

# 2022-23

## Trustee's Annual Report

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Charity number: 1177260



## **CEO's introduction**

Those working in migration policy in the UK know it is a complex and constantly evolving issue. This year gone was no exception.

I came onboard as CEO in March of 2022, and as I write this I have had the pleasure of leading Here for Good for exactly one year. I am grateful to the charity's two co-founders and previous Joint-CEOs, Bella Mosselmans and Tahmid Chowdhury, whose dedication and guidance has been invaluable, and to the advice teams and the Board for welcoming me into the Here for Good family. Bella Mosselmans has also stepped into the position of Senior Legal and Strategy Advisor to provide regular guidance and support. I am proud to head up a charity with such a clear mission - to secure and safeguard migrants' rights through free, high-quality legal services and strategic legal work.

In the year following the official application deadline to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), the number of applications submitted to the Home Office from Europeans and their families apply remained high - well over 50,000 every month. Many applicants continue to struggle to access their rights under what has quickly become one of the most complex pieces of immigration law under the new post-Brexit immigration system. Five years into existence, Here for Good has carved out a reputation as a legal charity with high-quality and specialist advice for complex cases concerning in-need individuals, thanks to our excellent EUSS advice team.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine was perhaps the most defining event of 2022 and led to the creation of two new refugee visa routes into the UK - the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme. Thanks to Here for Good's unique model, we were able to quickly mobilise a team of lawyers and set up a new advice project supporting people fleeing Ukraine.

In the last twelve months, we have worked hard to make sure our work can have even more impact; amongst many things we have expanded our EUSS advice team, set up a Ukraine advice project, recruited a new volunteer network coordinator as well as created a new legal policy role to more strategically respond to systemic issues that we identify in our casework.

Looking ahead, it is clear that anyone in the business of upholding migrants' rights has their work cut out for them. Using the unique Here for Good model, we are determined to continue to respond meaningfully and intentionally to emerging immigration crises where free legal assistance is not available. In 2023/2024 we will be launching a legal partnership to respond to the lack of support available to Afghan refugees who fall outside the rules of the UK's Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. We will also invest in our strategic work to create meaningful and wide-reaching change and develop our existing advice services to respond to our clients' needs in a more holistic manner.

Our key strategic risks are, as always, securing funding from government and independent funding bodies in a cost of living crisis; recruiting and retaining high quality lawyers to help us meet our objectives; and ensuring that our excellent volunteer network remains engaged. Together with the Board, I am committed to addressing these issues head on in the coming years.

Without the contributions of many others, we would not be in the position we are in; a position where we can make a truly positive difference to people's lives. To our partners, supporters, volunteers, staff, and, most importantly, clients - thank you for the trust you have placed in us and for your ongoing, unwavering support.

**Bella Kosmala**  
**CEO, Here for Good**

## **Message from trustees**

War, economic downturns, and an expansion of the hostile environment have all tested Here for Good's resolve over the past year. In what has been a complex, and too often fatal, year for charities across the country, we are proud to reflect on another successful 12 months supporting vulnerable migrants across the country.

In early 2022, my fellow trustees and I were on the search for a new CEO who could take Here for Good to the next level. We found Bella Kosmala, who in her vision, generosity, and poise embodied all the critical values we have as a charity. Since joining, Bella has restructured our EUSS team to strengthen the support we offer vulnerable migrants affected by Brexit; established our Ukraine service to support refugees fleeing conflict in Eastern Europe; and identified opportunities where we can make an even bigger difference as a charity.

Bella would be the first to say that she couldn't have done it alone. Our growing team continue to astound me with their professionalism, talent, diligence, and class. I had the pleasure of joining their away day the same week Here for Good celebrated turning five; it filled me with total confidence that the charity is in excellent hands as we look to support more at-risk migrants over the next five years.

That said, reflection should be short lived. Yes, we need to learn from our success and our mistakes. Yes, we need to celebrate the immense contribution our team has made to the UK immigration sector and people's lives; as well as our partners and funders who have supported us with such grace over the years. However, we also need to focus on the challenges ahead, dedicating the same commitment and passion that has underpinned our first five years.

