

A photograph of two young men of African descent standing outdoors in front of a red wall. The man on the left is wearing a black and grey patterned zip-up jacket over a black t-shirt and has his arms crossed. The man on the right is wearing an orange t-shirt and is smiling broadly. The background shows a red wall and a building with a dark roof under a cloudy sky.

boaztrust

Serving destitute asylum
seekers and refugees

Report 2019/2020



Several of our clients took part in a series of print making workshops at Islington Mill in Salford.

It's been a challenging and vital year for us.

Thank you for your support on the journey.

It's hard to believe that when the 2019-2020 financial year began, none of us had ever heard of COVID-19. Then, as now, the Boaz Trust was supporting some of society's most vulnerable people; responding to a myriad of national and international social, political and environmental events that had displaced people from their homes and families. Ongoing political instability in countries around the world, as well as the global climate emergency, and a hostile environment towards people seeking sanctuary in the UK, resulted in the continued rise of individuals in need of our support.

While this report is a reflection of our work in 2019-2020, it would be remiss of us not to share how COVID-19 has impacted our support in recent months and will continue to shape the course of our work in a changed future. In this report you can read more about how we have responded to, and reflected on, the global pandemic and the inequalities it has revealed.

Moreover, as we write, we are watching families risk their lives to cross the Channel in small boats,

desperate to find sanctuary upon our shores. Instead there is an attempt to turn away from, and turn back, those in need. At the Boaz Trust, as well as providing safe and secure accommodation, practical and emotional support, access to legal advice, and a holistic range of well-being activities for people who have been made destitute by the asylum system, we are proud to speak up and speak truth to power; advocating for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees.

While there is much to lament, there is also much to recognise and celebrate.

In March this year, just days before the nationwide lockdown began, we were able to welcome three destitute women into a new Boaz house. Furthermore, as the severity of COVID-19 began to emerge and we were forced to close our night shelter, our incredible volunteers and supporters rallied with food supplies and toiletries as the men we were supporting were moved into temporary accommodation.

Our refugee work has continued to support people as they gain status and transition out of the asylum system. You can read about our partnership with Crisis; supporting clients to become 'Renting Ready', as well as hearing about our 'Refugee Move On' properties.

At the Boaz Trust we recognise the need for holistic support. During 2019-2020, our Boaz Life activities included regular walks in the Peak District led by some of our wonderful supporters, a series of sewing and print-making workshops that resulted in an exhibition and launch event at Islington Mill in Salford, and a very popular visit to the National Football Museum. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our clients' sense of well-being, and you can read more about how we are supporting people's emotional and mental health.

It's been a challenging, vital, year for us. Thank you for your support on the journey.



Ros Holland
Chief Executive



Three of the young men who live together in one of our Boaz houses.

A note from a client

In 2019 I was staying in the Boaz Night Shelter. Each night we would be sleeping in a different church, waking early. All the time it was different. The support in the night shelter was amazing. The volunteers were very nice and the food was good, but having a home is really

visit them it meant walking across Manchester on foot. It's very hard. If you feel a little bit of pain, then you start to worry if you are sick. Like everybody, I have tried to keep myself busy. I walk a lot, connect with people, pray and read my bible.

My support worker is really good. He phones me and asks me how I feel.' It is so important that we all have somebody to talk to. I read the news and sometimes I feel hopeful when I hear about a possible vaccination, but then I also know that the

virus may not go away and we may need to learn to live with it.

We need to keep going and take care of ourselves and each other.

We need to

reach out and be in human contact with one another. That's what gives me hope.

For people seeking sanctuary, the Coronavirus pandemic has caused even greater instability and anxiety. We asked one of our clients, Mekonnen, a former night shelter guest who now lives in one of our Boaz houses, to reflect on the last six months.

important. When I moved into a Boaz house it was good. It felt like a home at last.

Boaz is like family. We have been in touch with each other throughout lockdown.

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Now, with the Coronavirus, I think about what it must be like to be moving from a different place each day and not being able to keep yourself safe. I wonder if I was to have fallen ill, when homeless, whether I would have survived. It's hard for me to imagine now what it must be like to be without a home at this time.

Lockdown has been very hard. I could not see my children to begin with and then when I wanted to



Our client support team has worked throughout the Coronavirus pandemic to provide vital support.

