

HERE FOR GOOD



TRUSTEES'
ANNUAL REPORT

HERE FOR GOOD | 2023-2024



CEO's introduction

Here for Good truly is an extraordinary organisation, and it has been an absolute privilege to lead and work alongside such a talented and dedicated team of lawyers. Together, our collective efforts have made a tangible difference in the lives of the thousands of people we have supported. I remain deeply inspired by the commitment, resilience, and dedication of my colleagues and our partners.

This past year has not been without its challenges—for migrants struggling to secure their rights in the UK and for the sector working tirelessly to support them. The demand for our immigration services has been overwhelming, placing immense pressure on our caseworkers, who often support people in crisis while managing heavy caseloads. Compounding these difficulties is the persistent challenge of securing adequate funding, making it increasingly difficult to meet the growing needs of those we serve.

As a result, and despite everyone's best efforts, we have made the difficult decision to place the charity into dormancy. This pause will give the Board of Trustees time to reflect and strategically plan for the next chapter in Here for Good's journey.

This decision is by no means a reflection of the dedication of our team or the importance and demand for the work of organisations like Here for Good. Rather, it reflects the stark realities many of us face—finding a sustainable model that will allow the charity to thrive.

However, I am proud to say that Here for Good's exceptional legal expertise will carry on through the [Here for Good SAFE project](#), which will continue as a partnership between Wilson Solicitors and Seraphus. This project will remain actively engaged in challenging systemic injustices that threaten Europeans and their families.

I am immensely proud of everything we've accomplished as an organisation. I know many share my deep gratitude toward our co-founders, Bella Mosselmans and Tahmid Chowdhury, as well as the dedicated lawyers, including the network of pro bono lawyers across the UK, who have contributed to Here for Good over the years. Their work has provided life-changing, high-quality, and free legal advice to those in need.

Here for Good has helped thousands secure their immigration status in the UK and has impacted tens of thousands more through its strategic litigation efforts. It has been an honour to lead this organisation through such extraordinary times. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this journey—your unwavering support is what has made this work possible. Please join me in wishing the Board of Trustees all the very best as they guide the charity through its next phase.

Bella Kosmala
CEO, Here for Good

Message from trustees

For over six years, Here for Good has been at the forefront of protecting and championing the rights of European citizens and their families. In the face of systemic and political pressure, we are proud to have built a charity that is dedicated to its mission, collaborative with its partners, and focused on driving meaningful change for its beneficiaries.

In the last two and a half years, we have expanded our services to support migrants facing urgent and emerging legal issues. We were amongst the first organisations to launch a Ukraine advice scheme following Russia's invasion; and our Afghan strategic legal project has been focused on creating positive systemic change to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

Some of our highlights this past year include:

- Launching our strategic partnership project 'SAFE' with Wilson Solicitors and Seraphus with the aim to challenge systemic injustices that put Europeans and their families at risk through strategic litigation and legal policy work.
- Supporting over a thousand people with complex immigration needs under the EU Settlement Scheme, the Ukraine Schemes and the Afghan Relocation and Policy Scheme, providing them with high-quality and trusted advice and representation, free of charge.
- Intervening in a number of Judicial Reviews to defend the rights of migrants, as well as bringing our own NGO challenge against the Home office arguing that applicants to the EUSS should have a right of appeal against any rejections of late applications as invalid. To find out more, please read our blog posts [here](#) and [here](#).

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and belief of so many.

Our staff and volunteers continue to go above and beyond the call of duty. Their work – in recent years, often dehumanised and delegitimised by politicians and in the press – makes a tangible difference to the lives of our beneficiaries. Without them, there would be no Here for Good.

Our partners, from grassroots NGOs to international law firms, have stood alongside us for years. Their support and commitment to shared values have motivated us to keep fighting for the change we want to see.

Our funders have empowered us to deliver innovative and diverse programmes over the years. Their patience and counsel have made it possible for Here for Good to thrive since we founded back in 2018.

And, most importantly, our clients have demonstrated enormous trust in our ability to safeguard their rights and livelihoods. Putting your faith in another person takes a huge amount of courage, and we are grateful to every individual who has given us the opportunity to make a difference.