Our CEO, Bella Kosmala, is settled in her role and firmly holding the reins towards an increasingly effective future. As she drives the organisation forward, she will continue to be supported by Here for Good's co-founder, Bella Mosselmans, in her new strategic advisory role. The Board aren't just confident that the Bellas will deliver for our charity's beneficiaries; we're excited to support them and the wider staff team in this next phase of our journey.

After all, it's why we got involved. It's what makes us Here for Good.

**Tahmid Chowdhury, on behalf of the Here for Good Board of Trustees:**

**Isabella Mosselmans**

**Kim Hooper**

**Gary Simmons**

**Paul Dossett**

**Zeena Luchowa**

## About Here for Good

Here for Good empowers at-risk migrants to secure and safeguard their rights through free, high-quality legal services and strategic legal work. In a fractured immigration environment, the charity adopts a specialist and flexible approach to respond to emerging challenges in a collaborative, deliberate, enduring way.

We work in innovative partnerships to provide legal support to those most-in need, and to fight against unjust and unlawful policies. Our unique model, which can be deployed to plug gaps quickly and efficiently, ensures that no one gets left behind.

We currently provide free advice on the EU Settlement Scheme and the Ukraine Schemes. We are extremely proud to have successfully supported thousands to secure their immigration status in the UK and impacted tens of thousands more through our strategic litigation work.

### Unique Legal Model

Here for Good has a unique structure built on close partnerships. Our team of lawyers are based within law firms and legal centers where they benefit from the partner organisation's knowledge, expertise and supervisory and regulatory structures. We also have a network of skilled volunteer immigration lawyers taking on cases across the UK.

This model has enabled us to provide vital additional capacity across the UK, and provide free high-quality advice and support where it was previously not available. We can join up community-level referrals with specialist advice, and take on strategic litigation and policy work to challenge systemic issues.

### Responding to Brexit

Here for Good was originally set up to provide free and high-quality legal advice to Europeans and their family members post-Brexit who are unable to access legal aid to secure their immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Our legal team and network of volunteer lawyers primarily work to support individuals experiencing homelessness; those in financial hardship; domestic violence and trafficking survivors; members of the Roma community; children in care; older people; and others with complex needs. Here for Good also conducts strategic litigation and policy work to uphold and advance the rights of the communities we support.

### Responding to other emergency immigration crises

Immigration crises emerge at pace. Chronic and long term underinvestment in legal aid provision has left the sector unable to meet demand. Our unique model can be deployed to plug gaps quickly and efficiently, ensuring no one gets left behind.

Within weeks of the Ukraine scheme opening, we were able to use our partnership with Wilsons to assemble a team of lawyers to run our Ukraine Project, providing legal support and conducting strategic work to ensure the scheme works fairly for all. Here for Good will continue to respond meaningfully and intentionally to emerging immigration crises where free legal assistance is not available.

## About our services

### 1. EU Settlement Scheme advice service

The EUSS advice service is the core of Here for Good's work. The service was set up in 2018 following extensive research by the two co-founders which demonstrated a complete lack of free legal advice available for European nationals and their family members across the UK.

Despite the official application deadline on the 30th June 2021, Here for Good's EUSS advice service continues to see a significant number of vulnerable individuals who require high-quality legal support. We provide advice over phone and email and also take on 1-2-1 referrals from organisations that work with particularly vulnerable Europeans and their family members such as refugees, homelessness services and local authorities. The phone service is public facing, whilst email advice and case referrals are means-tested. Some groups we support include:

- Roma communities (and other similar vulnerable migrant or marginalised populations)
- Homeless / rough sleepers
- People with disabilities/ serious health conditions (e.g. physical or mental impairment)
- Victims of trafficking/modern slavery
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Older people
- Care leavers
- Looked after children
- Economic vulnerability
- Precarious circumstances

We are increasingly providing support at the post-application stage eg. dealing with delays, appeals and administrative reviews.

