

Annual Report 2016



association of **visitors** to
immigration detainees

Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1156709

“Detainees should have appropriate access to the services of a volunteer visitors’ group.”

– Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons, Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall immigration removal centre, November 2016

Over **640** volunteer visitors were registered with AVID members in 2016, in **17** visitors groups.

Together, they provided emotional support and practical advice to detainees in every single detention centre & residential short term holding facility in the UK.

Immigration Detention: the greatest stain on our human rights record

Immigration Detention is the power to detain administratively, under the authority of the Home Office. The powers to detain were created by the Immigration Act 1971 and have been expanded and extended under the various Governments since. Crucially, decisions to detain are made by civil servants – it is not a judicial procedure – and there is no time limit on how long individuals can be held under these powers.

The reasons for detention are varied, but it is usually for one of the following: to establish someone's identity or basis of an immigration claim; to effect removal; where there is reason to believe that the person may abscond; and where someone is awaiting a decision to enter the UK. In all of these cases, Home Office policy states that there should be a presumption against deprivation of liberty and in favour of temporary admission or release. Detention should be used sparingly, and for the shortest period necessary. Alternatives to detention should be used wherever possible.

However, current practice does not reflect this policy. The UK is routinely criticised for overuse of detention, and for the absence of a time limit, which puts us at odds with the rest of our European neighbours. Far from being a last resort, detention has become routine in the UK. People are regularly detained for lengthy periods, and over 30,000 will be incarcerated administratively in this system every year. It is now widely understood that detaining someone without time limit has a detrimental impact on mental health. Detention divides families, communities, and is a stain on our civil liberties traditions.



Sudanese Visitors Group MIND mental health training, 2016



Tinsley House IRC, photo credit Mary Bosworth

2,738 people were in detention at the end of December 2016, 5% more than the number recorded at the end of December 2015 (2,607), despite promises made throughout 2016 to reduce the use of detention.

How AVID works

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.

Strategic Directions 2016 to 2018

- To build a skilled, confident, supported and knowledgeable visitors network
- To challenge the injustices of immigration detention, with a particular focus on ending the detention of vulnerable people
- To raise awareness of the realities of immigration detention nationally

List of Members 2016

Asylum Welcome

Campsfield House IRC

Detention Action

Colnbrook IRC, Harmondsworth IRC, Verne IRC

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

*Brook House IRC, Tinsley House IRC,
Cedars pre-departure accommodation*

Jesuit Refugee Service

Colnbrook IRC, Harmondsworth IRC

Lewes Group in Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

HMP Lewes

Larne House Visitors Group

Larne House STHF

Liverpool Prisons Visiting Group

Liverpool prisons

Manchester Immigration Detainee Support Team (MIDST)

Pennine House STHF, HMP Manchester (formerly Strangeways)

