

# The City Bridge Trust

## Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

Name of your organisation: <b>Refugee Action</b>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? <b>Westminster</b>	
Contact person: <b>Ms Renae Mann</b>	Position: <b>National Business Development Manager</b>
Website: <b>http://www.refugee-action.org.uk</b>	
Legal status of organisation: <b>Registered Charity</b>	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: <b>283660</b>
When was your organisation established? <b>10/12/1981</b>	

### Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? <b>Reducing Poverty</b>
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? <b>More Londoners with improved economic circumstances</b> <b>More people accessing debt and legal services</b>
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. <b>Asylum Crisis will enable vulnerable people seeking asylum to escape destitution, through early access to legal advice, advocacy and building support capacity within the community.</b>
When will the funding be required? <b>02/01/2017</b>
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: <b>£57,175</b> Year 2: <b>£57,053</b> Year 3: <b>£57,728</b>  <b>Total: £171,955</b>

**Aims of your organisation:**

Refugee Action exists to achieve the following aims:

- The relief of refugees, people who have claimed asylum or international protection, their families and dependents who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.
- The relief of migrants whose needs are similar to the above.?
- The advancement of community development and the education and health of our beneficiaries by creating an environment where they are treated with respect and fairness, and have the knowledge, resources and mental and physical capacity they need to take informed decision and action.

**Main activities of your organisation:**

For 30 years Refugee Action has provided specialist advice and support to people going through the UK's complex immigration system; they are some of the most vulnerable people in the country having survived persecution and war. We have advised and supported over 70,000 asylum seekers in the UK since 2001, and resettled over 3,000 refugees since 2004. We defend refugees' rights by campaigning for safe, legal routes to the UK and access to support to rebuild their lives on arrival; our legal challenge against the Home Office improved the financial assistance for 23,000 asylum seekers in 2014. We deliver our campaigns and services in partnership with local and regional charities, legal advisors, local authorities and others. Under our new three-year strategy we are deepening our collaborative approach by supporting organisations working with refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants through capacity-building and sharing good practice to maximise our collective impact.

**Number of staff**

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
<b>62</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

**Property occupied by your organisation**

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
<b>Leased</b>	<b>Five years - 23/11/2021</b>

## Summary of grant request

People seeking refugee protection in the UK are increasingly and needlessly being made destitute. Unaware that the asylum process is a legal one and unable to access specialist advisors or legal representatives to inform them of their rights and support them to apply for support, they are being denied Home Office support; currently 60% of support refusals are overturned on appeal. In 2013 the Home Office withdrew funding for specialist asylum advice services, denying vulnerable people seeking asylum the expert guidance needed to lodge successful support applications. Furthermore, cuts to publicly available advice and legal aid for most immigration cases have left vulnerable people refused support with few options for redress. The Immigration Act 2016 will exacerbate this situation by reducing their eligibility for support, removing the right of appeal against a refusal, and restricting access to local authority support for those ineligible for Home Office support. While people refused asylum will have a grace period of 21 days (singles) or 90 days (families) to apply for support, they will need early, specialist advice to understand their situation and options, and take the necessary urgent action to avoid destitution.

Colleagues in London's refugee support organisations report that they cannot cope with their rapidly increasing destitute client population impacted by existing immigration legislation provisions -- they have limited capacity and overwhelming caseloads. They cannot help vulnerable people to apply for support or challenge support refusals, a situation likely to worsen following the Immigration Act 2016 restrictions on support eligibility. They cannot offer the early, preventative targeted help to vulnerable people who have been refused support to prevent them becoming destitute. Asylum Crisis will address this challenge by providing a vital, innovative and effective early advice model to defend asylum seekers' access to support.

Our early help, targeted approach enables Asylum Crisis to reach and advise vulnerable people who have been refused asylum support, inform them of their options and enable them to access support. It draws on our 30 years' experience delivering independent asylum advice, strong relationships with specialist advice organisations and diaspora communities across London and the UK, expertise working with volunteers, and our existing Asylum Crisis Project. Since January 2016 this initiative has helped 62 clients to escape destitution through casework and advocacy. We coordinate our service with our colleagues in London's key refugee support organisations (British Red Cross, Freedom from Torture, Praxis Community Projects, Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, Asylum Support Appeals Project Notre Dame Refugee Centre, Praxis Community Projects, Project 17) ensuring that our specialist services and referral routes provide holistic, integrated support for vulnerable people and avoid duplication e.g. we provide a drop-in advice service at Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, one of London's largest destitution services. Our Project Coordinator and highly skilled volunteers, many of whom are refugees, will assess refused asylum seekers' support entitlements, apply for support, and appeal refusals. They will identify the most vulnerable people (mental and physical health conditions, families, lone parents, domestic violence survivors), through outreach advice sessions at drop-in services and day centres, and stakeholder referrals. They will provide complex casework to people who have been refused support, issuing pre-action protocols and instructing our partners Deighton Pierce Glynn LLP and Asylum Support Appeals Project to judicially review decisions. Finally, we will train and inform refugee support, diaspora and faith organisations to enable them to signpost vulnerable people with refused asylum claims quickly and effectively, provide accurate entitlements advice to their communities, and share best practice and policy developments. Asylum Crisis Project's integrated early help approach will provide an effective, flexible and inexpensive model for addressing asylum destitution.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