Here for Good's blended approach to advice provision has continued to be effective. With hubs in both London and the Midlands, and volunteers across the country, the charity has been able to take on cases from every corner of the UK. This has proven especially important given the high number of complex referrals received from other organisations, including many in the grant-funded network and the recent increase of referrals from DWP.

Our in-house EUSS advice team consists of Bianca Valperga and Isobel Cairns who work from the AIRE Centre, and George Hanvere, Elliott Dipper and Julia Crellin who work from Nottingham-based Paragon Law. They provide advice through:

- A free phone advice line;
- A comprehensive email enquiries service;
- One-to-one support for complex casework;
- Strategic work

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**800**

In 2022/23 the EUSS advice team provided free, high-quality legal advice to **over 800** clients through 1-2-1 casework, phone and email advice.

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## Legal advocacy and influencing

Here for Good has continued to use its advisory service to inform wider activities in the sector. The charity sits on the EU Delegation's Monitoring Network and the EU Delegation's Outreach sub-group, providing regular opportunities to inform grassroots activity across the sector based on its expertise. This year we attended the inaugural EU citizens' gathering that they organised in London.

Here for Good also works closely with the Independent Monitoring Authority and the EUSS Alliance and feeds into reports, speaks at events and is developing helpful resources for the sector to use. Our legal policy officer was invited to speak on a panel hosted by Maternity Action and together with our CEO she has fed into a number of consultations e.g. Jubilee Foundation, Migration Exchange, JUSTICE and others.

### Advice service updates:

- The EUSS advice service has set up a new advice line bringing the service in-house, this means we will be able to monitor and evaluate calls much better in the future.
- To deal with demand, we have recruited an additional full-time EUSS caseworker and volunteer coordinator who sits at the AIRE Centre.
- To better address emerging issues under the EU Settlement Scheme, we have developed a new role together with one of our existing EUSS caseworkers, Bianca. She now undertakes legal policy work two days per week.
- To ensure that our EUSS caseworkers continue to develop their expertise within EUSS and stay immersed in EU law, we transferred a secondment to the AIRE Centre which are our newest legal partner.
- All EUSS caseworkers have received a refresher training course on our case management system CharityLog to better monitor and evaluate our casework.
- We continued to support our EUSS caseworkers with their professional development, sending them to various courses on intersecting issues such as benefits and domestic abuse training.

## 2. Ukraine advice project

The Here for Good Ukraine Project was set up in March 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the launch of the UK government's two visa schemes 'Homes for Ukraine' and the 'Ukraine Family Scheme'. Here for Good launched a crowdfunding campaign which raised over £33,000.

The unique advice model of Here for Good makes us nimble and meant that we were able to set the project up quickly which enabled us to assist a large volume of clients very quickly and efficiently. The advice team sits at Wilson LLP and consists of Mala Savjani, Anais Crane and Rosa Pinard.

The Ukraine advice service consists of:

- Dedicated phone line open from 10am-12 midday on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- One-off advice via email
- 1-2-1 advice for complex cases
- Possibility of advising on strategic litigation and advancing Judicial Reviews where decisions are unreasonably delayed or an unlawful decision has been made on an application



Between the start of the project in March 2022 until March 2023, **the team received 377 referrals** and **advised 344 of them**. In total, they **assisted 581 individuals** (of which 129 were children).



The team took on **61 complex cases**, 41 of them were successful (8 of them were refused and the remaining withdrawn or outstanding).

As the war continued, it became clear that complex applications from unaccompanied children and third country nationals in particular were not being decided. This was a widespread issue across the sector and we applied for funds from the Strategic Legal Fund to work on this as a piece of strategic litigation.

In the initial months after the war began, applications under the Home for Ukraine Scheme made by individuals who were overstayers in the UK were being approved, but as we moved into August 2022, those applications started to be refused, showing that the Home Office were starting to take a more rigid approach in their decision making. We had seen multiple applications being granted outside of rules, but as we moved into the last quarter of the year, we began to see a few more refusals. Although the volume of cases started to decrease, the complexity of cases increased.