Overview of our services

As the number of destitute asylum seekers and refugees in need of our support continued to grow, we were able to acquire two new houses during 2019-2020, bringing the total number of Boaz properties to 21.

In April 2019 we secured a house for one of our clients Suaad and her husband Hassan, who were reunited through the Family Reunion scheme. Known as our 'Refugee Move On' houses, these are homes where refugees can find the space and stability needed to be able to start building a future in the UK.

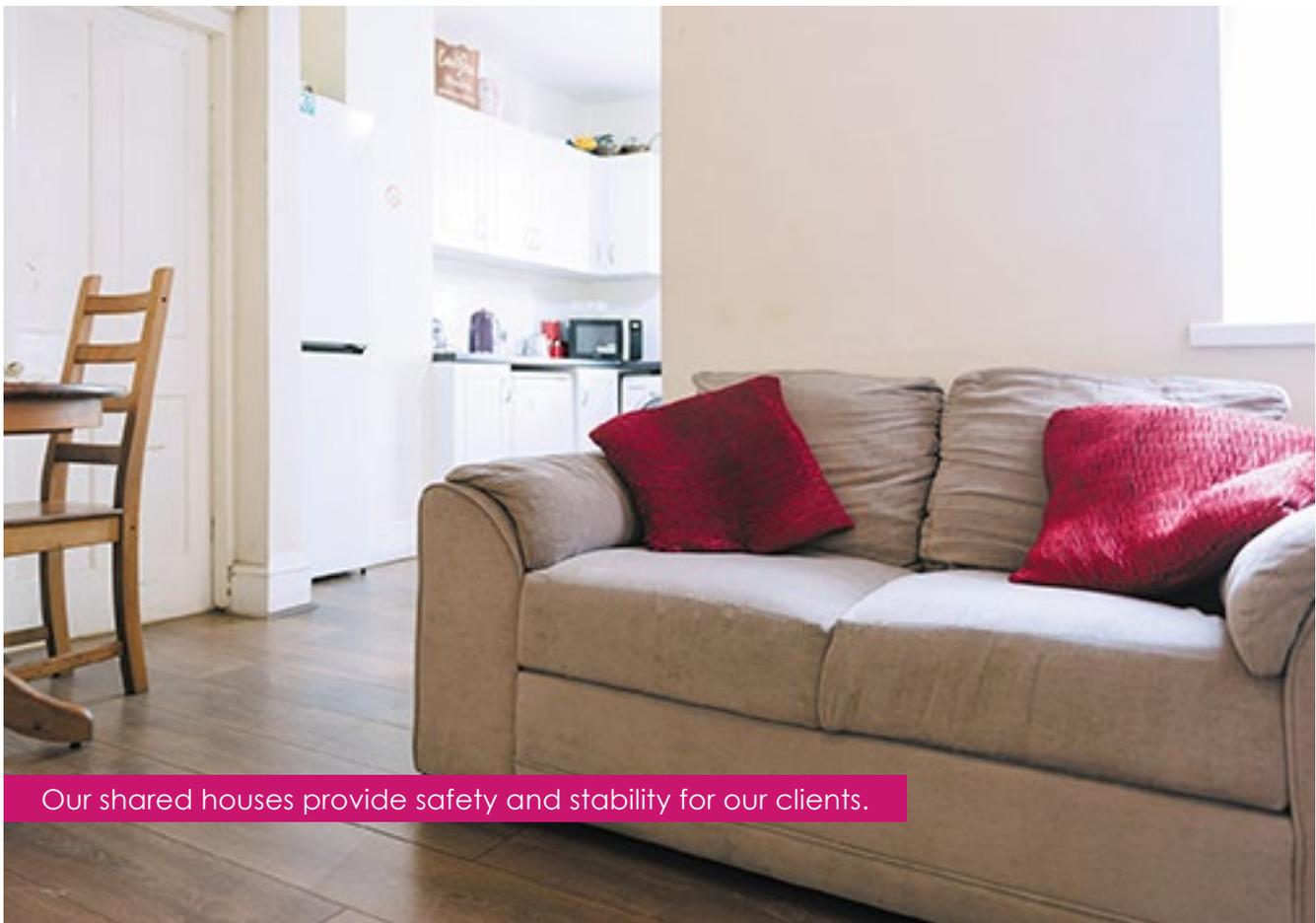
Days before the nationwide lockdown in March 2020 was announced, we were able to put the finishing touches to a new house for asylum seekers.