Morton Hall Detainee Visitors Group

Morton Hall IRC

Scottish Detainee Visitors

Dungavel IRC

SOAS Detainee Support

Colnbrook IRC, Harmondsworth IRC, Yarl's Wood IRC

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

Community Support

Sudanese Visitors Group

Supporting Sudanese detainees

Verne Visitors Group

Verne IRC

Wandsworth Refugee Network

HMP Wandsworth

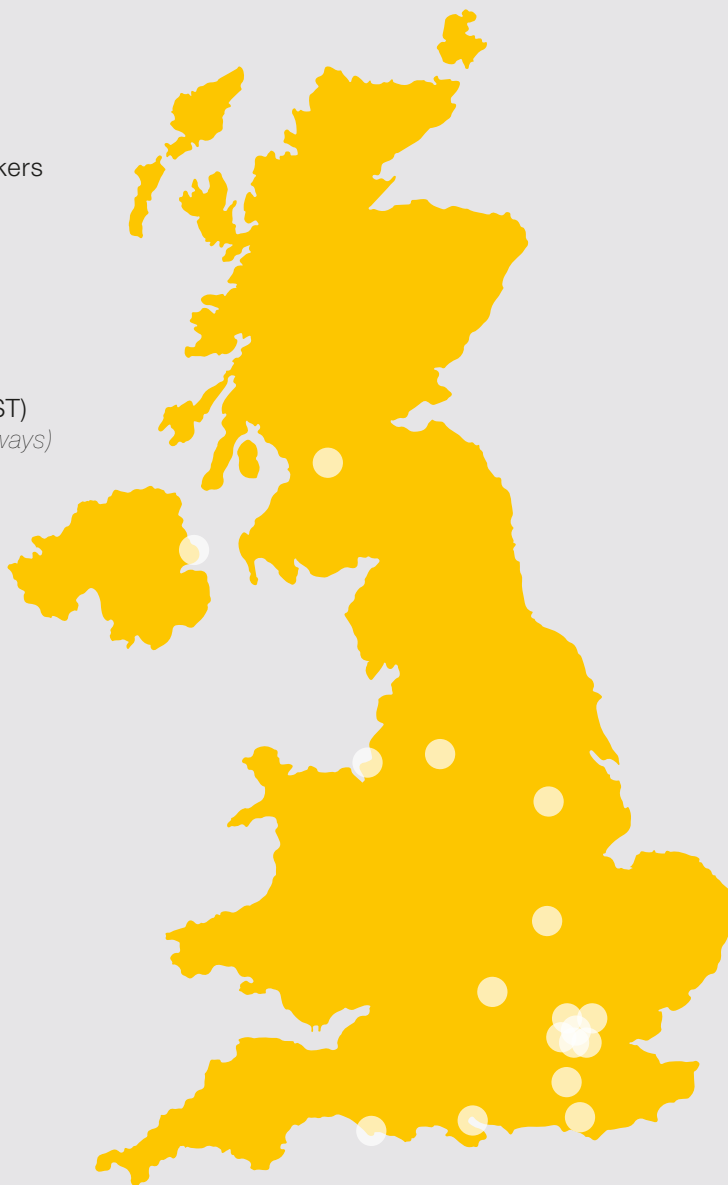
Yarl's Wood Befrienders

Yarl's Wood IRC

Zimbabwe Association

Supporting Zimbabwean detainees

17 member groups
were supported
by AVID in 2016



47% of those detained

in 2016 were removed from the UK after their detention. 53% were therefore released back into the communities from which they were taken, their detention having served no purpose.

74 children left detention in 2016, 70% (52) of whom were returned to their communities.

Chair's Report

Another year has passed, and immigration detention is still with us. During 2016 there was what seemed to be a growing acceptance that indefinite detention was something which reflected badly on the UK's reputation as a standard bearer for human rights. However, it seems to have slipped down the political agenda. Nevertheless, as you can see from Ali McGinley's Director's Report, AVID, like other NGOs in the sector, has not been idle in continuing to promote the well-being of people in detention both in detention centres and prisons. Indefinite detention by definition makes everyone who experiences it vulnerable: it is difficult to imagine anything more disorienting, dehumanising and demoralising than being held in prison or in facilities which are prisons in all but name without any idea when one might be released. Quite rightly, then, AVID's focus has been on raising the issue of the vulnerability of people in detention in general, while not forgetting the detention of children and pregnant women or victims of torture, among others, so that we can continue to bring the wider evil to the attention of the public, legislators and those whose task is to set and monitor the standards of care for those in detention. Healthcare provision, especially for mental health, is a constant concern.

Once again, it is gratifying to be able to report that AVID has had an influence much greater than its size would lead one to expect. This is, of course, almost entirely a result of the efforts of our small staff team. Ali, our Director, has been able to do an astonishing amount of work for all those in detention by working with a wide range of government agencies and NGOs pushing our advocacy agenda. Meanwhile, Gee, our Training and Membership Coordinator, has supported our member groups and delivered training across the UK. It's good to report that it's always well received, which is a testament to his abilities. Trustees are hugely grateful to Ali and Gee, and we wish to record our thanks to them.