The funding and immigration landscapes are changing in the UK. After many years of hard, often voluntary, work, now is a chance for us to reassess Here for Good's role and responsibilities in the sector.

We have always said that charities should be in the business of going out of business. While we know that the need for high quality, strategic legal services remains at an arguably all-time high – across

EUSS, Ukraine, ARAP, and other emerging crises – we are equally certain that this will only be achieved with sustainable, long-term solutions.

So, while we think to the future, we reflect on the past; and thank all those who have supported us in empowering migrants to stay *Here for Good*.

Tahmid Chowdhury, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Kim Hooper
Gary Simmons
Paul Dossett

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, the Ukraine Schemes and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. 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 centres 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. This year we launched our strategic partnership project 'SAFE' with Wilson Solicitors and Seraphus with the aim to challenge systemic injustices that put Europeans and their families at risk.

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. This year we have also set up a 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 with the aim of creating systemic change. Here for Good will continue to respond meaningfully and intentionally to emerging immigration crises where free legal assistance is not available.

Testimonials from partners and stakeholders

'Here for Good has been such an important partner in so much of our work, I'll never forget the enormity of Here for Good's commitment throughout the London is Open campaign to bring advice and information to thousands of Londoners on their settlement rights. The Bellas, Tahmid and the whole team have achieved some incredible feats over the past few years. It's been a pleasure to work alongside you.'

Hannah Boylan, Greater London Authority

'HfG have been a tremendous force for good over many years and we have been lucky to have been a small part of that story.'

Matthew Evans, The AIRE Centre

'We will be eternally grateful for the amazing work that Here for Good has carried out in these past years. You have achieved extraordinary impact not only in people's lives but also in the shaping of the EUSS via the systemic challenges. I will never forget the incredibly positive atmosphere of the organisation's anniversary I attended last year and the numerous impactful stories about the work that you had been doing. You and the whole team at HfG should be incredibly proud of your historic achievements. We will certainly miss you. I am also very glad to hear that the SAFE project will keep essential work on the ground.'

Jaime de Vilotta, the EU Delegation to the UK

'Here for Good has been such a great organisation and the help they provided to EU nationals and their families was invaluable. It's a pity that it will cease its activity now but you never know what the future will bring.'

Toni Petkova, Settled

'We really enjoyed working with you and would like to thank you and the team for your critical work supporting migrants in need. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours and hope that our paths cross again.'

We would also like to wish trustees all the best as they navigate Here for Good's next phase and we would be pleased to hear what trustees decide in due course.'

Karen Lam, Blue Thread Foundation

'Thank you for all the support you've provided to the most vulnerable in our community, in helping them apply for and obtain an immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. It has been a pleasure working with you and your team over the last few years.'

Nadia Mihai, The Romanian and Eastern European Hub

About our advice services

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 citizens and their family members across the UK.

Years have now passed since the official EUSS application deadline but Here for Good's EUSS advice service continues to see a significant number of vulnerable individuals who require high-quality legal support. It is widely understood that the types of cases we are seeing are infinitely more complex.

This is due to the nature itself of the Scheme as the individuals who approach us for 1-2-1 support now generally represent the portion of population that was not reached by communications and outreach efforts in the last years; those who are still waiting for a decision to be reached in their application and may face connected issues; those who have struggled to submit a complete and effective application due to various vulnerabilities and those who have been refused and are looking to challenge this.

This impacts the complexity of applications and in turns affects the time spent on each matter and thus the potential volume of casework. In August 2023, the Home Office made changes to the Rules that had a huge impact on Here for Good caseload and capacity as cases became more complex, urgent and uncertain. By February 2024, the pressure on our services was so severe that we had to make the difficult decision to pause our EUSS referral service to allow our caseworkers to catch up.

Here for Good's blended approach to advice provision has however 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 Home Office's grant-funded network.

Our in-house EUSS advice team consists of Bianca Valperga, Isobel Cairns and Leonie Fach (Isobel's maternity cover) who work from the AIRE Centre, Matthew Davies who works from Wilson Solicitors and George Hanvere, Elliott Dipper and Nikita Swift who work from Nottingham-based Paragon Law.