We were once again met with the generosity of our supporters who donated furniture and soft furnishings.

Just hours before the lockdown came into effect, we welcomed the third of three previously destitute women into the house.

As many of you will know, Boaz began life as a hosting organisation. While we know

that longer-term housing is important in order for our clients to feel a greater sense of stability in their lives, we remain grateful for our hosts who open up their homes to destitute asylum seekers with generosity and warmth. Many of our clients are hosted at a crisis point in their lives. Several of our clients were hosted right up to, and even during, lockdown. A warm, comfortable home can be a place of respite and restoration.



Our shared houses provide safety and stability for our clients.

Night Shelter in focus

For more than 15 years, the Boaz Trust has been supporting individuals who have been made homeless by the UK asylum system. In 2019-2020, our night shelter continued to provide a safe place for destitute men to stay, as Vron Earp explains.

When a person's asylum claim is rejected, they usually lose their Home Office accommodation and any additional support that they were receiving, within 21 days. Most of the individuals referred to Boaz have experienced street homelessness as a result of having been made destitute.

“The Boaz night shelter has been both a challenge and an inspiration for our church members. We have been inspired as a church to reach out to the cause and overcome every obstacle put in our way. The impact of meeting and serving our clients, with our volunteers and others, is immeasurable.”

NIGHT SHELTER VENUE COORDINATOR

Every year, from October to April, seven of our supporting churches, as well as the Manchester Quakers, open their doors to twelve men who have nowhere else to go. As the nights draw in and become colder, our volunteers (some 300 in total)



provide a healthy and hot evening meal, a warm place to sleep, and breakfast. We simply could not provide this support every night for seven months of the year were it not for the kindness and dedication of our supporting churches and volunteers.

We know that there are compounding challenges for our clients who are destitute. That is why we also run a weekly drop-in advice session, which enables our clients to access relevant support services needed. We are able to make phone calls on their behalf, help clients to access GP services, and provide emotional support and signposting. This year we were also able to offer our clients free legal advice, in partnership with Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU), helping individuals to better understand the

asylum system and how to move forward with making a fresh claim.

“The night shelter is very good. The volunteers and the food are the best.”

NIGHT SHELTER GUEST

This year our night shelter was forced to close a month early as the severity of COVID-19 became apparent. Communal sleeping became unsafe for our clients and volunteers alike, and we made the difficult but necessary decision to close. Thankfully we were able to support our nine remaining guests to find alternative accommodation, including in Boaz shared houses. We also continued to support the men with their fresh claim applications.

Refugee Move On

It can be especially hard for our refugee clients to find the stability and privacy needed to reconnect and rebuild their lives. Refugee support worker, Vicky Shenton, explains why.



At Boaz, we support clients with refugee status to be able to move on with their lives.

We have two Refugee Move On properties: a flat in Manchester where a family live with their one-year-old daughter and a two-bedroom house in Salford, which a couple live in.

Both couples have been reunited through the Government's 'Family Reunion' scheme. They were previously living in other Boaz accommodation: one client was staying in our winter men's night shelter when his wife came to join him and our other client was living in one of our shared houses for refugee women. For many obvious reasons, neither of those places were suitable for couples to live in and build a life here together.

It is so important that people can find a place that provides stability and privacy for their families.

With very little time between being granted a family reunion visa and their spouse's subsequent arrival to the UK, it was virtually impossible to find affordable or appropriate housing.

The idea behind our Move On properties is to provide a stepping stone from supported accommodation to independent living.

They offer a temporary place to call home, where a family can have the space, privacy

and stability needed to share some peaceful time together, understand their options, and think about what they would like for their futures.

This accommodation provision comes with support, which is tailored to each individual living there. There is a particular focus on assisting the families to set up and manage bills, to budget and better understand what other accommodation options there may be. We also offer support around benefits, making sure they have access to the right benefits and child support that they are entitled to. Having worked with both families for some time now, it is lovely to see how much of a home they have been able to create for themselves.

Refugee support – Renting Ready

Gaining refugee status often leads to a new set of challenges for the clients that we work with. Learning to navigate the UK rental market can be beset with difficulties. That's why we developed our own Renting Ready training, as refugee support worker Lydia Nelson writes.

