



## A word from our CEO

It has been another tough year for refugees and migrants in the UK, as the Westminster Government continues to squeeze the rights of those making their homes here, while closing off routes to people seeking sanctuary.

This year, our team of expert immigration advisors supported more people than ever before, providing life-changing advice and support to people cut off from the welfare safety net, struggling to afford high visa fees and pushed to the limit by the hostile policy environment, the effects of Covid and the rising cost of living.

Only systemic change can prevent more people from being marginalised by their immigration status and driven into poverty and homelessness, so campaigning is a key plank of our new strategy. With others we lobbied to change the most pernicious aspects of the Nationality and Borders Bill, collectively achieving many amendments in the House of Lords, sadly overturned in the Commons where the Bill was passed.

In 2021 we launched our first fully co-produced campaign together with a group of people with direct experience of the immigration system. Working in partnership with our NRPF (no recourse to public funds) Action Group and other organisations in the sector we persuaded the Government to permanently extend eligibility for Free School Meals to children whose parents meet the low income threshold, regardless of their immigration status, making a huge difference to many families.

The invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 drove one of the largest movements of refugees within Europe since the Second World War. The public were ahead of the government in offering support and it was positive to see that safe routes can be set up quickly with the right political will. Praxis used its expertise to inform the responses of local authorities in London and provide advice to individuals.

Along with all those with insecure immigration status, Ukrainian refugees face an uncertain future in the UK. Praxis will continue to advocate and campaign for change so that people can live safely and securely, we thank you for being part of this journey.



**Sally Daghlian OBE**

## Introducing our new Chair of Trustees

We were delighted to welcome our new Chair of Trustees, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard who joined the Board in February 2022. Debbie brings a fantastic array of skills, knowledge and experience, as well as a passion for social justice and the work of Praxis.



On joining Praxis Debbie said:

"I'm both honoured and delighted to be taking on the role of Chair of the Praxis Board. It is an organisation that gives representation and voice to those who have chosen to settle here in the UK and does a hugely important job of enabling migrants, refugees and those seeking asylum to live their lives here in London in a way that gives them the dignity they deserve and to do so free from discrimination.

I am committed to ensuring their work continues to have great impact from the advocacy their amazing service users engage in, to the advice and guidance they provide for those who rely on their support. This is an important moment to be involved in work on migration and I am looking forward to working with a great Board and an amazing team of staff and volunteers."

## Praxis' vision

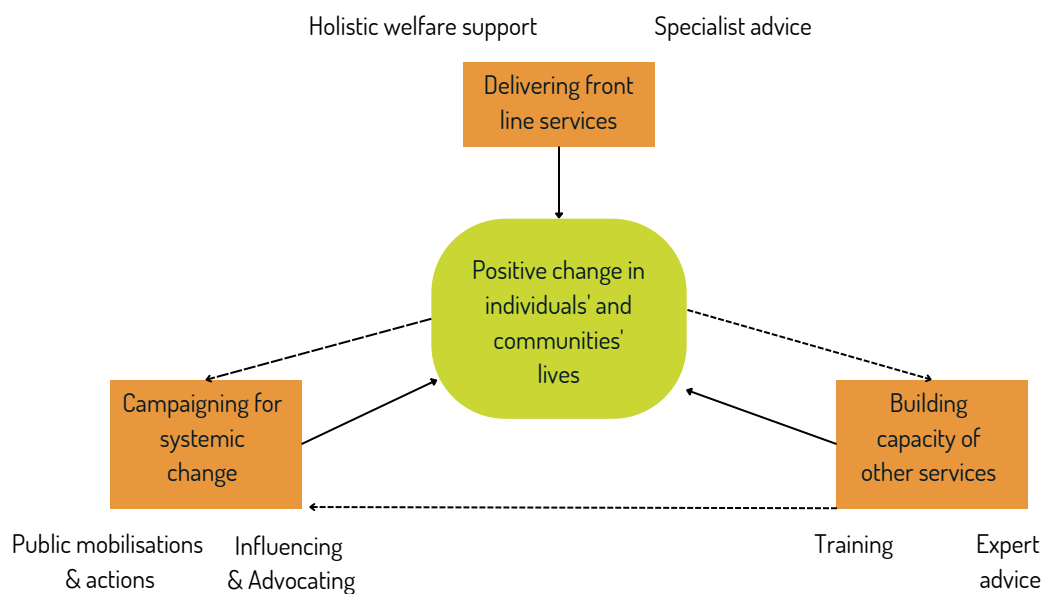
People who have migrated to the UK will not be marginalised or mistreated because of their immigration status. They will live safely, free from poverty, discrimination, and exclusion, and be treated with compassion and respect.

