

Directors

Hilaire Agnama

A refugee from Togo, he works for the Teesside One World Centre raising awareness of Refugee issues. He is chair of African Community Advice North East and runs a project documenting the history of African people in North East England.

Rosemary Muthani Anderson

Company Secretary and Kenyan by birth, Rosemary is Secretary of Tees Valley Voices for Justice, an organisation that raises awareness of asylum problems through liaison with statutory and voluntary bodies and the community.

Bill Broad

Our Chair, Bill Broad, has recently retired as a Parish priest in the Diocese of Durham after 19 years, following earlier service in Essex. In the 1970s and 80s he founded the Cirdan and Faramir Sailing Trusts to provide the stimulus of adventure for disadvantaged young people. He is also Chair of the Mirianog Trust, a grant making body in the North East, supporting unfashionable causes.

Fiona Cuthill

Community nurse with the Stockton-On-Tees Asylum Support Team. Much of Fiona's work involves enabling people who have been refused asylum to access health and support services.

Barbara Hungin

A tireless worker in a voluntary capacity to support people seeking asylum. A member of the Yarm Justice and Peace Group, Barbara also established a drop-in centre in Stockton when refugees were first dispersed here.

Bob Kerr

An experienced local politician with Cabinet responsibility for diversity. Bob has a commitment to supporting people seeking asylum in Middlesbrough.

Mike Tomlin

Mike is also Treasurer of Stockton United Reform Church and Teesside One World Centre. He has many years experience of the voluntary sector and is a founder member of a charity that recycles furniture.

Catherine Ramos

A language teacher and interpreter, with a special interest in Angola. Catherine is currently active in a voluntary capacity helping people seeking asylum deal with any problems as they integrate into the local community.

Pete Widlinski

Area Manager of the North of England Refugee Service, Secretary of the North East Coalition for Asylum Rights and a Trustee of the Mary Thompson Fund that seeks to alleviate asylum seeker hardship for those seeking asylum.

Additional Founding Members

Maureen Hall

Unit Manager for Teesside Probation Services. Former Redcar and Cleveland Councillor. Member of NE Coalition for Asylum Rights.

Dennis Oliver

Through his work as an enabler with The Scarman Trust, Dennis has wide experience of working with people seeking asylum.

Rowena Sommerville

Community Programme Manager at Tees Valley Arts - has worked with refugees and people seeking asylum for five years mentoring talented individuals; running projects using music, photography, writing, animation, textiles and more; and organising celebratory events that bring the whole community together.

Ian Jeffrey

Ian has many years experience as an elected member both at County and Unitary level. He represents a diverse ward where residents have multiple needs. Ian chaired a local Forum that brought together practitioners working in the field of asylum.

Val Jones

Valerie Jones is an Immigration Solicitor who represented asylum seekers in Middlesbrough and Stockton for 6 years, but currently acts for refugees in South Yorks. Valerie still lives in the North East and is committed to maintaining legal representation in increasingly difficult times for people fleeing persecution and human rights abuses.

Chris Coombs

Chris is an elected member of Stockton Council who represents a ward where many of the refugee community have settled. He is vice chair of Cleveland Police Authority.