The Boaz Renting Ready curriculum arose from a need amongst our clients with refugee status. Several organisations run (or used to run) short courses aimed at equipping refugees aged 25 and under for independent living; supporting young refugees to manage their own tenancy successfully and sustainably. However, at the time our refugee support work began to take a more formalised shape, only one provider was offering this kind of training to our client group.

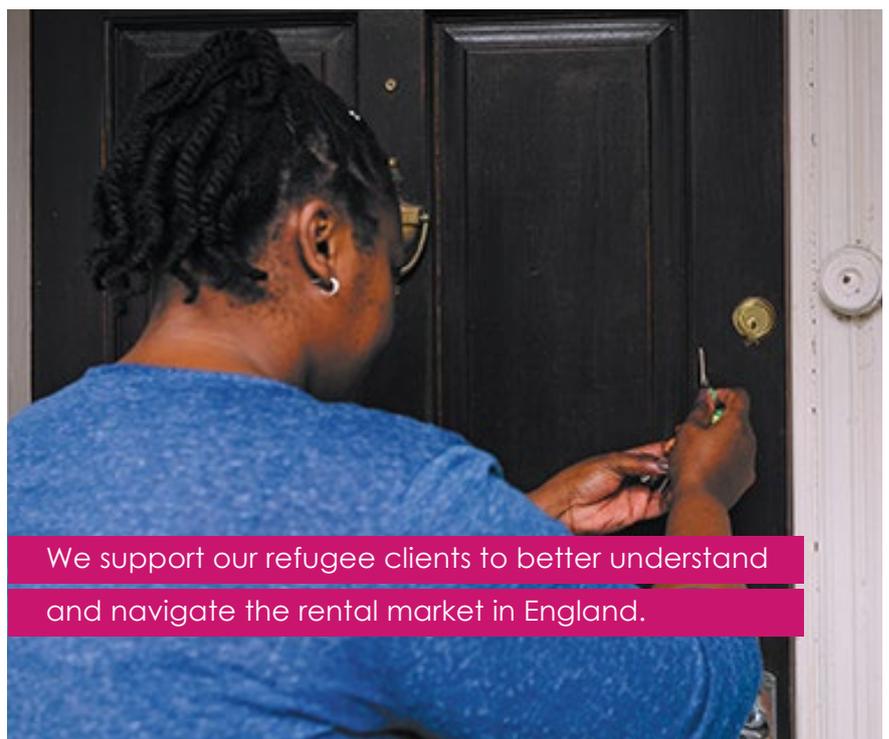
At Boaz we had wanted to provide our own tenancy training for all of our clients with refugee status for a long time.

Having decided to explore the possibility, we discovered Crisis' Renting Ready curriculum and a plan began to take shape. With Crisis' blessing, and following a condensed first-hand experience of their training, we were able to take their materials and adapt them to develop our own, taking language and cultural gaps into account.

We ran our pilot training in October 2019, which allowed us to iron out any quirks. We found it worked most successfully and fluidly when clients were from one language group (and included one interpreter). It was an enjoyable and enriching time for both clients and staff; an opportunity for everyone to learn something, whether that be the vagaries of the English rental system, new vocabulary, trying the national breakfast dish of another client, or gaining an understanding of hospitality in their nation.

It was an enjoyable and enriching time for both clients and staff.

Whilst we are yet to run Renting Ready 2, the materials are complete and there remains a third module to be produced. Feedback from clients has been positive and, ultimately, we believe that this training will help the individuals we work with to become equipped for tackling the English rental market from a stronger, more informed, position.



We support our refugee clients to better understand and navigate the rental market in England.

Speaking out

At Boaz, our primary focus is on providing safe and secure accommodation for destitute asylum seekers and refugees. However, we cannot and will not ignore systemic failures that can lead to individuals becoming destitute.

Many of us have worked in the sector for long enough to witness the continued erosion of an individual's right to have their asylum case fairly considered, as well as the growing hostility towards people seeking sanctuary.

That's why in 2019-2020, we continued to support clients to self-advocate. Speaking at the Greater Manchester Integration Strategy event in 2019, one of our asylum-seeking clients addressed a room full of voluntary and faith sector practitioners, and local authority leaders, including the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, to describe her personal experience of destitution and its impact on her life.

While the work that we do is vital and supports people who have exhausted all other avenues, we know that without sustained advocacy efforts and lobbying to influence political will, the UK will remain a place of hostility for the individuals who live in its shadows.