**We hold the: Advice Quality Standard - 05.05.16 and our accreditation is valid until 30.04.18; Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner N200100071 we are registered until 17 May 2017 and must renew annually; Investors in Volunteers since 08/07/2014.**

### **Outputs and outcomes**

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

**Early information provision to 300 vulnerable people who have been refused asylum and will shortly be homeless and destitute about their options through 20 existing or new referral pathways and 30 outreach sessions with organisations offering complementary services eg Local Authorities, day centres, drop ins, diaspora communities, and faith groups.**

**Outreach casework for 250 vulnerable, homeless and destitute people seeking asylum by a Coordinator and 30 volunteers to access statutory support by advising people on their choices in the event of a refusal, referral and challenging refusals of support.**

**Complex casework for 100 vulnerable, homeless and destitute people refused asylum support in partnership with expert legal advocates and solicitors to secure access to support. This will include preparing and submitting pre-action protocols and instructing solicitors to undertake judicial reviews.**

**Training, information, and awareness-raising sessions to build the capacity of 90 frontline refugee support, diaspora communities and faith groups, mainstream and statutory agencies, and Refugee Action volunteers on the rights of destitute people seeking asylum and their support options, what constitutes quality advice, and which organisations can provide quality advice.**

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

**250 destitute and homeless families and single people with no entitlement to asylum/social services support will understand their legal situation and any other support options, sufficient to be able to make the appropriate choices about their legal status, support and next steps.**

**125 vulnerable, homeless and destitute people refused asylum support will engage with advocacy services necessary to challenge their support refusal and access support.**

**75 refused asylum seekers who are homeless and destitute will receive support following complex casework and advocacy, including pre-action advocacy, preparation of appeal or judicial review to challenge incorrect decisions denying support.**

**30 organisations will be better able to identify vulnerable families and single people seeking asylum about to be made homeless and destitute early within the prescribed 'grace period' under the Immigration Action 2016 and signpost appropriately for expert help before they become destitute.**

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

**We will seek further funding for the Asylum Crisis Project from appropriate trusts, foundations and supporters. At the project mid-point we will produce a detailed fundraising plan for the project identifying fundraising prospects. Drawing on project impact data we will engage relevant funders and design supporter appeals, thereby securing funding before the project end date and ensuring its continuation.**

## Who will benefit?

### About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

**150**

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

**London-wide (100%)**

What age group(s) will benefit?

**All ages**

What gender will beneficiaries be?

**All**

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

**A range of ethnic groups**

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

**21-30%**

## Funding required for the project

### What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary Costs	30,499	30,803	31,113	92,415
Volunteer Costs	7,843	7,921	8,001	23,765
Service User Engagement	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Laptop and Mobile Phone	800	120	122	1,042
Training	560	571	583	1,714
Staff Travel	375	383	390	1,148
Database	240	245	250	734
Direct Management	8,400	8,568	8,739	25,707
Contribution to core costs (IT, Finance, HR, CEO) 15%	7,458	7,442	7,530	22,429

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>57,175</b>	<b>57,053</b>	<b>57,418</b>	<b>171,956</b>
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### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
None	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
None	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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### How much is requested from the Trust?

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## Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: <b>March</b>	Year: <b>2015</b>
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	733,000
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	14,000
Income from charitable activities	11,623,000
Other sources	0
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>12,370,000</b>

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	12,080,000
Governance costs	46,000
Cost of generating funds	532,000
Other	0
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>12,658,000</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus:</b>	<b>-288,000</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds:</b>	<b>288,000</b>

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	89,000
Investments	0
Net current assets	4,823,000
Long-term liabilities	31,000
<b>*Total Assets (A):</b>	<b>4,881,000</b>

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	985,000
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	3,896,000
<b>*Total Reserves (B):</b>	<b>4,881,000</b>

\* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.

### Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?  
81-90%

### Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

In June 2015 the Home Office withdrew the Choices voluntary return programme, included in the 2014-15 annual accounts, causing a 75% income reduction on 31 December 2015. Our 2016-19 strategy and budget will secure financial sustainability and a balanced budget by 2019-20. We will achieve this by making planned losses to invest in fundraising, campaigns, and services, while maintaining 3-6 months reserves for unrestricted activity.



### Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	0	0
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	16,761,000	19,696,000	11,641,000
Other statutory bodies	337,000	288,001	356,000

### Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
Big Lottery Fund (project partners)	152,000	55,000	32,000
Sigrid Rausing Trust	65,000	0	60,000
Comic Relief	47,000	47,000	107,000
BBC Children in Need	29,000	0	0
Future Advice Fund	8,000	35,000	9,000

### Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes      Full Name: **Renaë Mann**

Role within                      **National Business Development Manager**  
Organisation: