

# Minutes of the Community Sponsorship Council

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 10am-12pm  
The Ismaili Centre, 1-7 Cromwell Gardens, South Kensington

## ATTENDEES

### ***Present***

Fr Gareth Jones, Refugee Welcome Dagenham  
(Chair)

Kate Brown, Reset (Secretariat)

Monika Kruesmann, Reset (Secretariat)

Nick Coke, Salvation Army

Hannah Feldman, Citizens UK

Bob Goldsmith, Muswell Hill Methodist Church

Domenica Pecoraro, Canterbury Welcomes

Refugees

Mark Wiggin, Caritas Social Action Network

Jane Kennedy, Home Office

### ***Apologies***

Simon Cook, King's Arms Project

Gordon East, CHARIS

Ffion Evans, Migrants Organise

Azim Kidwai, Mercy Mission

## OVERVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS

### ***Determining Council logistics***

As this was the first meeting of the Community Sponsorship [CS] Council, time was devoted to agreeing the logistics of the Council for the coming year. Key agreements were that: the Home Office will attend parts of Council meetings; the Council will aim to hold meetings in locations around the UK; Council members may wish to revisit how membership is determined. You can see how membership is currently determined [here](#).

### ***Election of Chair***

Father Gareth Jones was unanimously elected as Chair of the Council for the 2019-2020 year. The Council agreed that, as Chair, Fr Gareth Jones will attend Reset's board meetings. He will be accompanied by a different member of the Council to each meeting.

### ***Community Sponsorship Post-2020***

The Council was briefed on the results of the Home Office's survey about CS post-2020. In response, the Council gave its view that ways to link family reunion with the CS scheme should be explored.

### ***Barriers that CS could face in 2020***

Reset identified the following barriers: slow growth in the number of CS applications; CS Groups having difficulty getting Local Authority consent; the length of the application process (before & after submitting the application form); a still limited sense of CS as a civil society led scheme; lack of data available to evaluate the scheme. The Council agreed with Reset's assessment and added the following challenges: housing; family reunion not integrated into UK CS scheme; the length of support that CS Groups are offering.

***If you have any questions about these minutes, please contact the Chair of the Council, Fr Gareth Jones: [refugeecoordinator@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:refugeecoordinator@chelmsford.anglican.org)***