Access to good, free legal provision is vital and yet, with the continued diminishment to legal aid provision, all too hard to acquire. In 2019-2020, we continued our partnership with Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) to support a

number of our clients to have their cases reviewed and fresh submissions made to the Home Office.

Finding rest in a Boaz house can often allow a previously destitute client to regroup,

rebuild their physical and mental energy, and begin taking the first steps towards making a fresh claim.

Meeting other people can also become a vital form of peer-support for our clients.



Extract from Amie's* address at the Greater Manchester Integration Strategy event:

"Destitution is first and foremost a humanitarian issue. People who are destitute are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, and they deserve our compassion and support – a human response, one that seeks to protect them, treat them with dignity, fairness and respect. Destitution is such a big problem and it's important that people understand that destitution is created by the Home Office, but cannot be ignored by Greater Manchester.

When you become destitute, the first impact is it affects you mentally and physically, and creates depression. You become at risk of violence and sexual exploitation. It makes you lose your dignity and is like your whole world has collapsed.

When I became destitute five years ago, I had been through difficulties with my health and I am still going through it. I was so desperately needing accommodation that I went to the local council for help. I was told I am not entitled to a house and that I was illegal in this country. How does it feel for a person to seek help and be turned down because of their status in this country? It creates great stress in you and you don't know who to face to tell your problems to. You become sad and lonely.

We want our voices to be heard. We need justice in every way and we need change from all the Greater Manchester authorities and organisations."

*name changed



When you come here you are starting from point zero. It was so important for me not to waste time.”

After getting refugee status I looked for somewhere to live for almost two months and tried many different places and charities. I found Boaz by searching the internet. I

My support worker at Boaz introduced me to Amanda from Refugees & Mentors. Because I was interested in Network Engineering, Amanda helped me to write my CV and get a work placement in

My life has changed and improved in every way. Financially I am more independent now. I have a better routine in my life and I've met many people and made new friends. I

feel happier and have much more confidence.

I have been under the care of a mental health team for almost three years. Before I started working

Being granted refugee status can become fraught for individuals who suddenly need to navigate having all their sources of support stopped. That's why secure housing is so vital in enabling individuals to build a safe, fulfilling and thriving life, as Mary* shares.

contacted them and they asked me to get a referral. After a few weeks they called and told me they had a space in a house. I signed a tenancy agreement and moved in the next day.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering from my country and when I came here as an asylum seeker I started studying. It helped me to stay busy doing something I liked and took my mind off the stress. The college were excited when they knew about my educational history. This gave me the motivation to go on with my studies. I didn't feel confident about my English, but because everyone was so supportive it helped a lot.

this field. I had been looking for an opportunity like this myself for a year and was getting nowhere.

I started an unpaid work placement as a Network Engineer at a service provider in Manchester. After seven weeks volunteering there, the company asked if I would like to start working there. I went for an interview and they offered me a job. I started full-time a few days later. The job has changed my life. I really love it.

When you come here you are starting from point zero. It was so important for me not to waste time. For that you need the right information and support when you are here. If you don't get this information you may waste years not getting anywhere.

I was unsure how I would manage with the pressure, but the routine has really helped and since working my mental health has improved a lot. I am now in the process of finishing my support and I stopped taking medication several months ago. I'm ready to continue my life without it.

My biggest challenge when transitioning from being an asylum seeker to becoming a refugee was trying to get accommodation in Manchester. I stayed in a hostel and it was really bad. I cried a lot. I was hopeless. When I got the call about the Boaz house it was like a light in my life and gave me hope again. The support I have received has helped me to find my way here.

*name changed

Boaz Life

At the Boaz Trust we see every day the impact that living with prolonged and ambiguous uncertainty can have on our clients well-being and mental health. That's why our Boaz Life programme of events has been so important to those we support.

In 2019-2020, we were able to organise a series of weekly and monthly events for our clients with well-being and enjoyment in mind. Our popular monthly walks in the Peak District continued, facilitated by some of our fantastic volunteers. There were theatre trips to the Royal Exchange, a classical music concert at the Bridgewater Hall, a gardening project at the Whitworth Art Gallery in partnership with GROW Manchester and a very popular visit to the National Football Museum.

