



**association of visitors to
immigration detainees**

Strategic Directions 2016 – 2018

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1156709

Introduction

We are pleased to present our strategic objectives for the period 2016 – 2018.

These objectives are based on the extensive feedback we received from our 17 member groups during a consultation at the end of 2015, and a review of our activities in the preceding three years. They are not a major departure from our previous objectives, but we feel more accurately reflect the current context in which we work, and the needs of our membership network.

In 2016, AVID's 22nd year, our role remains unique: we are the only organisation working nationally to promote and support volunteer visiting. Our membership is diverse, with differing priorities and demands, but all share the common aim to reduce the isolation faced by those detained. This remains at the heart of all that we do.

In this document, we have positioned our aims and objectives for the next three years firmly within our belief that detention is unjust. As such we have prioritised working to end the detention of vulnerable people, and we will continue to work collaboratively with our membership to this end. Alongside this we will continue to advocate for improved treatment and conditions for all those in detention, as well as working to raise awareness of the realities of daily life in detention. And as a membership network, we will continue to help build a confident supported and trained body of independent volunteer visitors, ensuring that wherever possible, people in detention have access to the volunteer support that can and does provide a lifeline.

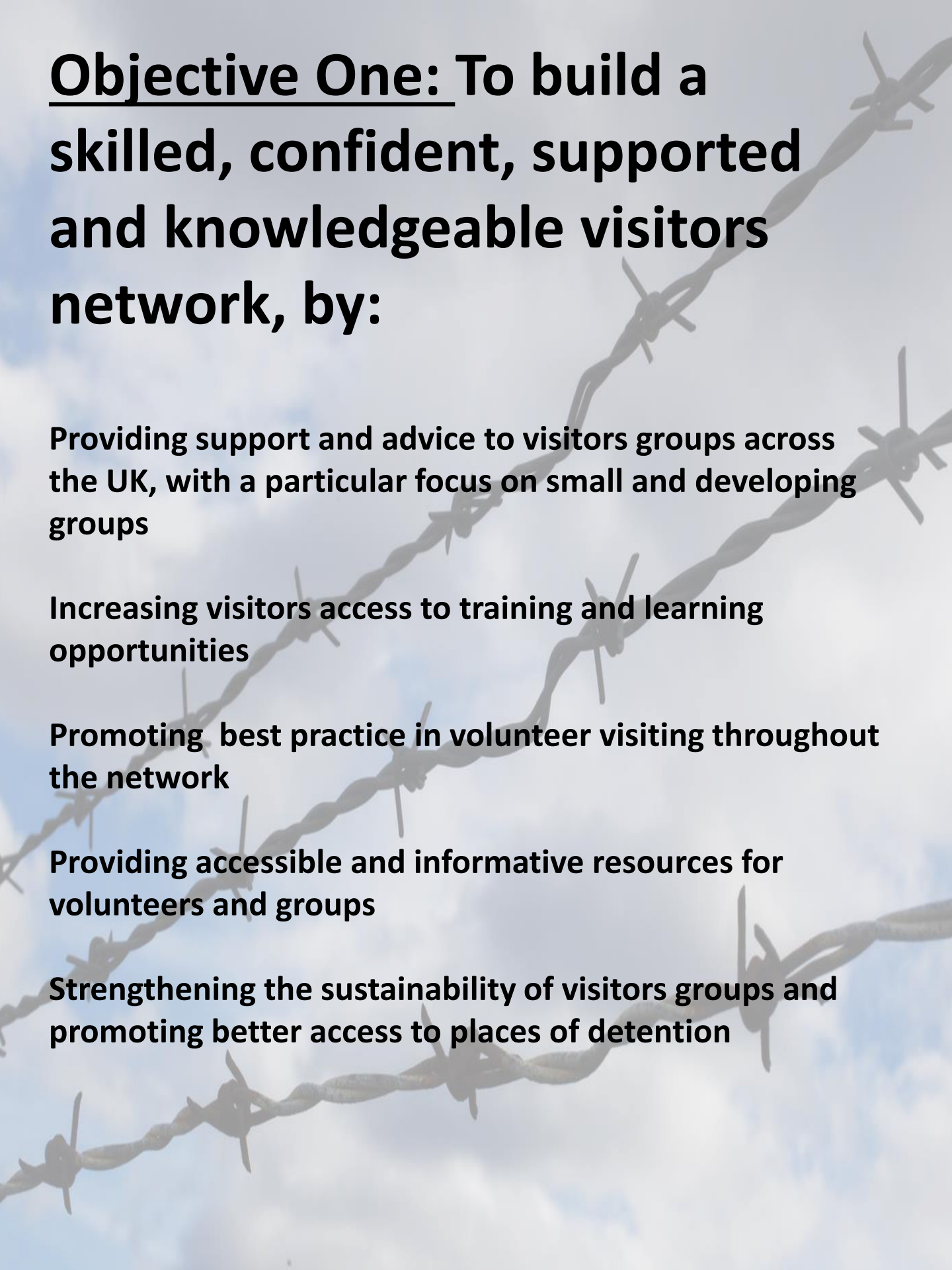
AVID is a support organisation for visitors groups, but we also deliver activities and projects to the benefit of visitors groups and detainees; our work is both proactive and reactive. Our activities in both spheres will take place within this agreed framework.