Applications under the Ukraine Schemes do not attract a right of appeal, although there are some applications that will raise Human Rights Grounds, i.e. those where the Applicant has family in the UK. We obtained counsel's advice and lodged an appeal in one of these cases. This raised an interesting wider point regarding the Ukraine Schemes and rights of appeal.

We worked alongside other organisations including DLA Piper's Pro Bono Ukraine Project, Asylum Aid, Praxis and Safe Passage and assisting with cases where we had capacity to take on referrals.

## Media

Here for Good was quoted in a number of media sources for our work on the Ukraine Schemes:

Mala Savjani quoted in NY Times in March 2022: [https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/08/world/europe/ukraine-uk-family-scheme-refugees.html?](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/08/world/europe/ukraine-uk-family-scheme-refugees.html?unlocked_article_code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACEIPuomTIJKd6Jl7VwlcRCfTTMQmqxCdw_Plxftm3iWka3DODm4SiPsSGYyMvErQf617apwu3C6SRdlMdalsAfJ7y-5blgl2QAmIp5bBgpklPio4pJn1Xn8z29iFe4EEExglQTzvlvZjlv4tgjaMTOODLrVg3FylQszqY9kJlivxXBcwabaQbQlj81_36h3VJotEm8FZnaarrK_XUUFTdaDahvf7gkwX_glGm2A2l7BtM9TNVlaGlnET3hg4Gwj6dl6O9sfOKv3LhNla9QpyPxKSTOudNH1csV3E4vELLxqsqrPrAiOzqe2x_YxEqZWudDUozcttoYmy7wqvIzeVieg2eo&smid=url-share)

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Anais Crane quoted in The Guardian on 2 May 2022: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/02/priti-patel-refugees-legal-action-homes-for-ukraine>

Mala Savjani quoted in a number of online articles regarding the issue of unaccompanied children's applications being put on pause:

- a. <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/national/20123596.government-not-know-fleeing-ukrainian-minors-says-lawyer/>
- b. <https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-news-live-lyschansk-donetsk-putin-12541713?postid=3859267>
- c. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/national/20123596.government-not-know-fleeing-ukrainian-minors-says-lawyer/>
- d. <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/home-office-accused-of-making-it-as-difficult-as-possible-for-ukrainian-refugees-to-secure-visas>

Anais Crane quoted in The Independent on 13 October 2022: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/russia-putin-ukraine-war-refugees-b2199443.html#r3z-adddoor>

### **Online Resources**

Soon after the project began, we created a number of online guides for applicants to refer to when completing application forms. These were step-by-step guides on how to make applications under the Family Scheme and later the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and Extension Scheme. We currently have 5 guides available on our website.

### **External meetings**

We attended a number of sector wide meetings set up by Doughty Street Chambers and Asylum Aid. We attended meetings with Hammersmith LA re: the issue of unaccompanied minors to come up with a strategy on how best to approach this issue.

We are one of the groups that form part of the Ukraine Advisory Panel and are working closely with Work Rights Centre on how the group can/should move forward. We feedback on immigration related matters. We also provided information to Work Rights Centre on the report they drafted in the last quarter of last year on the Ukraine Schemes.

We created a fact sheet for Stand with Refugees who have been providing sessions to Ukrainian citizens in the UK who have fled the war. Anais also attended an advice session of theirs and provided 1-2-1 in person advice to attendees.

We attended a site visit to the East European Resource Centre together with Work Rights Centre and Deputy Mayor of Communities and Social Justice Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard where we shared our experience from the Ukraine advice project.

## **3. Legal policy work**

Here for Good has dedicated staff members working on legal policy issues related to the EUSS and Ukraine Advice Scheme.

Bianca Valperga is our EUSS Legal Policy Officer working for Here for Good from the AIRE Centre. She is currently focused on a number of projects, including derivative rights, delays in decision making and pending prosecutions.