In November, several of our clients took part in a series of sewing and print making workshops at Islington Mill in Salford. Led by a fantastic artist who generously volunteered her time and skills, the clients learnt how to sketch, create designs and sew, as well as print-make. In February the clients who took part in the course hosted a public exhibition launch, showcasing their designs.

Since then, two of the women who took part in the course have been gifted sewing machines and have been able to develop their skills during lockdown.

One client has created her own beautiful jewellery range, having been inspired by the course.



Our friends at L'Arche Manchester gifted us lots of lovely plants, which we gave to several of our houses to tend to during lockdown.



Being a part of the sewing workshops was a godsend to me. It opened up a new world of creativity that I never knew I had. I'm very grateful for the experience and I haven't stopped creating since."

TESIA

A group of clients take part in the sewing and art workshops.

Mental and emotional well-being

Marginalised by society, unable to work and living in a perpetual state of uncertainty, it's little wonder that so many Boaz clients suffer with mental health challenges and conditions. Providing holistic support is so vital, as client support worker Amy Merone explains.

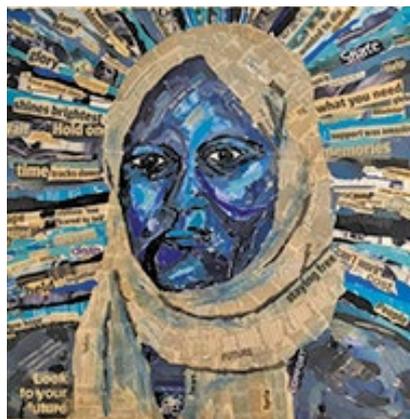
Imagine for a moment, if you can, living a life that is so desperate and so full of fear that you would risk it – and perhaps the lives of your children – to embark on a perilous journey to find sanctuary in an unknown place, thousands of miles from home. Imagine still being met on arrival with disbelief, hostility, or outright hatred. Perhaps you are detained. Certainly you are forbidden from employment. The threat of destitution or deportation hangs over you.

It is in this context that the individuals we support live. Many of our clients are still processing the experiences they lived through in their countries of origin, or as they journeyed to the UK, as well as living in a hostile environment that is designed to make the process of applying for asylum as deterring as possible.

Even before the Coronavirus pandemic, a number of our clients were experiencing mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress, depression and anxiety. COVID-19 has only served to compound some of our

clients already precarious and fragile mental health states.

At Boaz we work with GP surgeries, with mental health practitioners and other relevant professionals to ensure that clients can



receive the mental health support that they need. This has been especially vital during the Coronavirus pandemic, with clients' legal cases being put on hold, increased social isolation and an even greater level of anxiety about the future.

To support our clients' physical well-being, we continued through 2019-2020 to offer our monthly Peak District walks and were able to secure subsidised gym membership for some of our clients. We have prioritised physical well-being during COVID-19, setting up an online yoga class

and accompanying clients on wellness walks in local parks. Our model of intentional one-to-one support work, which we maintained during the national lockdown, has meant that as client support workers we have been able to spot and respond to clients' mental health concerns quickly, ensuring early intervention and support.

At Boaz we ask our clients only for the information needed by a solicitor in order to support their asylum applications. We know that asking a person who is seeking asylum to tell us about their lived experiences, or journey to the UK, can be re-traumatising. Furthermore, it is our view that the need for this information only seeks to promote the deserving/undeserving asylum seeker narrative, which we reject entirely.

We also know that mental well-being is influenced and impacted by our sense of physical security, meaning and purpose, and resources. So many of these stabilisers have been stripped away from our clients' lives. We know that without security, individuals will always be vulnerable to mental ill-health and that is why we continue to advocate for a just and compassionate asylum system.

Image: A collage made by one of our client support volunteers.



At Boaz we offer holistic support, including the chance for clients to explore and express their creativity.

COVID-19

In March 2020, life as we had once known it, changed. As the nationwide lockdown came into effect, our staff team and volunteers mobilised.

In those first weeks, we focused on securing and distributing food, hand hygiene products and toiletries for our clients across 21 houses and for the men from our Boaz night shelter who had been placed in temporary accommodation. As we navigated a new and ever challenging way of working, we began to reflect on how we could best support our clients through a global pandemic.

Recognising the increased social isolation that our clients were experiencing, and the subsequent impact on people's mental health, we successfully crowdfunded £10,000 to install internet in all of our Boaz properties.

