

Gatwick  
Detainees  
Welfare  
Group

2012

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England and Wales No. 4911257

Registered Charity No: 1124328

Patrons: Lord Dholakia & Rt. Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby

Annual Report



# Chair's Report

As Chair of only five Trustees last year, I and others made efforts to cast a wider net in search of those from a diverse range of age and background. With our now rigorous recruitment procedures we have been very pleased to welcome Karen Corduff as Treasurer, Chris Philpot, George Fitzsimons and Lisa Burroughes to our number. We are still grateful to be advised on HR by Lynne Norman; and we were sorry, in the summer, to lose Katrina Avery, our valiant minute-taker. With our outlines of who we are and why we're here as Trustees, we can foster, I hope, a bit more general understanding of how we work. In the meantime we still welcome applications from visitors or others with a taste for animated, albeit lengthy discussion of the finer workings of GDWG!

Nic as director, Anna, Sarah, and now Lauren, continue their sterling work in our office. Anna and the Outreach Committee excelled, on the Longest Day last June, in spreading our message to those in the surrounding area of Crawley and far beyond. As GDWG grows in both its membership and its remit, we have necessarily learned on our way, to navigate the hazards of staff with family commitments, and of new social media. I am proud of the range of our membership, both volunteers and staff, and am reminded that, though diversity is risky, it is, more especially, enriching.

Our volunteer visitors are, of course, our mainstay. They include the student who visits for a year and leaves with a fuller understanding of how it feels to be locked up indefinitely for no crime committed; the retired health worker, after twelve years and more, her imagination still caught by the one-time child-soldier she meets, who saw his whole family killed.

We rely too on the help we are given by the staff of Brook and Tinsley House and appreciate their good humour and professionalism in such demanding work. I would also like to thank Father Paul from the Chaplaincy, Theresa McIntyre from the Psychology Department of Horsham Hospital and all the other individuals and organisations who support our work.

And for the year to come? We have increasingly to prove and to quantify what we achieve; to be accountable. We have a burgeoning number of clear policies on key aspects of our work. I am grateful here in particular to Bob Dare and other Trustees for ensuring these are regularly reviewed and updated. I am pleased too that our new trustees bring with them an impressive clutch of skills needed to manage a well-run company. Our focus groups, visitors' and detainees' reporting, and research projects are more and more crucial to the funding for which Felicity works tirelessly, and without which we could not continue.

What I would hope for this year is that we reach more fully those detainees who are particularly vulnerable: those who, for reasons of mental or physical trauma, should never be detained; and those who, because of language are socially isolated and may have no proper grasp of the rules which keep them in Tinsley and Brook House. I look forward to this year with its challenges, foreseen and unforeseen, confident of the value of all our work.

**Anna Seddon**  
April 2013

# Detainees' Words

## Some words from current detainees and those released

'In reality it is an incredible organization. I felt the whole world crumbled and when GDWG came my senses began to revitalize. I thought I'm a human being. They made me feel I'm not a bad person, I'm just a person in detention.'

'I couldn't sleep. I was discouraged and GDWG made me think it's worth trying. She said this phrase "it's worth a try" and even now I say that and [it] helps me be positive.'

'GDWG is more than a family. In talking to them you feel everyone is the same.'

'With GDWG you know people can still think of you as human beings.'

'My visitor said, "I find you interesting" and that made me feel like a human being.'

'In my country I survived gruesome atrocities and when I came in detention I thought that was the end of my life. I felt I hadn't got courage. Even the closest relatives didn't bother to call me. GDWG encouraged me a lot. They gave me courage when my solicitor was tired. They provided me with calling cards and a jumper and a travelling bag. I felt I was not a human being any more and I did not want to live. I needed courage and GDWG gave me courage. They save people's lives. They rescued me in detention.'

'When times are hard, friends are few but my visitor was like a mother to me.'

'How can I say Britain is bad because you are there and you think about us?'

'I would like to thank you for your support and kindness you have been giving me for the last 12 months and I hope one day I will get out of this captivity and have freedom.'

# Director's Report

The past twelve months have been an interesting year in the detention sector, with numerous challenges presenting themselves in the context of wider political, legal and economic developments. Our job has been to adjust to these new realities, and to consider how we may best serve our client group in the current climate in the UK and beyond.

One of the main areas of concern was the political battle around the proposed Legal Aid cuts, which could have devastating effects on the people we work with once it comes into force in April 2013. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act was finally passed into law in May 2012, after a long and protracted process. Many lawyers, and indeed a wide section of society as a whole, were vehemently opposed to the cuts to services within it, which include taking almost all immigration work apart from asylum claims out of the scope of Legal Aid. While there will still be provision for funding to challenge detention, there will in effect be nothing for any wider substantive immigration case, meaning that bail will in all likelihood be far more difficult to achieve. We will have to see how this affects those we work with, and try as much as we can to support those who slip through the cracks.

On a local level, our work at Brook House and Tinsley House continued, with well over a thousand detainees contacting us requesting support. Our volunteers visited around two hundred people throughout the year, and office staff saw more than four hundred at our thrice-weekly surgeries. Demand for our services remained high, and we once again found that those who needed our help most tended to be those who were struggling most with their detention, and those who were held for longest in the centres.

During the year, we were very pleased to welcome two very junior members of the team – both myself and Louise became parents for the first time in 2012. We also had two slightly older staff members join us, with Sarah replacing Hannah at the beginning of the year, and Lauren coming in as maternity cover for Louise in August. Despite the changes in personnel, they have all worked extremely hard, alongside Anna too, in maintaining our level of service to both detainees and volunteers.

With a four-year Big Lottery grant beginning in April 2012, the medium-term future prospects of the Group look to be secure, albeit with extra funding needed to fill the gaps. My sincere thanks go to Anna Seddon and the rest of the Board of Trustees for their support and astute advice throughout the year.

For many of us, including myself, the highlight of the Group's year came on 21<sup>st</sup> June, when after almost a year of planning, Anna Pincus and the rest of the Outreach Committee delivered a wonderful evening of education and entertainment in the form of The Longest Day. It was truly an evening to remember, from Baroness Shirley Williams' opening remarks to all of the fantastic performers who gave their time for free. I now look forward to the challenges that 2013 will bring, in the safe knowledge that we move forward with a wonderful group of people working alongside me, staff, volunteers and trustees alike.

**Nic Eadie**  
April 2013

# Facts and Figures

In 2012 we were in contact with 1152 detainees; 682 were in Brook House and 470 were in Tinsley House.

## Assistance

Below are some of the measurable ways in which GDWG assisted detainees in 2012. Our services remained in high demand throughout the year, with particular increases in clothing and with assistance around applying for Section 4 bail accommodation. The amount of money we paid out to people being removed increased, while the number of detainees requesting assistance for their families to visit the centre decreased significantly. The number of detainees to whom we allocated a volunteer visitor remained almost the same.

During 2012 we made some changes in the way we record data on our computer systems, meaning that we can now more accurately report on how many people we give information or signposting to advice on bail issues to. Almost one in three detainees we spoke to throughout the year needed some assistance with this. In addition to signposting detainees to immigration lawyers, we also spoke to over 100 lawyers on behalf of their detained clients, acting as a liaison between the two and passing on information. We also referred 24 detainees, typically either long-term detainees or those who were particularly vulnerable, to public lawyers for possible unlawful detention claims. Once again we were also very grateful to the College of Law for the bail applications they made for a number of our clients who we referred to them, many of which were successful.

<b>Number of Detainees Requesting</b>	<b>Total 2011</b>	<b>Total 2012</b>
<b>Agency Liaison</b>	71	62
<b>Clothing</b>	343	456
<b>Drop-in</b>	456	412
<b>Information/signposting around bail</b>	Not recorded	360
<b>Phone cards</b>	652 (detainees)	1280 (cards dispensed) to approx. 700 detainees
<b>Removal Money</b>	117 (£2390)	120 £2900)
<b>Section 4 Assistance</b>	56	86
<b>Transport Money</b>	88 (£2928)	42 (£1575)
<b>Visitor</b>	203	198

## Length of Detention

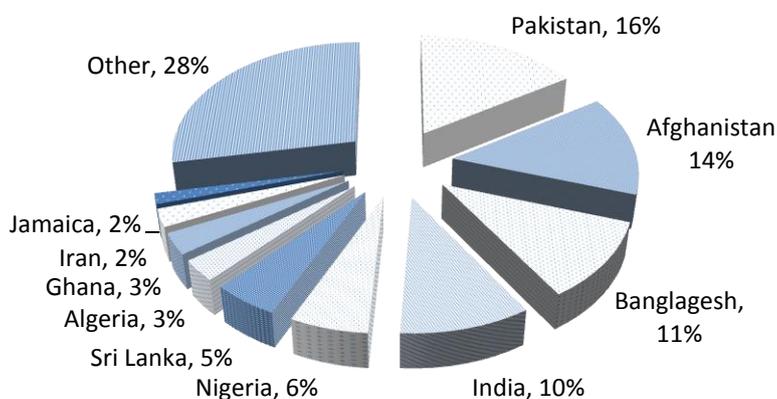
Below is a ‘snapshot’ of how long each of the detainees we were in touch with on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 had spent in detention, both in Tinsley and Brook and in any other centres prior to coming to Gatwick. However, these figures may slightly underestimate the periods of detention, as for many of these people we did not know about periods spent in other detention centres so we took the date they came to the Gatwick IRCs as their start date, plus we had to rely on what they told us for their arrival date in Gatwick, which they were often not completely sure of.

What the figures show is that Brook House has a much higher number of longer-term detainees than Tinsley House, but that the numbers of those spending over 12 months in detention are significantly lower than in previous years. It is not clear why this is so, particularly as UKBA figures show that across the detention estate there are similar numbers of long-term detainees as last year. We were only in contact with 131 detainees on this particular date compared to 185 on the same day last year. Of these 131, 27 had been detained for more than six months (21%), with 11 of these detained for over one year (8%). The longest serving detainee we are aware of is a Zimbabwean man who had been detained for over two and a half years.

Period of Detention	Number Detainees (2012)			Number Detainees (2011)		
	BH	TH	Total	BH	TH	Total
0-30 days	20	22	42	17	25	42
1-3 months	23	19	42	43	14	57
3-6 months	26	4	30	34	4	38
6-12 months	16	0	16	17	2	19
Over 12 months	11	0	11	28	1	29

## Countries of Origin

In 2012 we had more Pakistanis contacting us than any other nationality, followed closely by Afghans and Bangladeshis. We saw considerable numbers of Iranians, Algerians and Sri Lankans, despite there being well-documented obstacles to removal for nationals of these countries.



## Visiting

Below is a 'snapshot' of the people we were visiting on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012. We were visiting a total of 42 detainees on that date, 10 of them for more than 6 months, including 5 who we had been visiting for more than a year.

Over and above the 42 volunteers who were visiting on that date, we also had another 34 volunteers who were taking a temporary break from visiting at that point, meaning we had a total volunteer force of 76 people. Of these volunteers, 24 have been visiting with GDWG for over 5 years, including 14 for over 10 years.

<b>Period of Visiting</b>	<b>Number Detainees as at 31 Dec 2012 Total</b>	<b>Number Detainees as at 31 Dec 2011 Total</b>
<b>0-30 days</b>	11	18
<b>1-3 months</b>	14	14
<b>3-6 months</b>	7	10
<b>6-12 months</b>	5	6
<b>Over 12 months</b>	5	2

## Work with other organisations

GDWG continued to work with a range of other organisations during 2012, perhaps most significantly through our participation in the Detention Forum (DF), a network of organisations working together on various issues around detention. Our Director sits on the Coordination Group of the Forum, and is also the Co-convenor of the DF Working Group on Vulnerable People. During the year, the Working Group drew up an advocacy workplan on how they intend to work on this issue over the next few years, which was subsequently endorsed by the DF. GDWG were also part of the DF Judicial Oversight Working Group, who likewise also wrote and had endorsed a workplan. This work will continue into 2013 and beyond, with GDWG committed to remain involved. Through the DF we were also involved in organising and participating in Parliamentary meetings, engaging Parliamentarians in discussing the various issues of concern surrounding the use of detention, as well as networking with a range of other national and international groups and agencies.

We continued our participation in the Asylum Rights Campaign's Detention Sub-group throughout the year, where matters of a more operational level are discussed among visitors' groups and other organisations who attend. These meetings offer a good opportunity to catch up and share information on what is happening across the detention estate.

During the year we also made a written submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, concerning the difficulties surrounding the provision of legal advice to people detained in the

UK. On a more local level we provided information to Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons when they inspected Tinsley House, and were interviewed as part of a Health Needs Assessment of Brook, Tinsley and Cedars, conducted by the Institute of Criminal Policy Research, commissioned by the NHS locally. One of their recommendations was that we were to be included on a working group on mental health within the centres, and we are hoping that this will be set up during the next few months.

We sent our report on the mental health effects of long-term detention, 'A Prison in the Mind', to a wide range of organisations and individuals, and Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) used a number of quotes from it in their recent report 'The Liberty Deficit: Long-term detention and bail decision making.'

## Outreach work

Over the course of 2012, we went into 9 different schools, delivering 17 lessons to around 550 students. We wrote the lesson ourselves, and have received extremely good feedback from teachers. The aim of the talks is to educate and also to challenge any negative perceptions towards asylum seekers and migrants more generally. Feedback from students so far has indicated that we have been largely successful in doing this. Our schools programme is an important part of our work, and we now have good links with a number of schools throughout the region who we expect to deliver lessons to each year in the future. We delivered talks about our work to 10 other groups, including the Labour Party, WI groups, Soroptomists and local church groups, to a total of about 350 people.

2012 was the year that the group of people who put together the 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for GDWG officially became known as the GDWG 'Outreach Committee' and met regularly to develop links with the local community and beyond to spread awareness of detention and the work of GDWG. Planning focused on 'The Longest Day', an event at The Hawth Theatre in June, to coincide with Refugee Week and the Committee successfully obtained funding for the event from 'Awards For All'. This event was the focus of talks to local organisations, work in local schools (with drama and art departments) at both junior school and secondary school level. A close link was forged with the Crawley based 'Bridges Arts Group' who met with an ex-detainee and were taken on visits to the Centre. GDWG put Bridges Arts in touch with G4S and the drama group ran workshops for detainees in Brook House that formed the basis of their contribution to 'The Longest Day'. Invitations to 'The Longest Day' artists to meet with office staff and go on accompanied visits to Brook House were enthusiastically taken up and out of these came artistic results as well as more general support for the work of GDWG. Messages of support for the event came from Michael Morpurgo, Shami Chakrabarti, Donna Covey and Miriam Margolyes. Artists appearing included Sheila Hancock, Steve Punt, Inua Ellams and Baroness Williams of Crosby, who opened the event.

The Longest Day marked a turning point in GDWG making more use of new media with the success story of Stephen Fry tweeting about our event to his five million followers. After the event, the Mayor of Crawley showed interest in the work of the charity and came to our office to meet volunteers and make a visit to Brook House. A young supporter of GDWG took the report 'A Prison in the Mind' to The House of Lords. The Outreach Committee worked with the art teacher at Tinsley House to run art competitions for detainees to design a poster for the charity and this was followed by a Christmas card design competition at the end of the year that led to the winning designs being printed and sold for the charity. The year ended with the Outreach Committee working on a Speakers' Toolbox for volunteers to deliver talks to groups of friends, church groups, Amnesty groups etc to spread further the outreach message amongst the local community. Thanks to Mary Barrett, Christina Fitzsimons, Ann Locke and Jennifer Tindle.

# Treasurer's Report

The charity received grant funding relating to 2012 of £155,200. There is deferred grant income, which was received during 2011 & 2012 but relates to 2013 of £48,750.

A large portion of this grant income was received from The Big Lottery Fund Grant, which is a grant we will continue to receive for the next three years.

Overall for the year the Charity spent more than it received by £5,910. This was due in part to slightly lower grant income received in the year and increased salary costs.

The Board of Trustees are confident that with the continued invaluable support of our funders, volunteers and staff that the charity will go from strength to strength in the future.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Unrestricted 2012 £	Restricted 2012 £	Total 2012 £	Total 2011 £
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds:</b>				
Grants received	47,500	107,700	155,200	167,675
Donations received	7,809	-	7,809	7,914
Fundraising	4,918	-	4,918	-
Interest received	191	-	191	226
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>60,418</b>	<b>107,700</b>	<b>168,118</b>	<b>175,815</b>
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>				
Fundraising	1,490	-	1,490	-
	<b>1,490</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Direct charitable expenditure:	9,716	117,717	127,433	119,053
Premises and office support costs	15,528	28,671	44,199	32,079
Governance costs	906	-	906	1,334
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>27,640</b>	<b>146,388</b>	<b>174,028</b>	<b>152,466</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>	<b>32,778</b>	<b>(38,688)</b>	<b>(5,910)</b>	<b>23,349</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>(1,955)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net incoming resources after transfers</b>	<b>34,733</b>	<b>(40,643)</b>	<b>(5,910)</b>	<b>23,349</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2011:</b>	<b>26,616</b>	<b>59,687</b>	<b>86,303</b>	<b>62,954</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2012</b>	<b>61,349</b>	<b>19,044</b>	<b>80,393</b>	<b>86,303</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities also complies with the requirements for an Income and Expenditure Account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Karen Corduff, FCCA, BA Hons.**  
April 2013

# Support

## We are grateful for the support of:

### Our funders:

AW60 Charitable Trust  
 Awards for All  
 Big Lottery Fund  
 Crawley Borough Council  
 Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund  
 Esmee Fairbairn Foundation  
 The Hillcote Trust  
 J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust  
 Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales  
 The Longley Trust  
 The St Christopher's Trust  
 Sussex Community Foundation  
 The AB Charitable Trust  
 The Allen Lane Foundation  
 The Bromley Trust  
 The Joseph Rank Trust  
 The Rowan Charitable Trust  
 The Tudor Trust  
 Volunteering England  
 Wates Foundation

### Our patrons:

Rt. Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby  
 Lord Dholakia PC, OBE, DL

### Our friends and colleagues, in particular those at the following firms and organisations:

ABL solicitors  
 Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees  
 Asylum Aid  
 Asylum Welcome  
 Bail for Immigration Detainees  
 Bhatt Murphy Solicitors  
 Bridges Arts Group  
 Centre for Psychotherapy and Human Rights  
 College of Law

Detention Action  
 Detention Forum  
 Dover Detainee Visitors' Group  
 Duncan Lewis Solicitors  
 Freedom From Torture  
 Haslar Visitors' Group  
 Helen Bamber Foundation  
 Howe and Co Solicitors  
 Immigration Law Practitioners Association  
 Lawrence Lupin solicitors  
 Medical Justice  
 National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns  
 Pierce Glynn solicitors  
 Project London  
 Red Cross International Tracing and Messaging Service  
 Refugee Council  
 Samaritans (Reigate branch)  
 Wilson and Co solicitors  
 UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group  
 Yarls Wood Befrienders  
 Zimbabwe Association

Crawley Community and Voluntary Service  
 Henry Smith MP

Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons

To the G4S and UKBA staff and management at Brook House and Tinsley House IRCs for their assistance and cooperation.

To all those churches, individuals and organisations who have donated money, clothing and other items to us.

And finally to all of our incredible volunteers.

## And many others who have helped us in the past