We look forward to working with our membership to fulfilling these objectives in the coming three years.

**Ali McGinley, Director
July 2016**

Mission Statement:

AVID aims to address the isolation and injustice of immigration detention in the UK. We do this by supporting, strengthening, and promoting volunteer visiting nationally, and by working towards positive change for all people in detention.



Objective One: To build a skilled, confident, supported and knowledgeable visitors network, by:

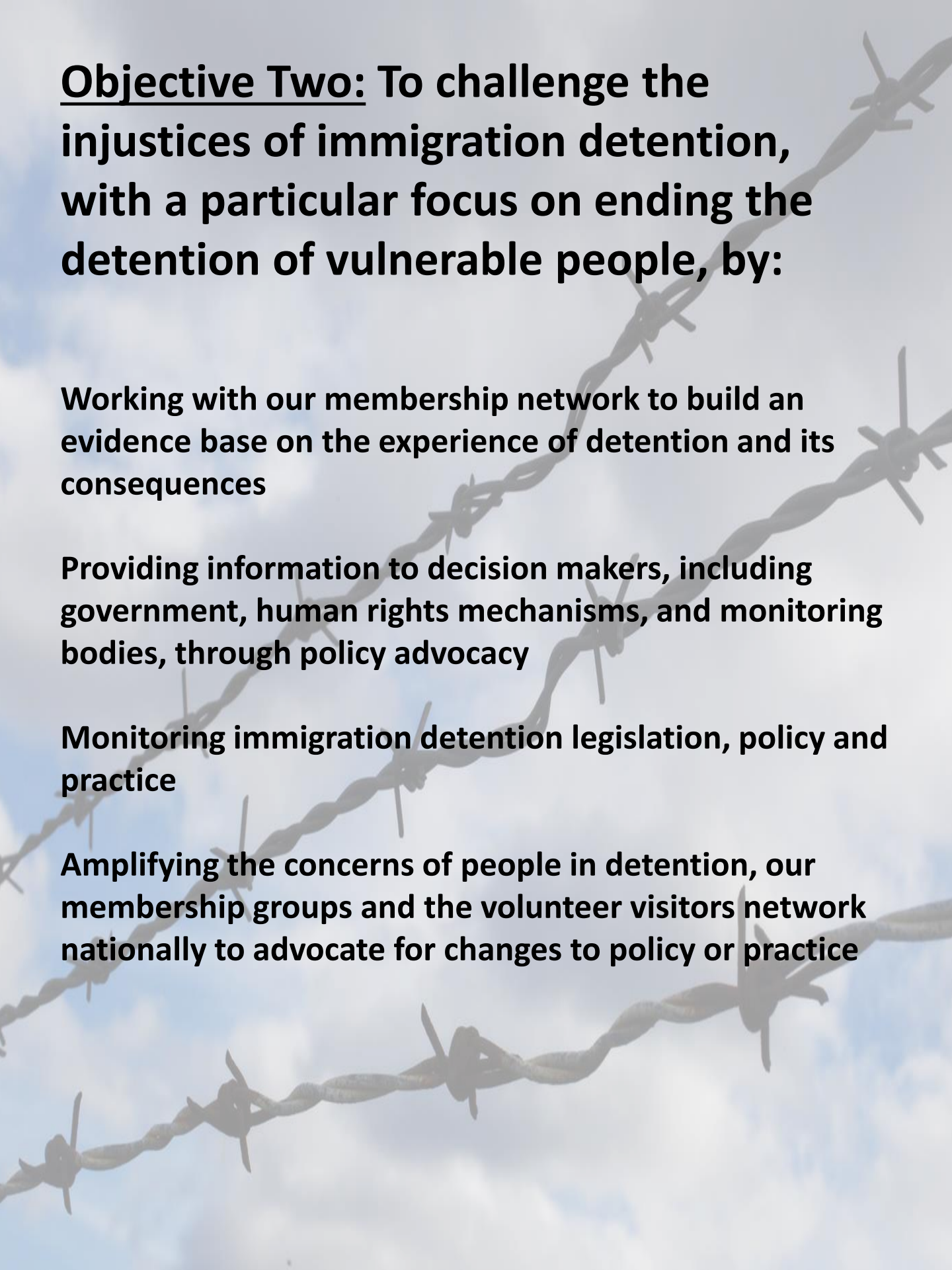
Providing support and advice to visitors groups across the UK, with a particular focus on small and developing groups

