



Consultation On Proposed Changes To Our Objects

Our Memorandum and Articles of Association (the document which governs how we work as a charity) include the agreed statement of our charitable purposes, our Objects. As a registered charity we must ensure that everything we do furthers our charitable objects. The Memorandum and Articles of Association were last reviewed in 2005. The Objects are a section within the Articles of Association identifying the scope and bounds of the Charity's operations. The Trustees recently reviewed our Objects to ensure that they accurately reflect our current and planned activities and areas of focus, which by their nature change over time, and as recommended by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees propose to make a few changes in order to:

- ✓ Make it clear that we will work to support not just asylum seekers, refugees, and their dependents but also those who are vulnerable to destitution, exploitation, abuse, trafficking or other forms of human cruelty, in particular where they are outside their country of origin.
- ✓ Make it clear that we will work to support others who have insecure immigration status including those who are stateless.

As well as updating our Objects the Trustees have also taken the opportunity to update some of the procedural and administrative aspects of the Articles. This includes measures intended to increase the number of Trustees and other updates due to changes in legislation and guidance.

The Trustees have received detailed legal advice on the proposed amendments to the Objects and Articles. To make these changes, we need to obtain the consent of the Charity Commission and we will shortly apply for this consent. Before we do so, the Trustees want to ensure that all our stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Objects.

Any feedback or comments

The Trustees welcome your thoughts on the proposed changes. If you have any comments please email Kerry Smith, the CEO, directly at Kerry.Smith@helenbamber.org. The responses will be reviewed and considered by the Trustees before they submit their application to the Charity Commission to make any changes to the Objects.

Response deadline

The deadline for any response is noon on Friday 12th August 2022

Proposed wording

You can read the proposed Objects wording below in italics and compare them with the current wording.

The current objects of the Charity are:

“3. The Association is established for the following purposes for the benefit of those seeking asylum in the UK or those already granted refugee status by UK immigration authorities, and the dependants of such asylum seekers and refugees;

(A) to relieve their conditions of need, hardship or distress (including by providing them with legal advice and representation);

(B) to preserve and protect their physical and mental health

(C) to advance their education and training so as to advance them in life and assist in their rehabilitation within a new community

(D) to advance public education about the position of asylum seekers and refugees and the situations which give rise to refugee movements.”

The proposed objects of the Charity are:

“3.1 The Charity is established for the following purposes for the benefit of the Beneficiaries:

3.1.1 to relieve their conditions of need, hardship or distress (including by providing them with legal advice and representation);

3.1.2 to preserve and protect their physical and mental health;

3.1.3 to advance their education and training so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community;

3.1.4 to advance public education about the position of and issues relating to the Beneficiaries, including the situations which give rise to refugee movements; and

3.1.5 assisting them in such other exclusively charitable ways as the Charity determines from time to time.

3.2 In this Article 3, “Beneficiaries” means individuals who:

3.2.1 are seeking asylum or other forms of protection in the UK;

3.2.2 have already been granted refugee status, humanitarian protection or other forms of protection status by UK immigration authorities;

3.2.3 have insecure immigration status or are stateless;

3.2.4 are vulnerable to destitution, exploitation, abuse, trafficking or other forms of human cruelty including but not limited to those outside their country of origin; and

3.2.5 the dependants of those mentioned in Articles 3.2.1 to 3.2.4 above.

Please send your responses by noon, Friday 12th August 2022 directly to Kerry.Smith@helenbamber.org

Many Thanks, the Asylum Aid Team, 20th July 2022