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 refuges, 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:

- People with disabilities/ serious health conditions (e.g. physical or mental impairment)
- Homeless / rough sleepers
- Roma communities (and other similar vulnerable migrant or marginalised populations)

- Victims of trafficking/modern slavery
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Older people
- Care leavers
- Looked after children
- Economic vulnerability
- Precarious circumstances

About 40% of our clients identify as people of colour, over 70% are women and the majority of our clients are non-EEA nationals e.g. family members (23%) followed by Romanian nationals (19%) and Italian nationals (17%).

During the period 2023/2024 the EUSS advice service provided **free high quality legal advice to over 800 individuals through 1-2-1 casework, phone and email advice.**

Some feedback from Here for Good EUSS clients:

"First time in my life I had to seek for help from a solicitor and I think that in the future I will make sure I am legally assisted whenever needed instead of trying to deal with the problem on my own. Having a solicitor on my side changed everything for the best. I felt I could relax and trust [name of H4G caseworker] 100%"

"Here for Good were absolutely amazing for our family from start to finish and I can't recommend them highly enough. They offered us invaluable advice and help during the most difficult of times. They were knowledgeable, professional, quick and efficient and offered us the support we needed to obtain pre-settled status in a complex scenario when nobody else could help us. My family could have never afforded to pay for a similar service and the fact that Here for Good were there for us literally saved my mum and offered her the chance to be able to access the NHS care services that she needed. Here for Good have changed our lives for the better through the services they offer and I can't imagine anything they could have done better as they went above and beyond to help us. Thank you so much."

A case study illustrating the struggle of applicants who are faced with long delays and anxiety as well as the amount of work that can exist behind a single client:

"M is a non-EEA national who is the primary carer of two EEA children. The EEA father is not involved and the mother suffered DV. M came to Here for Good in August of 2022 having submitted an application by herself in 2021. Her file was opened then and we proceeded to try and get in touch with the Home Office to understand the delay. Few weeks after this approach M received her refusal decision.

An administrative review was submitted in time in the autumn of 2022. This remained outstanding until July 2023. During this time M was very anxious and we worked to chase the Home Office for a decision frequently.

In July 2023 M was refused based on an unlawful interpretation of Home Office Guidance. An appeal was submitted and a pro bono barrister instructed.

Considering the unlawfulness of the decision a Pre-action Protocol letter was sent to the Home Office with the help of another Here for Good lawyer and a pro bono barrister. This was settled with the promise that the Home Office would relook the decision.

A new positive decision was finally issued in early 2024.”

EUSS strategic litigation and legal policy work

Here for Good has continued to use its advisory service to inform our wider, more strategic activities in the sector. We feed into reports, speak at events and develop helpful resources for the sector to use. Here for Good’s strategic legal work is overseen by Bella Mosselmans, Here for Good’s co-founder and Senior Legal and Strategy Advisor.

The charity regularly attends the EUSS Alliance, coordinated by the New Europeans UK. We sit 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.

Here for Good also works closely with the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) where we sit on their Litigation stakeholder group.

- Together with the AIRE Centre, Here for Good sent a [joint letter to the Home Office](#) in March 2023 highlighting issues relating to how their EUSS caseworkers handle the distinction between holding a passport and holding a nationality. Through our casework we are seeing a notable increase in requests for further evidence of their EEA nationality despite already having provided this. This is particularly prevalent in children’s cases where their first passport has been issued later in life.

Not only does this practice place an extra burden on the applicant within a strict 14 day deadline, these incorrect assessments also lead to unnecessary delays and outcomes. We are further concerned that the current approach may have a disproportionate impact on certain groups of applicants.

- In May 2023 Here for Good published [a report on the impact of Home Office decision making in EUSS applications](#), highlighting the many shortcomings that our lawyers had witnessed over the course of the years. This was sent to the Home Office as well as the IMA and the EU Delegation. With the help of the EU Delegation, a meeting was convened with the sector and several representatives from the Home Office in the autumn of 2023. During this meeting the Home Office clearly recognised the issues raised in the report and committed to addressing some of them, mainly through a refresh programme for its caseworker. The impact of this meeting and the promised improvements is being monitored by the IMA.
- As part of its policy and strategic litigation work, Here for Good intervened in two cases before the Court of Appeal (Celik v SSHD and Siddiqa v SSHD) to put forward arguments about the respect of the Withdrawal Agreement with regard to extended family members. Please

read our EUSS Legal policy officer and caseworker Bianca Valperga's blogs about the case to learn more about our arguments and the judgment which was passed down on the 31st July 2023.