## Our mission

Our mission is to create positive change for and with individuals and communities who are marginalised because of their immigration status; we deliver our vision by working on three levels.

- ▶ **Delivering direct services:** providing specialist legal advice and holistic welfare support to help people live securely and safely.
- ▶ **Building the capacity of other services across the UK:** using our expertise to provide innovative solutions and sharing our knowledge through training and partnership working.
- ▶ **Campaigning for systemic change:** building alliances and working in partnership with experts by experience to create positive, long-term changes to the policies and practices that cause exclusion and destitution.

## Theory of Change



# Anti-Racist Approach

As a human rights organisation Praxis has a long history of challenging racism and discrimination and, following an organisational learning programme in 2020, we have challenged ourselves to systematically examine our obligations and behaviours to ensure that we have an anti-racist approach across all our work. As part of this we developed new values which are being embedded throughout the organisation.

## Our values



### We strive for a better way

We are ambitious for change and use our passion and questioning spirit to help us make progress.



### We listen to the needs of the community

We always start with the insight from the people we support.



### We learn & grow together

We make space for individual and collective learning and support each other's growth so we can elevate our impact.



### Everyone belongs here

We create respectful, empathetic relationships that ensure everyone feels valued and seen.





## Advice & holistic support

“ Praxis has been a saviour to me when I didn't know what to do.”

2021 continued the trend of fast paced and detrimental changes in immigration policy in the UK, The 'hostile environment' combined with the absence of legal aid for most immigration matters meant free legal advice was unavailable to most people who have migrated and, in turn, demand for our immigration advice service increased exponentially.

On the frontline this translated into more people accessing our services than ever before seeking support to navigate an increasingly forbidding application process required to regularise their right to status.

Our team of 20 specialist immigration caseworkers helped more people than ever before. They worked with people to understand their rights and entitlements, advocate for themselves and build resilience. People accessed support to leave crisis and find pathways to long-term safety.

**2,441 people**

accessed expert advice on immigration to help them understand their options and make informed choices.

**664 people**

received a successful outcome. 98% of those we helped submit an immigration application.

**77% of people**

accessing our advice and case support strongly agreed that Praxis has made their life more safe and stable.

**£754,032 in financial support**

was won or accessed for people in urgent need. The financial support included help to secure fee waivers for applications to the Home Office, and grants to pay for basic necessities, access to welfare benefits and other entitlements, where possible.

## No Recourse to Public Funds

Most of the people we support are affected by the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) policy. NRPF is a condition imposed on the visas of most people making their homes in the UK. It denies access to the welfare safety net, regardless of circumstance or need, and can push those affected into extreme financial hardship and homelessness.

“My family and I congratulate Praxis on the excellent services Praxis have provided and have changed our lives and for us to be able to move forward, there is no words to express our thanks and gratitude to your team.”

## Building belonging through communities

This year we co-delivered three peer-led community groups. They offer a welcoming and supportive space focusing on specific aspects of making the UK their home and addressing discrimination.

**120 people took part in groups**

### **Brighter Futures**

a group of young people who work together to speak up for the rights of young people who have migrated, and use creativity as a tool to challenge negative perceptions of migration in the UK.

### **WINGs (Women Inspiring New Generations)**

a group of women who, with their young children, have come together to nurture their wellbeing, build new positive relationships and find respite from the demands of everyday life. WINGs members discuss the issues that affect them and share knowledge and experience in order to build solidarity and strength.

### **GIANTS**

an innovative space where men who have migrated and are fighting against isolation and poor mental health come together. The group uses creativity to explore and express feelings and opinions and works together to challenge negative stereotypes.