Here for Good coordinated a joint letter from over forty organisations funded by the Home Office to provide advice to vulnerable individuals under the EU Settlement Scheme (GFOs) and other EUSS advice providers in the UK, urging the Home Office to continue funding advice provision past 31st March 2023. You can [read the letter here](#).



Mala Savjani is our Ukraine Strategy and Policy Lead, working for Here for Good from Wilson Solicitors. The Ukraine team at Wilson Solicitors have been doing crucial work to ensure the scheme works fairly for unaccompanied minors. We successfully applied for funds from the Strategic Legal Fund to conduct pre-action work and research into challenging the Home Office's provisions (initial absence/ then lack of clarity) for unaccompanied minors under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

When we first started working on these cases, there was no guidance in place for children who were unaccompanied who were fleeing Ukraine. Their applications were on pause, and no guidance was forthcoming. This left a number of very young people at risk either in Ukraine, or in other European countries, while they had willing sponsors in the UK who were ready to house them and look after them.

Through various strategic work Here for Good contributed to the pressure on the Home office to issue guidance on unaccompanied children, which was finally issued on 15 July 2022: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents-or-legal-guardians> Once this guidance was issued, a number of applications were decided, and it became clearer how to challenge applications that remained on pause, although decisions have not always been swift.

## Organisational updates

### People

2022 is the year that Here for Good welcomed onboard Bella Kosmala as the organisation's first external CEO. Bella joined from the Greater London Authority where she led on the Mayor of London's policy work around European Londoners during the Brexit process.

Co-founder Bella Mosselmans moved from being a trustee to join Bella Kosmala in the executive team as a Senior Legal and Strategy Adviser on a part-time basis.

EUSS caseworker Bianca Valperga took on an EUSS legal policy role for two days a week alongside her EUSS caseworker role, and transferred her secondment from South West London Law Centres to the AIRE Centre.

Isobel Cairns was recruited into the EUSS advice team on a full-time basis as the new volunteer coordinator and EUSS caseworker adding much needed advice capacity. Iso is based at the AIRE Centre and took over from Libby Attwood who was based at Bindmans.

Borimir Totev joined the organisation on a consultancy basis providing communications support.

### Strategic development

Work began to transfer the organisation's website to a new host in order to make better use of the site, such as adding dynamic content and making easy edits.

Here for Good applied and was granted status as a Living Wage Employer.

### Funding

During the financial year of 2022/2023 we secured funding from the following independent trusts and public bodies:

- Allen Lane
- AB Charitable Trust
- Trust for London
- Strategic Legal Fund
- Blue Thread
- Ludovica Foundation
- Jubilee Foundation
- Greater London Authority
- Home Office

### Partnerships

The migrants' rights sector is highly collaborative, and there's no doubt that Here for Good's work would not be possible without the support of its network of partners. Whether it's the experience of its legal partners, the specialised expertise of its charitable partners, or the logistical knowledge and resources of its institutional partners, the charity's success is driven by its ability to draw on a pool of highly skilled and committed collaborators.

In the past year, Here for Good has strengthened its ties with existing partners, and established links with new organisations, allowing it to increase its capacity and impact.

## Legal Partners

- IOM - we continue to work in our consortium with IOM as a Home Office grant-funded organisation providing EUSS advice to in-need Europeans and their families.
- Paragon Law - Nottingham based niche immigration law firm. Advisers Julia Crellin, George Hanvere and Elliott Dipper split a full-time role providing legal advice relating to the EU Settlement Scheme over the phone, email and 1-2-1 casework.
- South West London Law Centres - London based law centre. Adviser Bianca Valperga works full-time for Here for Good providing legal advice over the phone and by providing 1-2-1 casework. From June 2022, Bianca split her role to take on and develop a legal policy role 2 days/week. From January 2023 Bianca transferred to the AIRE Centre.
- AIRE Centre - London based legal charity. New volunteer coordinator Isobel Cairns and Bianca Valperga joined in January 2023.
- Bindmans - London based law firm. Libby Attwood, solicitor, managed the volunteer network and provided advice under the EU Settlement Scheme up until May 2022.
- Wilson LLP - Caseworkers Anais Crane and Rosa Pinard provide advice under the two visa schemes Homes for Ukraine and Ukraine Family Scheme as part of Here for Good's Ukraine advice project. Mala Savjani provided support as the strategy and policy lead.

## Referral partners

The charity relies upon numerous not-for-profit organisations for complex case referrals. Partners include other organisations in the migrants' rights sector, as well as organisations who work with at-risk and vulnerable groups, such as charities tackling homelessness and domestic violence.

By drawing on the in-depth knowledge of these charities, gained working on the frontlines in their respective fields, Here for Good can more effectively support those who most need help.

## Institutional Partners

The support that Here for Good receives from established institutional partners is vital. The organisation works closely with the Greater London Authority and the Mayor of London, the EU Delegation to the UK and the Independent Monitoring Authority.

## Testimonials

### Partners

*"I had the privilege of acting for Here for Good in their judicial review of the EUSS Covid-19 guidance, which was restrictive and discriminatory. The government withdrew the guidance following Here for Good's legal challenge. It takes a bold and dynamic charity to step up to be the claimant in a systemic judicial review, and it is a massive credit to Here for Good's board and staff that the challenge happened and was so impactful."*

**Ollie Persey - Barrister, Garden Court Chambers**

*"Here for Good is an indispensable Partner in our efforts to support European residents, and their family members, in the UK. Together we've provided a substantial amount of pro-bono time and we continue to refer vulnerable or at risk individuals to the Here for Good services, without which they would be vulnerable to the EU Settlement Scheme. We're proud of our partnership and all the valuable work the Here for Good team is providing to European residents in the UK."*

**Chris Desira - Solicitor Director, Seraphus Law**

*"We have referred vulnerable Eastern European citizens to Here for Good to be supported with immigration advice and applications under the EU Settlement Scheme for the last year. Our collaboration with the Here for Good team has always been very professional, the team always goes above and beyond in supporting the needs of the referred service users and is available to respond to our enquiries"*

**Nadia Mihai, The Romanian and Eastern European Hub**

*"the3million has been working with Here for Good since their inception and the feedback we have received from beneficiaries has been consistently positive. Here for Good is answering a need to support vulnerable EU citizens requiring legal representation and they are doing it with humanity and with compassion. A 5-star partner"*

**Nicolas Hatton - CEO, the3million**

### Clients

*"I am quite sure that even if ability to pay was no object, I would not have found someone as professional, capable and diligent as [our caseworker]. All along I had this sense that he cares deeply about his client and what happens to them and their case. In a process that to be honest is terrifying, these are invaluable qualities."*

*"[Our caseworker] had great patience and took us step by step to understand the needs of my client that I represented and her family. As the client's Social Worker, I am very satisfied with the level at which [our caseworker] understood my client's needs and supported us throughout the EUSS process successfully"*

*"We feel we were supported and treated with great care throughout the whole process! We truly believe 'Here for Good' has been a Godsend for us. We were like a lost ship in the ocean, with no hope before [our caseworker] found us"*

*"I cannot express enough how kind and helpful you have been throughout this process. You have always had a measured and informed position in regard to our situation and it has been a huge comfort to have your support throughout this process."*

## Looking ahead

Here for Good continues to go from strength to strength providing support responding to crises intentionally and responsibly.

In our EU Settlement Scheme advice service, we continue to take on complex cases from clients struggling to secure their rights. It is clear that we need to take a more strategic approach to improve the system. In order to do this, we are investing in more legal strategy work. In addition to creating a legal policy officer role, we are planning to add a solicitor role to the EUSS team in 2023/2034 in order to more systematically gather data, undertake strategic casework, engage with the Home Office, influence policy change and to litigate.

We are also looking to expand our legal partnerships such as new pro bono partners for our volunteer network, secondment partners for our in-house advice teams and for our strategic policy work.

In order to develop a more holistic advice service offering we will look to bring onboard a specialist benefits advisor who can advise across our services.

