,266
Total expenditure		1,104,070	643,691	1,747,761	875,835	846,528	1,722,363
Net income/(expenditure) and movement of funds		55,361	(25,520)	29,841	16,874	33,166	50,040
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward		36,843	430,703	467,546	19,969	397,537	417,506
Total funds carried forward		92,204	405,183	497,387	36,843	430,703	467,546

The statement of activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 49 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

Company limited by guarantee number 04333963.

	Note	2019 £	2019 £	2018 £	2018 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	10		166,943		169,817
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	300,104		238,771	
Cash at bank and in hand		149,257		273,851	
Total Current Assets		449,361		512,622	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors falling due within one year	12	(118,917)		(178,997)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			330,444		333,625
Creditors falling due more than one year	12		-		(35,896)
Total Assets less Liabilities			497,387		467,546
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds – Fixed Assets	14	166,943		169,817	
Free Reserves	14	238,240		260,886	
Restricted Funds	14		405,183 92,204		430,703 36,843
Total Charity Funds			497,387		467,546

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act of 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statement were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 26th September 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Price
Chair

Martin Atkinson
Treasurer

The notes on pages 49 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2019

	Note	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used in operating activities	17	(62,695)	(126)
CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest Income		788	388
Interest paid against bank loan		(4,148)	(7,348)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(22,643)	(2,771)
Cash used in investing activities		(26,003)	(9,731)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Capital payments made against bank loan		(35,895)	(47,818)
Cash used in Financing		(35,895)	(47,818)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(124,593)	(57,674)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		273,851	331,525
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		149,257	273,851

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charitable Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the Charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) published on 16 July 2014, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular, the Trustees have considered the Charity’s forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. The Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. The functional currency of the charity is sterling. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The Members of the company are the Trustees named on page 42. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per Member of the Charity.

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds (‘free reserves’) are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised when there is entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliably. Where entitlement to a legacy exists but there is uncertainty as to its receipt or the amount receivable, details are disclosed as a contingent asset until the criteria for income recognition are met.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of raising funds are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions. They consist of direct costs and an apportionment of overhead, support and governance costs.

Communications costs of disseminating information are included in charitable activities.

Support and overhead costs are those costs for governance, finance, IT, human resources and office administration that underpin the delivery of the charitable objectives. These costs are allocated between the cost of raising funds and apportioned between charitable activities.

Grants payable to individuals for welfare, health, education and other services are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when approved by the staff under delegated authority from the Trustees.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £200 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Residual lives and impairment losses are assessed annually.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

- Short term Leasehold Property- over the term of the lease
- Furniture and Fixtures – over the term of the lease
- Computer Hardware – over 4 years

1.7 Taxation and VAT

As a registered charity, the organisation is exempt from tax on its charitable income to the extent that it is applied to the charitable purposes.

In common with many other similar organisations, the Charity is not registered for VAT and all expenditure is stated gross of VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense. The cost of material unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee’s services are received. Termination expenses are recognised as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.11 Gifts in Kind

Where goods are provided to the Charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is included in the financial statements as an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the Charity.

1.12 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

In the view of the Trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

1.13 Financial instruments

Only ‘basic’ financial instruments as defined under FRS 102 are held which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently at recoverable amount. No amortisation is required as financial assets only include accrued income totalling £225,268 and financial liabilities only comprise accounts payable and accruals totalling £17,685.

1.14 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with the bank, with original maturities of three months or less.

2. INCOME FROM VOLUNTARY INCOME AND GRANT FUNDING

	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	340,474	-	340,474	363,572	-	363,572
Ministry of Justice – HMPPS	265,000	-	265,000	-	265,000	265,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	98,450	-	98,450	94,050	-	94,050
The National Lottery Community Fund and HM Government*	21,156	-	21,156	-	-	-
Trust grants	429,851	137,250	567,101	422,337	309,050	731,387
Individual and corporate donations	4,500	316,204	320,704	12,750	232,455	245,205
Legacies	-	142,420	142,420	-	57,101	57,101
Gifts in-kind & sundry income	-	21,509	21,509	-	15,700	15,700
Total income	1,159,431	617,383	1,776,814	892,709	879,306	1,772,015

*The Building Connections Fund, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and Her Majesty’s Government (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport)

3. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Staff costs	-	214,507	214,507	-	191,066	191,066
Governance and support costs	-	13,402	13,402	-	4,244	4,244
Other costs	1,500	108,204	109,704	-	118,787	118,787
Total income	1,500	336,113	337,613	-	314,097	314,097

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITY COSTS

	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
CLIENT SERVICES:						
Overseas Prisoners Service	463,533	60,410	523,943	428,538	104,395	532,933
Family Service	90,989	193,244	284,233	68,525	201,202	269,727
Resettlement Service	548,048	53,924	601,972	378,772	226,834	605,606
Total	1,102,570	307,578	1,410,148	875,835	532,431	1,408,266

Summary by expenditure type

	Direct Staff Costs 2019 £	Grants Payable to Individuals 2019 £	Other Direct Costs 2019 £	Governance & Support Costs 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £
CLIENT SERVICES:					
Overseas Prisoners Service	239,303	116,990	132,776	34,874	523,943
Family Service	188,614	3,625	78,381	13,613	284,233
Resettlement Service	269,083	186,441	99,602	46,846	601,972
Total	697,000	307,056	310,759	95,333	1,410,148
	Direct Staff Costs 2018 £	Grants Payable to Individuals 2018 £	Other Direct Costs 2018 £	Governance & Support Costs 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
CLIENT SERVICES:					
Overseas Prisoners Service	251,843	120,930	122,764	37,396	532,933
Family Service	188,871	2,125	63,503	15,228	269,727
Resettlement Service	255,551	191,394	93,209	65,452	605,606
Total	696,265	314,449	279,476	118,076	1,408,266

5. GRANTS PAYABLE TO INDIVIDUALS

	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Prisoner welfare & survival	87,750	-	87,750	95,380	-	95,380
Prisoner health	19,742	-	19,742	16,050	-	16,050
Prisoner education and personal development	1,999	-	1,999	2,000	-	2,000
Prisoner magazine subscriptions	-	7,500	7,500	-	7,500	7,500
Family travel	3,625	-	3,625	2,125	-	2,125
Resettlement emergency accommodation	94,507	-	94,507	98,108	-	98,108
Resettlement travel	26,204	-	26,204	27,093	-	27,093
Resettlement subsistence	27,506	-	27,506	26,607	-	26,607
Resettlement housing access	38,223	-	38,223	39,586	-	39,586
Total	299,556	7,500	307,056	306,949	7,500	314,449

6. SUPPORT COST SUMMARY BY ACTIVITY

	Raising Funds 2019 £	Charitable Activities 2019 £	Total 2019 £	Raising Funds 2018 £	Charitable Activities 2018 £	Total 2018 £
Executive support	5,228	15,686	20,914	-	-	-
Human Resource support	526	9,983	10,509	2,173	41,298	43,471
Finance	6,484	47,550	54,034	1,248	61,142	62,390
Governance	1,164	22,114	23,278	823	15,636	16,459
Total	13,402	95,333	108,735	4,244	118,076	122,320

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

	2019 £	2018 £
This is stated after charging:		
Operating lease payments	126,170	126,170
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the charity	25,516	24,541
Auditors' remuneration – audit service net of VAT	7,105	6,900
Auditors' remuneration – other services net of VAT	475	-

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2019 £	2018 £
Wages and salaries	864,307	860,836
Social security costs	88,850	85,420
Pension costs	54,825	55,595
Total	1,007,982	1,001,851

The average number of staff employed was 27.5 (2018: 27.5) and the average number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2019 No.	2018 No.
Overseas Prisoner Support Service	7	8
Family Support Service	4	5
Resettlement Service	5	5
Support and Governance	3	2
Fundraising	4	5
Total	23	25

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to £70,000 - £80,000 during the year was 1 (2018: 1). The employee received a pension contribution of £4,601 (2018: £4,555). No other benefits were received.

Trustees and key management personnel

No Trustee received remuneration in the period (2018: £Nil). Total travel expenses of £1,249 (2018 £654) were paid to 4 (2018: 3) Trustees during this period.

Total donations received from Trustees were £5,311 (2018: £5,000). There were no other related party transactions during the year.

Key management personnel include the Chief Executive and senior staff reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The total employee benefits, including employer's NIC and pension contributions of the charity's key management personnel were £250,217 (2018: £260,414).

9. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £54,825 (2018: £55,595). There was an outstanding contribution payable to the fund at the balance sheet date of £Nil (2018: £Nil).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2018	13,482	256,818	270,300
Additions	-	22,643	22,643
At 31 March 2019	13,482	279,461	292,943
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2018	2,441	98,042	100,483
Charge for the year	1,242	24,274	25,516
At 31 March 2019	3,683	122,316	125,999
Net book value			
At 31 March 2019	9,799	157,145	166,943
At 31 March 2018	11,041	158,776	169,817

11. DEBTORS

	2019 £	2018 £
Due within one year		
Sundry debtors	11,750	-
Accrued income	225,268	176,199
Prepayments	63,086	62,572
Total	300,104	238,771

12. CREDITORS

	2019 £	2018 £
AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade creditors	16,077	5,027
Social security and other taxes	21,820	23,910
Other creditors	11,065	3,970
Accruals	17,685	14,486
Deferred income	16,375	80,583
Loan	35,895	51,021
Total	118,917	178,997
AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR		
CAF Venturesome Loan – due within 2 to 5 years	-	35,896

The loan provided by way of an unsecured facility with interest charged at the rate of 6.5% per annum. The loan is repayable in equal monthly instalments.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	166,943	166,943	-	169,817	169,817
Current assets	92,204	357,157	449,361	36,843	475,779	512,622
Creditors due within one year	-	(118,917)	(118,917)	-	(178,997)	(178,997)
Creditors due over one year	-	-	-	-	(35,896)	(35,896)
Total	92,204	405,183	497,387	36,843	430,703	467,546

14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried Forward £
Restricted Funds				
The National Lottery Community Fund	4,568	98,450	103,018	-
City Bridge Trust	19,651	280,666	246,488	53,829
The National Lottery Community Fund and HM Government	-	21,155	21,155	-
Ministry of Justice – HMPPS	-	265,000	265,000	-
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	-	340,474	340,474	-
Other Donors	12,624	153,686	127,935	38,375
Total Restricted Funds	36,843	1,159,431	1,104,070	92,204
Total Unrestricted Funds	430,703	618,171	643,691	405,183
Total Funds	467,546	1,777,602	1,747,761	497,387

	2019 £	2018 £
Unrestricted Funds		
Designated Funds – Fixed Assets	166,943	169,817
Free Reserves	238,240	260,886
Total Unrestricted Funds	405,183	430,703

Grants received for specific programmes are accounted for as restricted funds. The balance on restricted funds at 31 March 2019 arises from grants on which some expenditure is still to be incurred in the next financial year.

Key restricted funding during the year included:

The FCO provided funding for overseas prisoner support service and the Human Rights Advisor post.

The Tolkien Trust, The Leigh Trust, The Persula Foundation and The South Street Trust supported our overseas prisoners grants.

The Aldo Trust funded the foreign language materials sent to overseas prisoners and the Matrix Chambers contributed towards our client newsletters.

The Family service was supported by The National Lottery Community Fund and The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust provided funding for family travel grants.

The National Lottery Community Fund and HM Government grant continued to fund our resettlement service Rebuilding Lives Project.

The resettlement service was supported by HMPPS, the Charles Hayward Foundation, The Erach and Rochan Sidri Trust, The Valentine Charitable Trust and the Evan Cornish Trust.

The City Bridge Trust continued to fund the Resettlement grants programme and the client basic needs packs.

15. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	Land and buildings	
	2019 £	2018 £
Falling due:		
Within 1 year	126,170	126,170
Between 2 and 5 years	157,713	283,883
Total	283,883	410,053

Amounts payable in respect of operating leases are shown above, analysed according to the amount falling due in the given year. £126,170 was paid against the lease in the current year.

16. OPERATING LEASE RECEIVABLES

	Land and buildings	
	2019 £	2018 £
Falling due:		
Within 1 year	20,625	-
Between 2 and 5 years	-	-
Total	20,625	-

Amounts receivable in respect of operating leases are shown above, analysed according to the amount falling due in the given year. £1,875 was received in the current year.

17. OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Net movement in funds	29,841	50,040
Add back depreciation charge	25,516	24,541
Deduct interest shown in investing activities	(788)	(388)
Interest paid against bank loan	4,148	7,348
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(61,333)	(159,729)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(60,080)	78,062
Cash used in operating activities	(62,695)	(126)



French Detention Centre, Bernard Bolze CGLPL