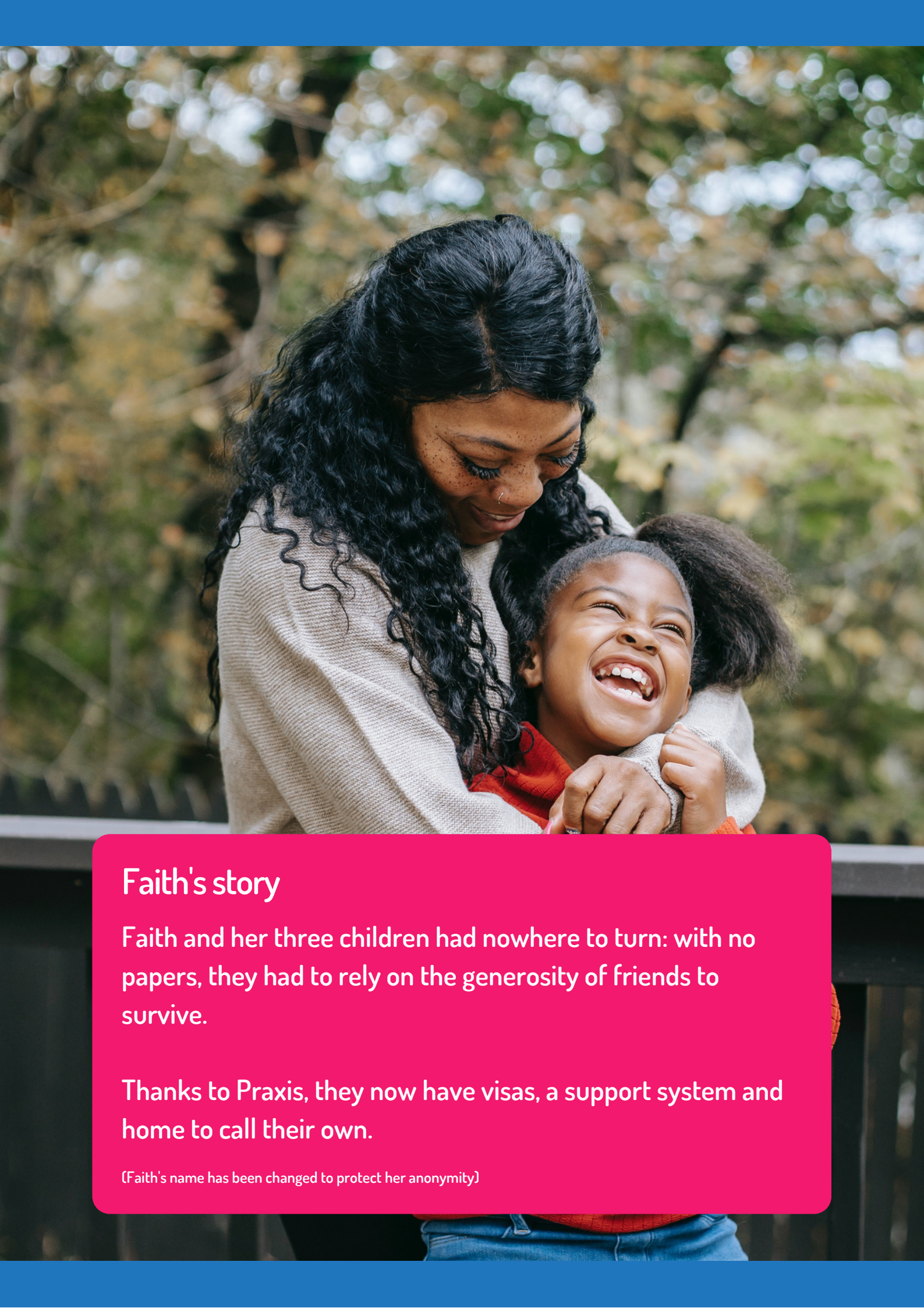


“ When I joined the group I was a very shy person and I was not very communicative. When I came to Brighter Futures, they gave me support to speak up. I have had the chance to speak at events. Now I can speak in front of a big audience.”

