

**The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

**A charity registered under the Charity Commission for  
England and Wales - No 1177599**



**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year to 31 March 2024**

## The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In

### Contents

|                                                                 | Page   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Reference and Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers | 3      |
| Trustees' Report                                                | 4-6    |
| Independent Examiner's Report                                   | 7      |
| Statement of Financial Activities                               | 8      |
| Notes to Financial Statements                                   | 9 - 10 |

## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

### **Reference and Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers for the year to 31 March 2024**

#### **Trustees**

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ian Karet         | Appointed 18 March 2023     |
| Rickie Burman     | Appointed 19 March 2018     |
| James Elliot      | Appointed 13 June 2023      |
| Catherine Thome   | Appointed 13 September 2023 |
| Jocelyn Blumberg  | Appointed 13 September 2023 |
| Roma Felstein     | Appointed 9 November 2023   |
| Madeleine Foster  | Appointed 1 February 2024   |
| Jonathan Lachmann | Appointed 20 March 2024     |

#### **Charity registered number**

Charity Commission for England and Wales – 1177599

#### **Registered Office**

C/o The New North London Synagogue  
80 East End Road  
London N3 2SY

#### **Independent Examiner**

Stephen Adler  
9 Beechwood Avenue  
London N3 3AU

#### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
Leicester  
LE87 2BB

#### **Website**

[www.nnlsdropin.org.uk](http://www.nnlsdropin.org.uk)

## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

### **Trustees' Report for the year to 31 March 2024**

The Trustees present their report as a registered Charity, together with the financial statements for the year to 31 March 2024, with comparatives for year to 31 March 2023. The Trustees confirm that the report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements; the requirements of the Trust's governing document; and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP); applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102).

The Drop in was established in 2005 by members of The New North London Synagogue in their wish to help and give support to Asylum Seekers in Greater London. The Drop-in registered as a separate charity in March 2018.

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board of trustees and professional advisers on Page 3 of the financial statements.

### **The Trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the reporting year were as follows:

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ian Karet         | - Appointed 18 March 2023     |
| David Raff        | - Retired 30 April 2024       |
| Rickie Burman     |                               |
| Mildred Levison   | - Retired 30 April 2024       |
| Stephen Coleman   | - Retired 19 March 2024       |
| Anita Vasisht     | - Retired 7 December 2023     |
| James Elliot      | - Appointed 13 June 2023      |
| Catherine Thome   | - Appointed 13 September 2023 |
| Jocelyn Blumberg  | - Appointed 13 September 2023 |
| Roma Felstein     | - Appointed 9 November 2023   |
| Madeleine Foster  | - Appointed 1 February 2024   |
| Jonathan Lachmann | - Appointed 20 March 2024     |

### **Structure, governance, and management**

The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop in is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that was entered on the Charity Commission for England and Wales Register of Charities on 19 March 2018, reference 1177599 and is recognised by HM Revenue and Customs, reference EW90044.

Trustees are eligible for two three-year tenures as set out in the Charity's constitution. Three of the first Trustees were appointed on 19 March 2018 in accordance with the Constitution filed with the Charity Commission. The three were reappointed as Trustees in March 2021. Consequently, D Raff, S Coleman, and M Levison retired in 2024.

## **Financial review**

The Charity remains dependent on its income from donations from private individuals, trusts, and foundations, all in the UK. The net deficit after expenditures for the year was £54,665 (2023 £15,087) that has been set off against the total general reserve held, £265,939 (2023 - £320,604).

The Trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves held are sufficient to maintain the level of activity, if significant changes in income streams or resources required were to take place.

## **Objectives and activities**

The Trustees have referred to the original Constitution as submitted to the Charity Commission when considering the objectives and activities of the charity in March 2018. The requirement and services provided to Asylum Seekers in Greater London have increased greatly over recent years and the Charity continues to provide necessary basic support in many ways that has included the relief of financial hardship amongst those seeking or granted or refused refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in Greater London.

