

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP WEDNESDAY 20TH NOV 2024 7.00 - 9.00 PM IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Venue: Reading Friends' Meeting House, 2 Church St, Reading RG1 2SB. Click for [Map](#).

Public parking is available on Church Street. Click here [Parking Map](#).

Disabled parking: please email: reception@rrsg.org.uk to book a disabled parking space.

Dear members, service users, volunteers, supporters, donors and staff members

You are warmly invited to attend our short formal AGM meeting in the company of the Mayor of Reading Cllr Glenn Dennis and Deputy Mayor Cllr Alice Mpofu-Coles, followed by discussion and presentations.

Please register via our website using this link: [Refugee Support Group AGM 2024](#)

Please find the following details included:

1. The agenda and registration details.
2. The proxy voting form for members – if you are unable to attend in person.
3. Details of the Election of Trustees
4. Trustee Nomination form – should you wish to nominate someone or apply yourself to be a trustee at RSG

Membership Application form – should you wish to apply to become a member and the Minutes from the AGM Wed Nov 15th 2023 are available on line.

The formal meeting will hopefully be short and will followed by a discussion and presentations. **Close 9pm**. There will be light refreshments available afterwards.

Joining us Online? Once you register, you will get a Teams link to join the AGM remotely.

We particularly welcome all our service users, past and present.

AGENDA - AGM starts at 7.00 pm promptly.

Please arrive in person or join online before 7.00 pm.

- 1 Welcome by RSG Chair Mike Martin**
- 2 Apologies for absence**
- 3 Minutes of AGM held on Wed 23rd Nov 2023**
 - a. Accuracy**
 - b. Matters arising from the minutes**
- 4 CEO Report - Nick Harborne**
Questions
- 5 Presentation of accounts 2023- 24**
Questions
- 6 Election of Trustees – see attached paper**
- 7 Any Other Business.**

Mike Martin - presentaton Mike is stepping down after 10 years as a trustee and hands over the Chair to Sarah Vawda.

Close of formal business 7.40 pm

Presentations:

Mayor of Reading Cllr Glenn Dennis: Reading's Response to the Civil Unrest.

Mark Goldring, CEO Asylum Welcome. Talks about the Thames Valley Immigration Alliance and our research into Dometic Violence

Jacqueline Mukono. Update on the work on Project Salama (Swahili for safe).

Mahmuna Hasnath Casework Team Leader and Solicitor. Challenges and achievements from our casework at RSG.

Testimonies:

Deputy Mayor of Reading Cllr Alice Mpofo-Coles: Refugee to Mayor

Hamid Atiq: Recounting his personal journey from a British Army interpreter in Afgahnistan to Resettlement office at RSG .

End 9.00 pm Refreshments will be served.

1. Proxy Voting Form

Voting and Election of Trustees RRSG AGM 20th Nov 2024

I/We being a Member(s) of the above-named Charity hereby appoint the
Chairperson of the AGM or

_____ (name)

of _____ (address)

as my/our proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote for me/us and on my/our
behalf at the Annual General Meeting Wed 20th Nov 2024

NOTE: If you wish to appoint a person other than the Chairperson of the AGM
as your proxy, you should delete the words “the Chairperson of the AGM” and
insert in the space provided the name and address of the person you wish to
represent you. A proxy need not be a member of the Charity but must attend
the AGM to represent you. If your proxy does not attend, your vote will not be
cast.

Signature

Date:

2. Election of Trustees

This year 3 trustees have resigned over the course of the year:

Simon Price

Emily Lloyd

Fiona Zeneli

Sarah Seddon

Our thanks for all you have brought and contributed to RSG over many years.

Mike Martin, our Chair, will resign after 10 years on the RSG board and will not seek reelection.

One-third of the remaining RSG board is required to stand down each year. Under our Articles of Association, this quota consists of the trustees who have served the longest since they were last appointed at an AGM.

Sam Lee will stand down this year. Sam will stand for re-election.

Confirmation of Trustees Appointed by the Board

Over the course of the year, new trustees have been accepted onto the board.

These appointments are confirmed by a member's vote at the annual AGM.

Trustees to be appointed:

Harriet Parfitt

Harriet hopes to use her experience as a Charity solicitor to benefit RSG. She has previously spent time practising international law, has experience teaching public law as a volunteer, and has published work on immigration law: all areas of expertise that help shape the policy and direction of, and client's priorities at, RSG. Born and raised in and around Reading, Harriet is well connected in the community and is passionate about helping those in need thrive, within the local area and beyond.

Andrea Cleaver

Andrea is CEO of the Welsh Refugee Council with over 24 years of experience supporting communities across the UK. She has worked in grants at the Welsh Government and The National Lottery Community Fund, supporting projects in health, environment, education, and poverty. Andrea is passionate about equity, diversity and inclusion and ensuring those facing disadvantage have equal access to opportunity. She serves on UK forums like the Third Sector Partnership Council and Home Office Strategic Engagement Group, providing asylum and refugee insights.

Doon Lovett

Doon, now retired, qualified as a GP in 1990. A break from working as a GP to bring up her family allowed her to retrain as a textile conservator in 2001. She returned to General Practice 2007 and became a Partner in 2015. She is a strong advocate of/for her patients, particularly supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence abuse. Doon is the lead trustee for mental health and well-being.

Natalie Marsden

Natalie is excited about the opportunity to support the important work of RSG. She has worked directly with asylum-seekers and refugees both in the UK and abroad and cares about promoting the rights of, and opportunities for, this community. Natalie is a lawyer with knowledge of a range of areas including international refugee law. She has experience as a trustee and volunteering with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, young offenders and survivors of domestic violence. She hopes to utilise her skills and experience to contribute to the work of the board of trustees.

Yasmine Summers

Yasmine has experience as a legal aid caseworker, specifically working with homeless asylum seekers with Asylum Aid where she began as a volunteer and worked in various roles. Currently Yasmine works as an Executive Assistant at the Helen Bamber Foundation Group, supporting the Board of Trustees at both the Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid as well as working with the Executive on various projects, including partnership coordination and strategy development. From these positions Yasmine has an understanding of the hardships faced by refugees and asylum seekers and the challenges faced by the NGO sector trying to help them.

Sarah Vawda

Sarah has over 10 years experience as a Non Executive Director, Trustee and Governor in multiple global businesses, a charity and a university. She is currently the Senior Independent Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee of Pulsar Group plc and Non-Executive Director of Hamlet Protein A/S and Noveltech Private Feeds Ltd.

She also has over 30 years corporate development, M&A and business transformation experience gained through senior executive roles across multiple industries. She qualified as a chartered accountant with PwC.

Sarah is passionate about human rights and the current situation with refugees, helping people from disadvantaged backgrounds, diversity in the workplace and mentoring women and girls. She hopes to bring her broad experience to help RSG continue to deliver its impactful and valuable work.