<https://hereforgoodlaw.org/euss/here-for-good-and-the-aire-centre-intervene-in-celik-v-sshd>

<https://hereforgoodlaw.org/euss/celik-v-sshd-judgment-and-next-steps/>

- In September 2023, we published a [report outlining the changes and anticipated issues](#) with the Home Office's Statements of Changes to the Immigration Rules which came out in July that same year.
- In January 2024, our CEO was invited to sit on the panel of an event organised by the EU Delegation to the UK and Migration Exchange, hosted by the Embassy of Spain, raising awareness about the challenges of the EU Settlement Scheme and fostering strategic alliances between funders and organisations that support EU citizens. [This blog post](#) captures the event and the main arguments and recommendations made.
- In February 2024, the [response from Wilson Solicitors to the Call for Evidence for the Civil Legal Aid Review](#) was submitted (written with the resource support from Here for Good). The response includes suggestions for changes that could improve civil legal aid in the short, medium and long-term.

The Here for Good SAFE project

This financial year also saw Here for Good launching a new strategic partnership funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation - [the Strategic Alliance for Europeans \(S.A.F.E\)](#). This is a partnership between Here for Good, Wilson Solicitors and Seraphus to challenge systems that put Europeans and their families at risk.

The project combines our strengths in legal policy development, complex casework and strategic litigation to ease the constraints of the EU Settlement Scheme, so that people currently excluded by the scheme can have their rights protected by the scheme in future. Concurrently we consider changes needed to immigration law, so it reflects changes since Brexit with the aim of developing alternative protections for those excluded by the EUSS.

The project gathers case data, analyses trends and conducts research to support our policy work and strategic legal challenges. At the heart of this work is also increasing the capacity of charities already working on complex casework arising from fast paced changes to the EUSS landscape.

The core team consists of Mala Savjani and Nina Pulimood – solicitors at Wilsons Solicitors LLP – who undertake the strategic legal challenges of the project, and Anna Hawkes – lawyer at Seraphus – who



leads on the legal policy work for the project. The team works closely with legal policy colleagues at Seraphus and Bella Mosselmans and Bianca Valperga at Here for Good.

The project hit the ground running and has already achieved amazing results:

- In the light of the Home Office's changes to the Rules in August 2023, Here for Good decided to issue a judicial review challenge - a complex piece of litigation and a bundle amounting to 2000 pages containing witness statements from Wesley Gryk Solicitors, Polish Migrants Organise for Change, Seraphus and The3Million and a series of fifteen case studies as supporting evidence. To read more about the challenge, please read our blog posts [here](#) and [here](#).
- [Late applications guide](#) for legal advisers completed. Distributed to EUSS Alliance and Refugee Legal Group and on HfG website.
- Drafted a joint letter co-signed by advice and support organisations in the sector [calling on embassies and consulates to support the sector with funding](#).
- Training session on late applications under the EUSS with HFG's volunteer lawyer network members and their colleagues, delivered by Chris Benn from Seraphus.
- Developed a [template pre-action protocol \(PAP\) letter](#) to be used as a tool to assist individual applicants who applied to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) from 9 August 2023 onwards and have had their applications rejected as invalid for lack of reasonable grounds for submitting the application late.
- Identified key areas to be challenged via legal mechanisms (as distinguished from issues to be tackled via policy)
- Sent invalidity pre-action protocol letters to at least 15 clients with cases in order to find a suitable case for judicial review. All cases were settled and pre-settled and settled statuses have been obtained for clients.

The team also did the following:

- Submitted late applications for clients whose cases fell outside date for judicial review. These have all been successful.
- Gathered evidence from the sector of late applications overturned by new applications and/or PAP provided to EU Delegation and IMA to find basis to approach the Home Office. Indirectly assisted in the amending of the Home Office EUSS policy guidance document regarding late applications.
- Attended meeting with Roma Support Group regarding ILR wet stamp holders and evidence gathered founded basis for questions sent to the Home Office and EU Commission via the EU Delegation.
- Considered in detail the issues affecting applicants from Home Office Guidance change in August 2023. Liaised with Here for Good advice service and other organisations within the sector and the EUSS Alliance including the 3million, AIRE and Rights of Women.
- Involvement with the3million's Community Lawyering project, setting up workshops to gather intelligence from the sector.

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.

In 2023/2024, the Here for Good Ukraine Project provided the following types of advice:

- Dedicated phone line open from 10am-12 midday on Tuesdays and Thursdays (until September 2023 when we assessed that there did not appear to be a demand for the phone line)
- One-off advice via email
- 1-2-1 advice for complex cases
- Liaising with other organisations and legal providers and providing advice to them

The Here for Good Ukraine Project has a specialist advice provider within this area and there are very few other legal organisations who continue to provide specific immigration support to this group.

Key stats – referrals and advice provided in 2023/2024

- We had 81 referrals
- We advised 78 people (inc. phone, email advice and 1-2-1)
- We assisted 128 people in total (including dependants)
- We provided 1-2-1 support to 11 people with particularly complex cases

Our Ukraine advice service receives a lot of referrals from third country nationals who could qualify under the schemes, or where it seems unjust for them not to be granted some form of Leave Outside The Rules (LOTR).

The cases we are taking on are very complex, and are taking a minimum of around 5-6 hours of time. Where there is a refusal, and we then send a Pre-Action Protocol (PAP), the case can take 10-15 hours of time.

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

Significant complex cases with successful outcomes:

Assisted a Ukrainian national to obtain a grant of refugee status in the UK after his Ukraine Scheme application was refused. His claim was based on fear of persecution as a gay, HIV positive man. We submitted extensive evidence in support of the asylum claim and liaised with the client who is extremely vulnerable with very precarious mental health.

Obtained leave to remain for a newborn baby outside the rules after her parents and sister arrived in the UK under the Ukraine Scheme.

Assisted a child to obtain leave to remain under the scheme following a lengthy Delay.

Assisted an elderly Russian man to obtain leave to remain to join his Ukrainian family members in the UK.

Assisted a couple in Ukraine to obtain leave to remain after a lengthy delay, meaning they were finally able to reunite with their daughter in the UK.

After submitting pre-action protocol letters in relation to refused application, have settled with the Home Office in multiple cases, where Home Office has agreed to reconsider negative decisions, often in complex cases which fall outside the rules and/or involve 3rd country nationals with Ukrainian family members.

Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) project

The Afghan Relocation and Assistance and Policy (ARAP) is a UK scheme aimed at Afghan nationals who worked for or with the British Government. It was launched in April 2021 with the aim of relocating to the UK those deemed eligible under ARAP.

However, the ARAP scheme has failed and keeps failing many individuals. It unfortunately has very narrow eligibility criteria, making it very challenging for individuals to be found eligible despite having very strong evidence. Moreover, individuals who applied under ARAP have been waiting a very long time for their application to be processed despite the urgency of the situation of those in Afghanistan. Many Afghans remain in danger of the Taliban as a direct result of their work and support to the UK and keep being denied a safe route to the UK for themselves and their families.

In 2023, Here for Good set up a pilot project with Wilson Solicitors to address the gaps in the ARAP Scheme. We are pursuing a handful of strategic legal cases with the ambition to create wider positive change for many Afghans. We are working on cases of a variety of different Afghan people, all of whom are at heightened risk of being targeted by the Taliban due to their assistance of the UK Mission. For example, former senior intelligence officials that assisted the British military or drivers of UK-contracted international development organisations. A number of those we are helping have young children and are currently stranded, having been denied access to safety in the UK.

Through being able to work on these strategic cases – and challenge refusals by the UK Home Office – Here for Good hopes to get guidance in place that provides this cohort of people an adequate route to safety in the UK.

The project also hopes to draw public attention to the huge injustices faced by many Afghan people who are being denied the UK's support after risking their own safety to support the UK. For example, our team contributed to the following news piece in Open Democracy -

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/robert-jenrick-afghan-female-lawyer-dave-doogan-resettlement-home-office/>

We hope that the UK Government will be encouraged to act urgently to address these injustices and grant people a route to safety and sanctuary in the UK.

Organisational updates

People

In this financial year we welcomed Leonie Fach onto the EUSS advice team as the volunteer coordinator and EUSS caseworker, covering for Isobel Cairns who was on maternity leave. We also welcomed Matthew Davies at Wilson Solicitors as an EUSS caseworker. We said goodbye to one of longest standing EUSS caseworkers George Hanvere who left our partner law firm Paragon Law.

We also welcomed solicitors Mala Savjani and Nina Pulimood onboard, based at Wilsons and heading up our strategic legal work as part of the SAFE project.

We also formed a team of six solicitors at Wilson Solicitors, each of them working a strategic case under the ARAP Scheme - Alaa Ahmed, Amelia Meldau, Isaac Abraham, Mathilde Vivares, Rebecca Hacker and Rebecca Morris.

Funding

After many years of growth, during which we expanded our services to include specialist advice on the Ukraine visa schemes and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), Here for Good faced significant capacity challenges. We struggled to find the time and resources needed to dedicate to fundraising efforts that would sustain and expand our services. Additionally, we were unable to add capacity to take on crucial tasks such as fundraising, which further hindered our ability to secure vital income. Our core income stream—Home Office funding—has also consistently decreased, despite our repeated efforts to highlight the inadequacy of this funding model. Between the financial years ending 2021 and 2024, this funding dropped by over 60%, making it increasingly difficult to maintain our services at the necessary level.

However, during the financial year of 2023/2024 the following independent trusts and public bodies generously supported our work:

- AB Charitable Trust
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Greater London Authority
- Home Office
- Trust for London
- Jubilee Foundation / Blue Thread
- ONTRA

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

AIRE Centre - London based legal charity. New volunteer coordinator and EUSS caseworker Isobel Cairns and legal policy officer and EUSS caseworker Bianca Valperga joined in January 2023.

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 Nikita Swift, George Hanvere and Elliott Dipper split a part-time role providing legal advice relating to the EU Settlement Scheme over the phone, email and 1-2-1 casework.

Seraphus Solicitors - London based law firm providing legal policy expertise in the strategic SAFE project - a partnership between Here for Good, Wilson Solicitors and Seraphus.

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. Another six caseworkers all work strategic cases under the ARAP scheme project run by Here for Good.

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.

Since the year end

Casework

- Our caseworkers across all three advice services continued to provide high-quality and free immigration advice to migrants in need.

Strategic legal work

- In the light of the Home Office's changes to the Rules in August 2023, Here for Good decided to issue a judicial review challenge - a complex piece of litigation and a bundle amounting to 2000 pages containing witness statements from Wesley Gryk Solicitors, Polish Migrants

Organise for Change, Seraphus and The3Million and a series of fifteen case studies as supporting evidence. To read more about the challenge, please read our blog [here](#) and [here](#).

Legal policy and advocacy

- Here for Good was a member of the JUSTICE working group for, contributing to the report '[Reforming the EU Settlement Scheme: The Way Forward for the EUSS](#)', which was published in March 2024 and contained recommendations to the Home Office on the Scheme.
- Here for Good drafted and coordinated [a joint letter signed by advice and support organisations across the UK](#) working with EU citizens and their families affected by Brexit. The letter serves as an urgent appeal to EU Member States to take action in response to the need of many of your citizens living in the UK who struggle to secure and safeguard their rights in the UK, and the charity advice sector working tirelessly to support them. Our CEO was invited to Europe House to give evidence to representatives from EEA member states about the situation.
- We are also part of a research project on Roma people and their experiences of the EUSS, coordinated by the University of Sheffield.

Objects, Governance and Legal Structure

Overview

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2024.

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 and Zeena Luchowa.

During the financial year 2023/2024 we welcomed Carla Mirallas Martinez and Georgina Pope onto the Board.

At the end of the financial year, the charity's trustees were:

Tahmid Chowdhury (Co-Founder), Carla Mirallas Martinez, Georgina Pope, Paul Dossett, Kim Hooper and Gary Simmons.

Objects

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 sixth year of operations, the charity directly or indirectly employed nineteen members of staff in total. Sixteen 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.

A full set of Here for Good's accounts, for the period ended 29 February 2024 follows.

FY6 Accounts

Accounts Overview

A full set of accounts are attached as an appendix to this report, titled 'Here for Good FY6 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 – FY6 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
31st October 2024