Through our support, resources, signposting and referrals, the Drop in seeks to provide much-needed assistance to help address the many challenges faced by asylum seekers. We have continued to hold our monthly Drop in sessions and currently support over 700 asylum seekers and their families. This number varies most months with new arrivals being registered, but many others being moved on out of their hotels and away from London. We are fortunate in having a committed and reliable body of volunteers, with around 70-80 volunteers helping each month.

Because of high client numbers and to ensure a more positive experience, we split the clients alphabetically and now invite them to attend in alternate months. We have increased the amount of support, so that each client receives a supermarket voucher (to cover two months), as well as some travel money. Our wide-ranging support also includes hot meals and other food donations, toiletries, sanitary products, underwear, socks, and during the winter, coats, hats and gloves. We provide also when available, footwear, phone SIM cards and 'baby welcome' packs for pregnant women. Many clients are currently living in hotels around London without cooking facilities and long to prepare the kind of food they are used to eating in their home countries; instead some hotels provide meals that many say are inedible.

Asylum seekers generally live in extreme poverty as Home Office support to an adult is given on a payment card that is equivalent to less than 50% of general income support. However, many asylum seekers do not receive this and have no real means of support. Those living in hotels with meals provided receive only £8.86 per person per week, those without meals being provided receive £49.18 per person per week to cover food, clothing, fares and toiletries. Many asylum seekers have insecure accommodation, and some are homeless, and they have little access to any form of support, so our vouchers and the other services we offer provide crucial support.

A vital part of our services are the signposting and consultations provided by our highly valued volunteer doctors and lawyers, and we try to find legal aid immigration lawyers for those who do not yet have a solicitor, although this has become increasingly difficult due to the pressures on legal aid lawyers. This service is of importance in view of the increased risks asylum seekers face of being detained or now possibly being repatriated. In addition, at the Drop in we have a children's area to provide fun and constructive play for children, who may suffer from being cooped up in one room together with their parents. We also run an online tutoring service for clients' children.

The charity's aim is to continue to help asylum seekers and their children through the wide-ranging support and services provided by the Drop in, to further develop the range of services offered, and to continue to invite and welcome new clients. We seek to help alleviate the poverty and multiple hardships that asylum seekers endure while going through the asylum system process and to help them find reputable legal aid

solicitors who can assist them with their asylum claims. This will, in the longer term, allow them to move forward with their lives and integrate into British society as refugees.

We are very grateful to all those who help the Drop in by making charitable donations, volunteering and cooking food for our monthly sessions. We welcome further regular volunteers, and we are always looking for more people to make regular donations through monthly standing orders, to help meet the Drop in net costs of around £17,000 a month and thus ensure we can continue to provide much-needed support.

While the cancellation of Rwanda scheme takes away some uncertainty for asylum seekers, but many still experience significant pressure. We are very fortunate in having volunteer lawyers experienced in asylum and immigration issues who are available at Drop in sessions.

We aim to make a difference to the lives of the supported asylum seekers; and improve the physical, mental, and the general well-being of attendees.

In April 2023, the charity contracted the services of a coordinator to manage and organise the monthly Drop in sessions that require an increasing amount of administration time. All other services carried out at the monthly Drop in, as described above, are provided by many loyal volunteers.

### **Risk Management**

The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop in Charity seeks to identify and manage any risks that may occur that would have significant detrimental impact on the Charity and the asylum seekers. The Charity has put in place procedures and policy documents to utilise risk management techniques in all relevant aspects of its operations and has integrated risk management and all aspects of safeguarding as part of its culture. The Trustees are responsible for governance and the management of the Drop in event which for the year to 31 March 2024 was organised and managed by a Trustee oversight.

The Charity continues to review these policies and procedures on an ongoing basis to identify, prioritise and assess any risk that it is subject to; and these are also be updated to improve controls and monitor any risks that are identified. All the policies are shown on the website.