### Home, by Temmy

Home is where I feel safe and free  
Home is where my heart is  
Home is where I feel relaxed  
Home is where my bed is  
I found a beautiful paradise and sparkling  
which became my home  
The sound of my favourite TV  
programme fills it  
And makes me happy  
A real home to me tastes of vanilla,  
strawberry and sweet chocolate  
Home tastes so yummy

It also smells of Tom Ford' perfume  
which is so luxurious  
Because everywhere I go I am told how  
nice I smell  
Home is a place I love because it is my  
comfort zone  
Where I can relax  
I can walk with nothing on and no one  
looks at me or touches me  
Home feels warm and calm when you  
walk in  
After a stressful day from the outside  
Home sweet home



## Faith's story

Faith and her three children had nowhere to turn: with no papers, they had to rely on the generosity of friends to survive.

Thanks to Praxis, they now have visas, a support system and home to call their own.

(Faith's name has been changed to protect her anonymity)

My name is Faith, I am a single mother from Nigeria with three children. I first started coming to Praxis in 2018, a time when I had lost my home and found it difficult to feed myself and my three children.

I heard about the drop-in from an acquaintance, when I went, I received immigration advice. I also joined a group for mothers and their children called WINGs where I met other women in similar situations. I have been an active member since. Later on, I also became a member of the NRPF Action Group.

### **A chance to rebuild her family's life**

I have worked with a number of advisors at Praxis, they have supported me and informed me about my immigration options. In 2020 they supported me to register my daughter as British. And that year they were eventually able to submit a claim for limited leave to remain for the whole family.

### **Stripped of support for her children**

In July 2021, I was referred to Praxis' welfare support by my immigration advisor to support me to apply for schools for my eldest daughter. They were very helpful and also helped me with many other challenges. I was able to access Free School Meals, nursery funding for my 2 year old and a certificate for help with health costs. At times when things were really difficult, they helped me with hardship grants and supermarket vouchers.

The kids and I were living with friends in Southwark because I couldn't afford our own place.

### **Fighting insecure housing**

In April 2022 I was granted limited leave to remain which meant I could access local housing support. Then Praxis supported me to apply for benefits and open a bank account and they helped me submit a homeless application to Southwark Housing. Southwark did not provide temporary accommodation on the day the family were homeless, and the family had to stay in emergency out of hours housing for three nights.

Yet again, Praxis helped me out, they found solicitors to challenge the council and liaised with the housing officers to advocate for us. We were eventually provided with temporary accommodation in Ilford, but this was unfurnished, including no beds or bedding for me or the children. Praxis were able to speak to the housing team and ensure that they provided beds for all family members. Then they were able to obtain grants for furniture from a charity and the resettlement team in the council.

## A safe space for people in crisis

This year the award-winning housing project came to an end slightly earlier than planned due to the impact of Covid. We set out to address the challenge of accommodating homeless migrants who were excluded from general support such as hostel accommodation and other homelessness support systems by their immigration status and No Recourse to Public Funds visa condition. Our learning from the project informed our campaign against the No Recourse to Public Funds policy.

This innovative project was a partnership with Commonweal Housing underpinned by social investment from City Bridge, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Trust for London and Big Society Capital.

We are proud that the project resoundingly demonstrated the benefits of providing a combination of legal advice, casework and a supported housing environment to help people overcome the barriers to independence caused by their immigration status. The impacts of this project can be seen on many levels:

### For families:

- 72 families with children and single women were supported to move into their own homes.
- Families were able to move into their own accommodation much sooner reducing time spent waiting thanks to the bespoke support provided within this project.
- Time in temporary accommodation reduced to 365 days, compared to an average of 552 days.

**Time in temporary accommodation reduced to 365 days on average.**

### For local authorities:

- **Local authorities saved an estimated £8 million.**
- Some Local Authorities and London Councils now commission immigration advice for families and individuals at risk of homelessness and destitution.

**Local authorities saved £8 million.**



## Sharing learning and building good practice

Working to increase awareness and understanding of the barriers faced by many people who have migrated is an essential pillar within our work. We supported professionals and other organisations to understand the complex and frequently changing landscape of services and entitlements.

Last year the move to online delivery during the Covid pandemic offered some unforeseen advantages; it helped make our training accessible to participants across the UK, greatly increasing the geographical spread of professionals and organisations benefitting from our courses.