Here for Good will continue to respond meaningfully and intentionally to emerging immigration crises where free legal assistance is not available.

We will continue to offer a free advice service for people fleeing Ukraine together with Wilson LLP, our humanitarian response partner.

For 2023/2024 we have secured funding to set up a partnership with Wilson LLP to respond to the lack of support available to Afghan refugees who fall outside the rules of the UK's Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. This project will have a different feel to the EUSS and Ukraine advice services in that it will focus on a handful of cases in order to create systemic change.

The organisation recently celebrated its 5th birthday, and in the coming months we will publish our strategy for the next five years. This will include plans for how to further develop the organisation as a core player in the legal immigration advice sector.

## Objects, Governance and Legal Structure

### Overview

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on the preparation of accounts by charities with gross incomes of less than £500,000 and comply with the charity's governing document.

### Registration

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) no. 1177260 was formed on the 21 February 2018 and is governed by the conditions contained within its constitution.

### Address

The charity's registered address is: Here for Good, 15 Crosby Walk, London, E8 3DW.

## Trustees

At the start of the financial year, the charity's trustees were: Tahmid Chowdhury (Co-Founder), Isabella Mosselmans (Co-Founder), Paul Dossett, Kim Hooper, Gary Simmons, Zeena Luchowa and Susan Trepekli.

At the end of the financial year, the charity's trustees were: Tahmid Chowdhury (Co-Founder), Paul Dossett, Kim Hooper, Gary Simmons and Zeena Luchowa.

## Objectives

The charity's objectives are:

- To relieve poor persons across England and Wales – primarily those who are EEA citizens and their non-EEA family members living in the UK – by providing such persons with free, high quality legal services which they could not otherwise obtain through lack of means; and
- The relief and assistance of people who are the victims of war or natural disaster, trouble, or catastrophe in particular by the supply of legal services and ancillary assistance to such persons seeking refuge in the UK;
- To advance such other charitable purposes as the directors at their absolute discretion may from time to time determine.

## Structure, Governance, and Management

Here for Good is governed by its constitution.

The charity has an active and involved Board of Trustees. Each trustee has an equal vote in Board meetings. They retain complete oversight over the charity from a governance, financial and operational perspective. The Trustees meet as a Board every 6 to 8 weeks based on a structured agenda provided by the CEO.

The Board is supported in its role by the charity's CEO Bella Kosmala and co-founder and Senior Legal and Strategy Adviser Isabella Mosselmans, making up the charity's executive team together with co-founder Tahmid Chowdhury.

The non-founding Trustees have extensive financial, governance, accounting and immigration law experience which compliments the legal and operational skills of the co-founders and the CEO. The Trustees take steps to ensure that the Charity remains a going concern by scrutiny of the financial position at every Board meeting and the financial risks associated with any new projects proposed by CEO and executive team.

In the fifth year of operations, the charity directly or indirectly employed twelve members of staff in total. Nine staff providing legal services were formally employed by partner law firms and seconded to work on the Here for Good project. Two made up the executive team and one was hired on a freelance basis to support the charity's communications.

## Financial Matters

Only two members of Here for Good's board have access to the charity's bank account, on which major financial transactions are limited except with both signatories' consent. A third member of the board, independent of this and a chartered accountant, is responsible for drafting the annual statutory financial statements .

All trustees review budgets and financial forecasts in board meetings; they can also request these for inspection at any time. They all have sight of accounts in advance of their publication.

## **FY5 Accounts**

### **Accounts Overview**

A full set of accounts are attached as an appendix to this report, titled 'Here for Good FY5 Accounts'.

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees**

The independent examiner's report to the trustees is also included as an appendix to this report, titled 'Here for Good IE Report - FY5 Accounts'.

### **Statement**

As a Trustee, I am duly authorised to sign the accounts on behalf of Here for Good. To the best of my knowledge, the accounts are accurate and have been independently examined to a high standard.



**Tahmid Chowdhury**  
**Trustee and Co-Founder**

**Date: 6th June 2023**