### **Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK General Accepted Accounting Practice) for small charities. The Trustees consider that as both income and assets are below the required levels as required for reporting under the Charities Act an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Commission requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and take such steps for the protection and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 9 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Ian Karet  
Trustee

## **The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In**

### **Independent Examiner's Report for the year to 31 March 2024**

I report to the trustees of the Trust on the examination of the accounts of The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In for the year to 31 March 2024

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. The charity's trustees consider that as both income and assets are below the required levels as required for reporting under the Charities Act an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect that;

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Stephen Adler

Address: 9 Beechwood Avenue London N3 3AU

Date:

10 December 2024

## The NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In

### Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 March 2024

|                                               | Note | Total<br>Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>2024 | Total<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2023 |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                           |      |                                        |                                        |
| Donations                                     |      | 148,688                                | 136,927                                |
| Gift Aid                                      |      | 7,785                                  | 7,591                                  |
| Deposit interest                              |      | 2,829                                  | 616                                    |
| <b>Total income</b>                           | 2    | <u>159,302</u>                         | <u>145,134</u>                         |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                        |      |                                        |                                        |
| Charitable activities                         |      | 213,967                                | 160,221                                |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                      | 3    | <u>213,967</u>                         | <u>160,221</u>                         |
| <b>Net (deficit)</b>                          |      | (54,665)                               | (15,087)                               |
| <b>Reserves brought forward</b>               |      | 320,604                                | 335,691                                |
|                                               |      | <u>265,939</u>                         | <u>320,604</u>                         |
| <b>Funds held at bank</b>                     |      | 247,037                                | 284,492                                |
| Debtors and creditors                         | 4    | 18,902                                 | 36,112                                 |
| <b>Total Charities' Funds carried forward</b> |      | <u>265,939</u>                         | <u>320,604</u>                         |

The Charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small charities. For the year ended 31 March 2024 the charity was not required to obtain an audit.

The financial statements and report were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 9 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



I Karet  
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 10 form part of these financial statements.



## The NNSL Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop In

### Note to the Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 March 2024

#### 1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by small Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to small charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015. Assets and liabilities are recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

##### 1.1 Fund accounting

Funds are regarded as unrestricted funds which are available for use at the direction of the Trustees and only in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

##### 1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income. It is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

##### 1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer benefit to a third party. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. There is one staff employed and associated costs incurred in the reporting year in question.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and any governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's operations, including support costs.

##### 1.4 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when received as payable by the Bank.

##### 1.6 Other debtors

Other debtors are recognised at the amount shown and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

##### 1.7 Cash at Bank

Cash at bank includes cash and deposit account with immediate access to such funds.

|                           | <b>Total<br/>Unrestricted<br/>Funds<br/>2024</b> | <b>Total<br/>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>2023</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2. Income received</b> |                                                  |                                                  |
| Donations                 | 148,688                                          | 136,927                                          |
| Gift Aid                  | 7,785                                            | 7,591                                            |
| Deposit interest          | 2,829                                            | 616                                              |
| <b>Total income</b>       | <u>159,302</u>                                   | <u>145,134</u>                                   |

### 3. Expenditure on:

|                                                                                                           |                |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Charitable activities:                                                                                    |                |                |
| Donations to support asylum seekers                                                                       | 148,497        | 115,437        |
| Drop in expenses including clothing, consumables and other direct expenses made to support asylum seekers | 20,817         | 37,321         |
| Employee salary and employer pension costs                                                                | 34,009         | 0              |
| Security costs                                                                                            | 4,541          | 1,994          |
| Venue hire costs                                                                                          | 5,443          | 4,550          |
| Insurance                                                                                                 | 660            | 919            |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                                                                                  | <u>213,967</u> | <u>160,221</u> |

In the previous year to 31 March 2023, there were no salaried employees. No trustee received any remuneration, nor received any benefit in kind.

### 4. Debtors and creditors

|                                                                                            |               |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gift Aid                                                                                   | 1,734         | 1,828         |
| The New North London Synagogue                                                             | 1,333         | 1,508         |
| Vouchers and clothing purchased, and cash drawn in preparation for future Drop in sessions | 20,226        | 35,176        |
| Accrued expenses                                                                           | (4,391)       | (2,400)       |
|                                                                                            | <u>18,902</u> | <u>36,112</u> |

### 5. Related party transactions

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting year that require disclosure.