Responding to an increase in food prices, we were able to extend our weekly client support provision to £30 and moved from fortnightly cash distributions at clients' houses to the introduction of a personal cash card, topped up automatically each week. We were able to make these changes swiftly in response to issues of concern that clients raised with us, recognising the need for, and enabling, greater client autonomy.



One of our volunteers, Jessie, kindly made masks for our clients during the early weeks of the Coronavirus pandemic.

As COVID-19 continues to dominate our lives, we are conscious of the ongoing impact that the ever growing uncertainty places on our clients. The individuals who we support are no stranger to indecision and waiting. In fact, several of our clients shared that they felt less alone in their experience of lockdown knowing that, for once, nobody else was out living their lives when they were not allowed to. As we tentatively look towards, and hope for a time when the restrictions will ease, we are continuing to offer holistic support. During lockdown, clients have started gardening, taken part in online yoga classes and been on well-being walks

with client support staff. Our client support model is one that prioritises connection and time spent with clients and, as such, we have been able to respond quickly to issues our clients have experienced; providing much needed support.

As ever, we are grateful to our supporters and volunteers who have responded in kind to our requests for help. From donations for our internet provision, to home-cooked meals and handmade masks, thank you. As we continue to plan ahead for an uncertain future, we are taking with us valuable lessons that we have learnt during this difficult season.



I hope that after COVID-19, society will give homeless people a chance to be heard and taken off the streets.”

My name is Tawonga and I am living in Boaz accommodation. My experience during lockdown has been up and down. I would wake up some days and think of my life and start crying about everything that is going in my life and with

I know how it feels and I enjoy making a change in someone's life to give them hope. During lockdown, as a member of the Crisis volunteer team, we have had Zoom meetings with other charity organisations, with GPs, talking about what they are facing and how they

the streets. If they need healthcare, then let them have access to it without frequently monitoring them.

I would also like society to continue checking on each other because we don't know what people go through in this life.

We asked one of our clients, Tawonga, to reflect on her experience of national lockdown earlier this year. Here is what she shared.

no family around. Then some days I would find distraction in talking to my friends on the phone, listening to music (thanks to Boaz for the internet), or even having a laugh with my housemates has helped.

As an asylum seeker, being in lockdown is made worse because I am thinking about my case on hold. It has made me feel like my life is at a standstill.

I have been volunteering with Crisis; a charity that helps homeless people. It is important for me to volunteer with them because I was once in the same situation.

are dealing with the situations during the pandemic, and what the Government is doing to make sure that people's needs are met.

Volunteering with Crisis has helped me in knowing what goes on with access to healthcare. It has also taken my mind away from just staying idle.

I hope that after COVID-19, society will give homeless people a chance to be heard and taken off

Lastly I would like to thank Boaz for providing me with accommodation. Where would I be in this time of lockdown if it was not for them helping me. Plus, the support they gave and continue to give up to the present. I don't take it for granted. Thanks also goes to the WAST group for the support I get from them, which I appreciate.

Never give up no matter what life throws at you. Always have hope that there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

Learning and growing

At the Boaz Trust we are committed to learning and growing as an organisation. During the last six months we have continued this vital work.

Becoming anti-racist

At the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests swept the globe in response to the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, USA. The protests created a new level of awareness of the extent and depth of systemic and systematic racism in societies, including the UK.

The lived experience of racism is something that our clients know all too well. Not only have they experienced injustice, oppression and violence in their countries of origin, as well as on treacherous journeys in search of sanctuary, but they have also encountered the brutality of a hostile environment towards them here in the UK.

At the Boaz Trust we hear of, and see, so much racism experienced by our clients. It is also true, however, that as a majority-white organisation there is much racism that we fail to see, or understand well enough. That is why we are taking time as individuals and

as an organisation to listen, learn, unlearn and change. This self and organisational examination is essential, and it must be ongoing if we can truly hope to see and challenge the racism we encounter.

COVID-19 has revealed deep chasms in our societies and stark evidence of systemic racism has revealed itself. As an organisation we have a lot more work to do to become anti-racist. We know that we need more diversity within our staff and leadership teams, and greater representation on our board of trustees from those with lived experience of the asylum system. We need to better amplify the voices of our clients, and not be afraid to reveal the complexities and nuances of people's lives. We will continue to seek for a just and compassionate asylum system, and an end to destitution.