In total, we delivered:

### 20 cross sectoral training sessions

attended by 329 participants

### Training workshops across 11 London Boroughs

with frontline workers

### Four workshops in partnership

with local authorities and the Greater London Authority (GLA)

We continued to run the Pan-London Migrant (PLM) Frontline Network funded by St Martin-in-the-Fields charity. It offered support to frontline staff who work with people experiencing homelessness in London and explored migrant experiences of homelessness. The PLM Network facilitated quarterly events, which provided a regular opportunity to bring together frontline workers in London to network, share expertise and experience, and link to decision makers.

**When the need to respond to people fleeing the war in Ukraine became evident, Praxis were able to act quickly, supporting local authorities experiencing high demand for support. We provided information on the rights and entitlements of those arriving under the new government schemes for people fleeing Ukraine and outlined legal options for those who arrived independently. The workshops were attended by 50 people and 26 individuals were provided with advice.**

“ Thank you again to you and your colleagues from Praxis for such a good event...it was so great that people could receive advice and support.” - Delivery Partner

This year also saw Praxis enter a new national partnership with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit. Bringing together policy and research expertise, community engagement and immigration expertise the partnership is working together to create positive policy change.

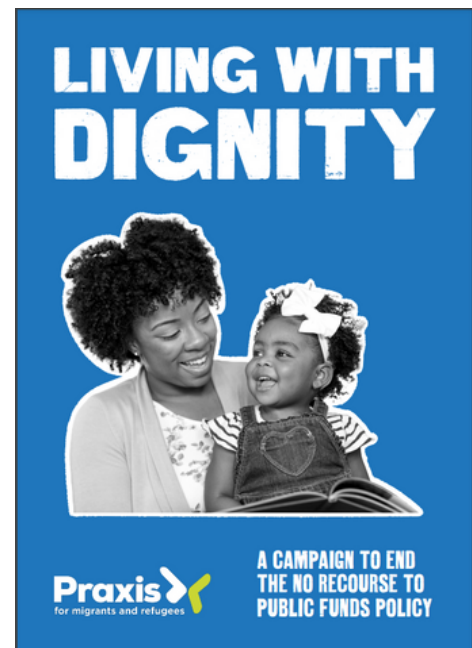
## Campaigning for systemic change

This year, we launched our first campaign co-produced with the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Action Group, a group of people with first-hand experience of the immigration system. This campaign, which seeks an end to the damaging No Recourse to Public Funds condition, is the result of more than a year's work by group members and staff.

Together with the 30 members of the group, we analysed power relations, built relationships with key stakeholders, and developed our campaign strategy.

We published a manifesto in May 2021, laying out the case for abolition of the No Recourse to Public Funds condition.

Group members participated in more than 50 hours of skills-building and training. This work is instrumental in building leaders with lived experience and ensuring that those affected by policy can speak out and challenge politicians to make changes.



## 50 hours of skills-building & training





The campaign got off to a highly successful start when we won our very first campaign in March 2022, securing **Free School Meals for all children living in poverty, regardless of their parents' immigration status**. We launched a digital action to raise the awareness of MPs, worked with the media to highlight the injustice of denying children in poverty free school meals and brought together a cross-party group of politicians with those with lived experience to examine the issue.

This campaign win was the result of years of hard work by countless campaigners, and we were very proud to lead the campaign that pushed the Government to finally take decisive action.

A huge thanks to organisations such as Project 17, The Unity Project, RAMP, Hackney Migrant Centre, The Children's Society, Citizens UK and Food Foundation, along with many other allies, for helping achieve this change!

On hearing the success of the campaign Anna, an action group member said:

“ We are tremendously happy to hear today's good news. This promising development gives us hope. It is so important to safeguard children. This is a step further on our quest: we are closer to ensuring that one of the most basic rights of children, to be well nourished, are being met.”

It has been another tough year for people seeking safety in the UK, with the Government introducing new legislation making it harder for people to claim asylum and reducing the rights of those who do so. We have worked with partners across the sector to highlight the dangers of the Government's approach, drawing on our experiences of working with people experiencing destitution and homelessness.

Together with a cross-party group of peers, we secured amendments to the Nationality and Borders Bill in the House of Lords to strengthen the rights of sanctuary seekers.

[Briefing: Refugee family reunion for unaccompanied minors](#)

## Praxis in the media

Praxis' work featured across media numerous times, raising awareness of the challenges and discrimination faced by people who have migrated and the need for change.

