



Annual Report and Accounts of Women with Hope for the Year 2021

Foreword from Anthony Wilson: Chair

Our report for 2021 has to open with 17 January 2022: the death in hospital of our founder and inspiration Rosemary Crawley. She had been increasingly unwell in the course of the year, so even when the Covid regulations allowed for a measure of face-to-face socialising it was still difficult for her to attend the Tuesday sessions in the Selly Oak Quaker meeting house when these resumed for a short period. The momentum which she imparted carried us through the first lockdown in 2020, and the months when shared contact was only feasible through our mobile phones: she made sure that the funds which would have been spent on gatherings were re-directed to covering phone charges, as described in our 2020 report.

Each of our 50+ members felt that Rosemary was a personal friend, such was the quality of her relationships – which extended to accompanying them to Home Office interviews which could result in detention before removal from this country: many members are 'undocumented', and survivors of minimal public support or 'no recourse to public funds'. Others had been successful in their applications for the right to remain, often after many years of living on the margins; they were able to draw on their experience as they supported those still directly subject to the hostile environment which is explicit in government policy towards them.

The tribute which the trustees paid to Rosemary days after her death is included in this report; although dated this year, withholding it from our 2021 report would be to distort our record and recollection of events which preceded it.

Rosemary led our trustee body as a team, and I warmly acknowledge their work over the year; this must include the management of our website by Brian Homer (<https://womenwithhope.org.uk>), where our activities are recorded. My own move with my wife to her care by our family overseas means that I need to stand down (or up?) from our chair: it has been a privilege to serve over the years since our founding, and I wish our members the resilience which I hope our organisation enhances to survive and emerge as secure and settled residents of this country.

We are rightly concerned for the millions of people being violently displaced in Ukraine at this time: their situation exposes the inherent generosity of people in this and other countries in our responses. Let us also remember that there are people seeking asylum here and now in and near to our communities to whom we can extend a hand of practical friendship and welcome.

Anthony Wilson
Chair

Women with Hope entered 2021 in good shape. Like everyone else Coronavirus Pandemic affected how we met. The women were delighted to start meeting face to face fortnightly at new base at Selly Oak Quaker Meeting House.

After resuming to meet face to face meeting one of the first events was the annual Picnic trip for the ladies from Birmingham to Lichfield. Also, the women having a lunch with friends of Selly Oak Quakers and arranged meet ups to celebrate the end of lock down and the isolation they felt not meeting each other in person.



The closure of *Women with Hope* and of other charitable groups in the area had a quite devastating effect on the refugee women with whom we are in contact, and in particular on those with no recourse to public funds. Prior to the lockdown many of those women survived solely by making use of several drop in centres across the week in order to gain minimal food and support.

During the lockdown we fund phone top ups from our travel budget and form other sources. Access to a phone is an absolute essential for women within the immigration system. It provides the only means by which claims for asylum can be pursued and it also enables reporting requirements to be fulfilled. In addition, it is the only means by which the women can keep in contact with each other and their families in order to try and reduce their extreme isolation.



As well as phone top ups we have used our food and refreshments budget to support charities that are providing emergency food and other essentials to asylum seekers and refugees in Birmingham.

We have commenced meeting again in Selly Oak and this has been successful for those able to participate. Prior to the lockdown and even throughout it our numbers have steadily increased. The women who join us repeatedly affirm their appreciation of a safe place in which they can share experiences and receive support and affirmation during their lonely and incredibly difficult individual journeys.

Our meetings provide workshops on health, mental and physical. We have also spent time sharing stories, celebrating successes and hearing each other sing, read poetry and much more.

We started this report announcing the death of the founder of the charity Rosemary Crawley and Dorrell Townsend has taken on some of the responsibilities as Secretary to Trustees and Project Co-ordinator. Another change is that of the project Chair Anthony Wilson who steps down as Chair in June 2022, due to family commitments but will act as an advisor to the trustees. Trustees would like to thank Anthony for his hard work and dedication over the years.



Our thanks go to:

Brian Homer for all of his ongoing help and support with the website

Barrow Cadbury Charitable Trust for funding phone top ups

Liz Clegg & Meena Centre for continued financial support

Claire Peat

Lichfield Hope Support Group for continuing Financial support

Women for Refugee Women for all of their ongoing support both financial and practical

Jamshed for their support in delivering food parcels

The Roughley Trust and AW60 for their generous funding awards

Rhoda Wharton for generously acting as independent examiner of our accounts

Charity Information

Our charity trustees include women who have had direct experience of the UK asylum system.

Anthony Wilson (Chair), Senait Jones (Treasurer), Agnes Tanoh, Bridget Obi, Judith Tweddle, Barbara Forbes, Rosemary Crawley, Dorrell Townsend

Registered Office: C/o 4 Autumn Drive , Lichfield, Staffordshire, Charity Number; 1186078

Website: <https://womenwithhope.org.uk>

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT
1 January – 31 December 2021

Income and expenditure statement 2021	2021	2020
Current Assets	£	£
Cash	0	0
Bank	13704.93	14,490.00
Total Assets	13704.93	14,490.00
Creditors	0	270.00
Net Assets	13704.93	14,490.00
Fund 31.12.20 byt fwd	14219.69	9033.68
Cashbook totals		
Total Income	11560.33	12510.13
Total Expenditure	12075.09	7324.12
	-514.76	5186.01
Fund c/fwd 31/12/21	13704.93	14219.69
Held in current account	10,696.28	11489.56
Held in deposit account	3008.65	3000.13
Cash	0	0
Details of Income		
Grants	9800.00	11000.00
Donations	1481.81	1375.00
Interest	8.52	0.13
Other	270.00	135.00
	11560.33	12510.13
Details of expenditure		
Travel/Top up	7286.10	3842.00
Refreshments	403.56	900.20
Volunteers expenditure	1015.00	552.39
Rent & Admin	2002.55	633.88
Entertainment	365.00	817.03
Bank charges	58.48	11.71
*Miscellaneous	944.40	566.91
Total	12075.09	7324.12

***Break down of miscellaneous expenditure for WwH - 2021**

Zoom charge	£143.88
Speaker for use with Zoom	£36.99
Admin supplies	£206.98
Identity checks	£25.50
Emergency food during Covid	£255.00
Additional support costs	£149.10
Annual report	£84.00
Gift card	£42.95
Total	£944.40