Changing our support

COVID-19 has hit society's most vulnerable people the hardest. As the nationwide lockdown came into effect, it very soon became apparent that our clients were suffering more than most. Internet has become a lifeline for many of us during the last several months and we quickly realised the impact that digital poverty and social isolation was having on our clients' well-being. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to crowdfund to meet

the cost of having internet installed in all of our Boaz houses.

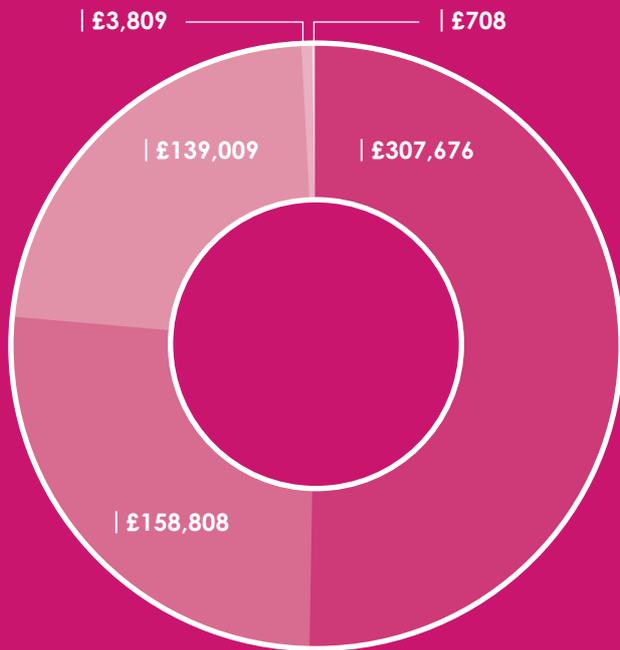
In the early days and weeks of the nationwide lockdown, we worked with a local organisation to provide food bags for clients.

COVID-19 has hit society's most vulnerable people the hardest. As the nationwide lockdown came into effect, it very soon became apparent that our clients were suffering more than most.

While this support was appreciated by our clients, it became apparent that individuals wanted and needed more autonomy over their choice of food. Listening to this feedback, we increased our weekly cash support for asylum-seeking clients to £30 and moved to a card top-up system (in replacement of cash) as a more discreet and autonomous form of support. We didn't get everything right in the early days of the pandemic, but we listened attentively to the feedback from clients that we received and made changes. We are taking these changes, and this greater awareness of our clients' challenges and frustrations, into our future work.

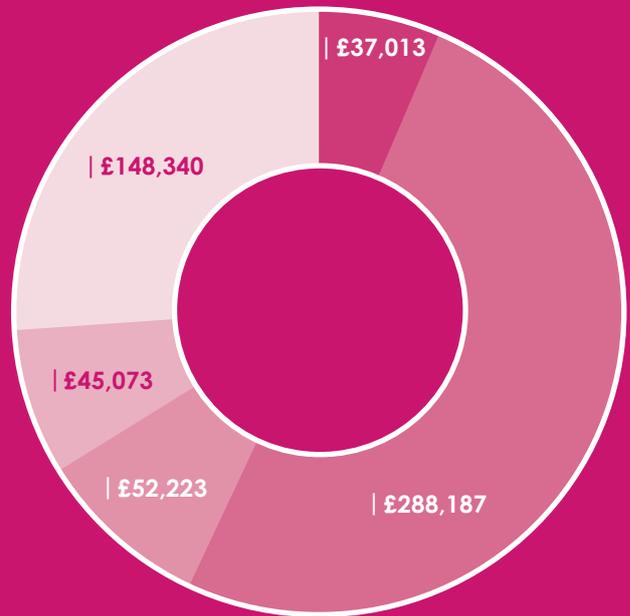
Finance

Income | £610,010



- Grants
- Donations / Gift Aid
- Income from refugee houses
- Sponsorship and fundraising events
- Other

Expenditure | £570,836



- Fundraising
- Staff costs (client support and admin)
- Running costs (client support and admin)
- Direct client support costs (bus fares, food, etc)
- House running costs

We wish to thank our many donors, individuals, churches, faith and community groups, businesses and other local organisations who have supported our work through fundraising, donations and giving, **as well as those who have generously allowed us to continue to use their houses** this last year.

Thank you for reading.



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All photographs in this report were either taken pre-COVID-19, or between individuals who are in bubbles.

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