We were particularly proud of an interview with two young people who used our services in a BBC Panorama Documentary in May.

[Am I British? BBC News Panorama](#)



Tahj-Li and Nashstacia (pictured above) were one and nine when they moved to London with their mum and their older sister from Jamaica. Their mum was the only child still in Jamaica after her parents had moved to the UK as part of the Windrush generation.

Extortionate Home Office fees and the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' condition on their leave to remain prevented them from accessing public support, including housing benefits, child credit and free school meals, even when they desperately needed it. There were times when they had to give up essentials, including food, just so they could save enough to renew their visas when they were due.

Luckily, they found their way to Praxis. We were able to prepare the complex applications needed to secure them access to public support and to waive Home Office fees. We then supported them to apply for the family's visas.

### Other media pieces during the year:

- A feature piece in My London
- A letter to the editor in the Times
- Opinion pieces in the Tribune, the Independent and Politics Home
- Campaign features in Children and Young People Now, The Independent and the Big Issue

In March 2022 we published an Op-Ed in the Independent in relation to the Nationality and Borders Bill. Kemi Joy shared her experiences claiming asylum and the impact of this Bill for people like her:

“ As someone who could protect my daughter by claiming asylum in the UK and reunite with my children after my claim was recognised, my heart breaks for the families who might not have the same chance in the future. But unfortunately, that’s exactly what the government’s Nationality and Borders Bill will deny other families if it becomes law.”



## Volunteering

This year there was a large increase in the number of volunteers actively supporting the Praxis community by generously sharing their time and energy. Thank you very much, your support magnifies our impact every day!

50 volunteers supported our work regularly throughout the year. They kindly offered their time and passion and contributed hundreds of hours to activities across Praxis.

From manning our reception desk and supporting the provision of advice, to facilitating and supporting group work and providing childcare for group members- volunteers have been an invaluable part of every Praxis team.



**50 volunteers supported our work**

“ I can't properly explain how much volunteers contribute to the work I have done at Praxis. There have been many times when volunteers have accompanied very nervous people to appointments with solicitors, social services, housing providers and more. The volunteer support provided them was invaluable.”

A key focus has been to engage people that have lived experience of migration, seven people with lived experience and expertise volunteered their time and experience this year.

Our Link Project building on the work we did in response to Covid in 2020 launched in June 2021 to help provide a safety net for people unable to get through to an adviser. Our advice lines are very oversubscribed and each week many calls unfortunately go unanswered since demand for advice significantly outstrips supply.

Despite our best efforts we cannot fill this gap. With the support of dedicated and trained volunteers we provide a call back service to those who can't get through. They assess people's needs and provide signposting to a range of relevant services to help people access alternative support. They also provide food vouchers for people in crisis.

The service significantly improved circumstances for people who would otherwise have been unable to access support:

**360** calls offering support

**90** people signposted to services

**17** vouchers for food and essentials issued



# Finance

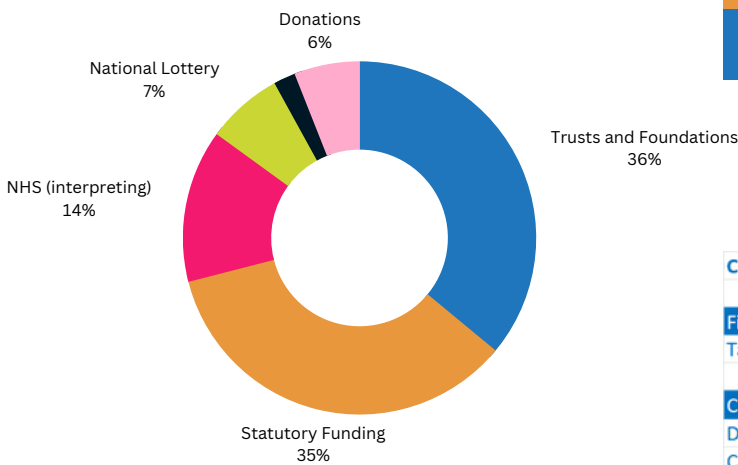
During the financial year 2021/2022, we continued to invest for the future by strengthening our foundations and developing our teams so that we can continue to respond to the relentless pressures of the hostile environment.