Increasing visitors access to training and learning opportunities

Promoting best practice in volunteer visiting throughout the network

Providing accessible and informative resources for volunteers and groups

Strengthening the sustainability of visitors groups and promoting better access to places of detention



Objective Two: To challenge the injustices of immigration detention, with a particular focus on ending the detention of vulnerable people, by:

Working with our membership network to build an evidence base on the experience of detention and its consequences

Providing information to decision makers, including government, human rights mechanisms, and monitoring bodies, through policy advocacy

Monitoring immigration detention legislation, policy and practice

Amplifying the concerns of people in detention, our membership groups and the volunteer visitors network nationally to advocate for changes to policy or practice



Objective three: To raise awareness of the realities of immigration detention nationally, by:

Providing authoritative information on detention policy and practice

Producing regular information bulletins including our monthly newsletter

Providing an information resource on all aspects of immigration detention

Building a body of support materials and information for people in detention

AVID's membership

January 2016

Asylum Welcome (Campsfield House IRC)

Detention Action
(Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRCs, Verne IRC and London prisons)

Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group (Tinsley House IRC, Brook House IRC and Cedars)

Jesuit Refugee Service
(Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRCs)

Larne House Visitors Group
(Larne House STHF)

Lewes Group (Lewes Prison)

Liverpool Prisons Visiting Group

Manchester Immigration Detainee Support Team
(Pennine House Short Term Holding Facility and Manchester Prison)

Morton Hall Detainee Visitors Group (Morton Hall IRC)

Scottish Detainee Visitors
(Dungavel IRC)

SOAS Detainee Support (Yarl's Wood IRC, Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, London prisons)

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (community support)

Sudanese Visitors Group

Verne Visitors Group (Verne IRC)

Wandsworth Refugee Network (Wandsworth Prison)

Yarl's Wood Befrienders (Yarl's Wood IRC)

Zimbabwe Association



AVID

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