We are committed to transparency on how we generate income and how we spend to achieve our mission.

Overall, the charity delivered a net loss of £139,501 in 2021/22. The majority of this came from the planned spending down of restricted reserves and investment from designated funds. The reduction on general reserves was much smaller at £24,647.

After two years responding to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions the Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has retained a relatively resilient financial position. At 31st March 2022 general reserves stood at £601,515 with a further £165,381 in unrestricted designated reserves. (2021 £626,162)

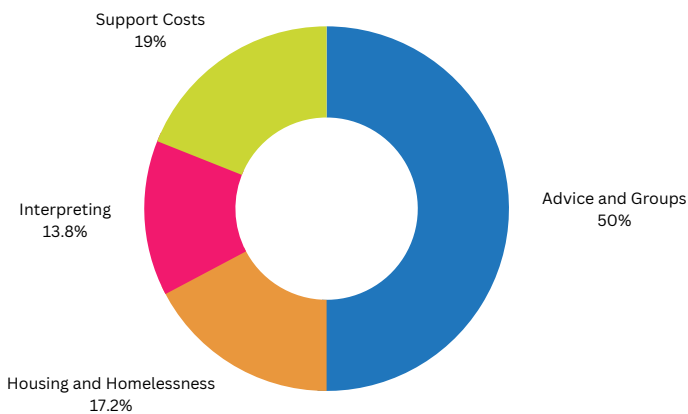
## Income



Total income: £2,008,746

Total expenditure: £2,228,247

## Expenditure



CHARITY BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2022	
Fixed assets	£
Tangible assets	27,899
Current assets	
Debtors	325,980
Cash at bank and in hand	654,317
	983,297
Creditors	
Amount falling due within 1 year	(132,938)
Net current assets	850,359
Total asset less liabilities	878,258
Creditors	
Amounts falling due after one year	(6,563)
Net assets	871,695
Charity Funds	
Restricted income funds	104,799
Unrestricted income funds	601,515
Designated funds	165,381
Total Charity Funds	871,695

## Thank you to all our donors, partners and allies who made our work possible

AB Charitable Trust, BBC Children in Need, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Tides Foundation, Justice Together Initiative, Dischma Charitable Trust, Southwark Cathedral, Souter Charitable Trust, London Legal Support Trust, Milton Damerel Trust, The Oak Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Refugee Action, Southwark Cathedral, The Arpad & Alena Rosner Foundation, The Aurum Charitable Trust, The Henry Smith Charity, The National Lottery Community Fund, the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington, Trust for London, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Metropolitan Migration Foundation, Greater London Authority, London Councils, St Mungo's, St Martin in the Field Frontline Network, LB Hackney, LB Tower Hamlets, LB of Newham and Homeless Link, SKY Media Foundation, St Matthews Church Bethnal Green, Open University and all the individuals who provided financial support during the year.

### Special thanks to the organisations, local authorities, charities and companies who collaborated with us:

Allen and Overy	LB Tower Hamlets
Babel's Blessing	Pathways
Crisis	Praxis Service User Forum Members
Citizens UK	Praxis Service User Representatives
Food Foundation	Project 17
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	Public Interest Law Centre
Homeless Link	Refugee Action
Hackney Migrant Centre	Refugee Kitchen
Institute for Public Policy Research	Shelter
JCWI	St Martin-in-the-fields – Charity
Kazzum Arts	St Mungo's
Members of Praxis groups	The Children's Society
The NRPF Action Group	The Magpie Project
LB Hackney	The Unity Project
LB City London	United Reform Church
LB Newham	



## Trustees of the Charity, who are also the Directors of the Company, during Financial Year 2021-2022:

Barbara Roche (*Chair*) (*Retired November 2021*)

Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard (*Chair*) (*Appointed 10 February 2022*)

Pasha Michaelsen (*Vice Chair*) (*Acting Chair from Nov 2021-Feb 2022*)

Raphael Perret (*Treasurer*)

Tom Brand

Martin Cosarinsky Campos

Constance Cullen

Ruby Giblin

Dylan Matthews

Kemi Ogunlana

Jumana Rahman

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Bankers: HSBC plc, 465 Bethnal Green Road, London, E2 9QW

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Praxis, for Migrants and Refugees



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