The last year was the final year of our current crop of grants. Trustees took the decision that reserves are there to be used when necessary, so while 2016's reserves look healthy, it was anticipated that they would be eaten into during the first part of the 2017 financial year so that we could maintain at least a minimum of our work until further grant income was secured. We are immensely grateful to our major funder during the year – The Tudor Trust – whose commitment and support has, as always, been invaluable in our work. We also couldn't manage

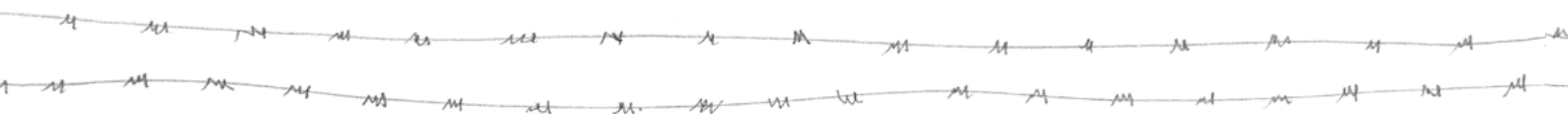
During 2016 there was what seemed to be a growing acceptance that indefinite detention was something which reflected badly on the UK's reputation as a standard bearer for human rights.

without our individual donors and the numerous small trusts who have helped us during the year. To all of them, we say a profound thank you.

The board underwent a number of changes during 2016. Suko Fricke got a new job which meant that she had to resign in June 2017. She had stepped up as temporary treasurer while we tried to recruit a more permanent office holder. Suko and Ali made several improvements to our systems in her short tenure. Polly Brendon and Caro Albuernie both feel that the time has come for them to step down from their duties at AVID. Caro has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the sector in which we work and of its people, while Polly's quiet presence at our board meetings belied a keen lawyer's mind which she used to good effect. We will miss them, and I would like to thank them for all they have contributed to AVID over the last few years. We wish them well. I should also like to thank my remaining colleagues for their hard work over the last year or so, and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

Last year, Stephen Shaw suggested that we should ask the question, 'What has changed in detention since our last AGM?' As I've hinted at above, and as Ali remarks in her report, the answer is not nearly as much as we would have liked. In some ways indeed things have regressed. As a result, there is still a role for AVID and visitors' groups who are in a unique position to highlight abuses and deficiencies of the detention system, and to give an essential voice to people in detention. I am confident that AVID will continue to play its part in monitoring and working to improve conditions for people in detention, as will the volunteer visitors who give so freely of their time to support their desperate needs. While we would all like to see an end to this draconian system, we can in the short term support everyone who believes it's time for a time limit. Let's hope that at next year's AGM we can see real progress towards this goal, at least.

Andrew Wilson



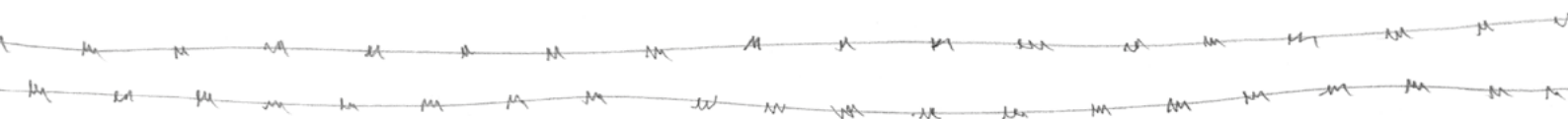
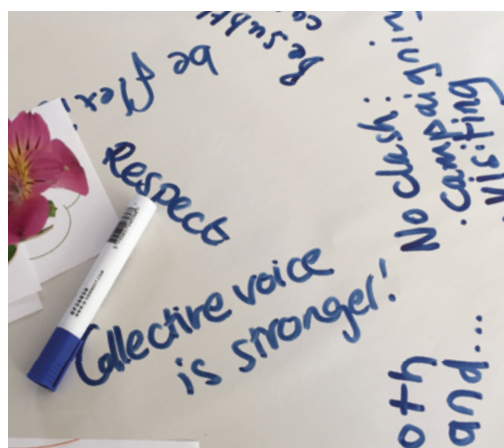
Director's Report

2016 was overshadowed by the Brexit referendum, and for those of us working on detention, on the passage of the Immigration Bill. The dominance of immigration detention during the debates on the Bill is no small feat; detention was not a key feature as initially set out. Rather, as the Bill progressed, the growing disquiet over immigration detention raised by Parliamentarians, NGOs, and others, became impossible to ignore. In particular, two detention related amendments (judicial oversight and the detention of pregnant women) became the focus of a 'ping pong' in the final stages, and were the subject of heart-felt, informed proposals for change from sympathetic MPs and Peers including AVID's Patron, Lord David Ramsbotham. Both amendments were put forward to increase the safeguards against indefinite detention and the damage it causes.

The enactment of the Bill eventually ushered in two detention-related policy changes: automatic judicial oversight for the first time (unfortunately excluding ex-offenders) and a time limit of 72 hours on the detention of pregnant women. However, these concessions did not go far enough. The Parliamentary Inquiry of 2015, followed by the *Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable People* (the 'Shaw Review'), had both called for a strengthening of the protections against lengthy periods of detention and cautioned

against the overuse of detention. In January 2016, the Government had accepted the 'broad thrust' of Shaw's recommendations. In this context, the safeguards offered in the Bill seem limited, and as the year progressed it became increasingly difficult to monitor progress towards this long promised reform.

Against this backdrop, on a daily basis at AVID we are reminded of just how far we've come in bridging the gap between community based, grassroots volunteering, and the debates taking place in both Houses about the crisis in our immigration detention system. Without volunteer visitors ensuring the realities of life inside detention are brought to the outside world, it is unimaginable that we'd have seen any of the changes outlined, however limited they may initially seem. We've been privileged to play a part in this, with our members and detention NGO partners, working collaboratively to keep up the momentum by ensuring credible, authoritative accounts of the human experiences of detention reach the public consciousness. While there remains a long way to go to ensure the elusive 'detention reform' promises made last year are realised, we can take comfort in knowing that the movement for change continues to grow and that there are many more of us now visiting, monitoring, speaking up, and challenging the injustices faced by those detained around the country who might otherwise be forgotten.



That said, we also recognise that the context for many of the visitors' groups in our network and the detainees we work to support has become ever more difficult. As scrutiny of the detention system is heightened, local groups are facing greater challenges in maintaining access and ensuring visitors can continue to provide their vital support. This year, we've prioritised work on behalf of all of our members to strengthen access to places of detention, and to equip volunteers with the skills needed, so that visitors can continue to work in every single detention centre in the UK.

Vital to this has been the addition of Geerthanshan Manoharan to the team in April, as Training and Membership Coordinator. Gee brings experience with Larne House Visitors Group in Northern Ireland, as well as an in-depth understanding of the injustices of the detention system, which gives him a unique insight into the support needs of both visitors and those detained. Alongside our policy work, I'm particularly proud of the work we've done this year in helping to develop small, volunteer led groups like the Verne Visitors Group in Dorset and Manchester Immigration Detainee Support Team. Our move to a new office in early 2017 marks the beginning of a new era for AVID and we look forward to sharing these plans with members. More information on the work done in 2016 by our small staff team is provided in the activities report on page 8.

2016 proved a tricky year in terms of funding, and like many of our partners, we've invested significant staff time in working to identify new donors and to ensure the importance of continuing to fund detention work is realised. This is likely to remain a key area for AVID as we work to ensure a sustainable future, and we are very grateful to all of our existing funders, donors and supporters who help us in this challenge. Again, I am always struck by the community donations we receive alongside our grants, which are particularly heart-warming and prove that AVID's reach continues to be felt by those affected or concerned by detention, across the country.

I'd like to thank our members, who make AVID what it is, and the many hundreds of volunteers, who deserve far more credit than it is possible to give. Thanks are also due to our fundraising volunteers this year, Eledia Bundo and Laura Perrin, and to our Trustees, for their valuable time and input. I'd particularly like to thank Carolina Albuérne Rodriguez, who takes a break from trusteeship following this year's AGM, and Polly Brendon and Suko Fricke who are standing down. They will all be missed and I'm very grateful for their contributions over so many years.

Ali McGinley

Activities Report

In this, the first year of our new set of strategic directions, we've continued to work to support our members in a range of ways, reflecting the diversity of the AVID network and the ever-changing environment of immigration detention. Our three key objectives continue to guide our work, balanced against the necessity of reactive input as we respond to the needs and concerns raised by our members. Progress against each objective area is outlined below, as we once again prioritise ensuring our membership network has access to training, information, advice, support, and resources; providing information to all about the realities of immigration detention, and continuing to push for change for all detainees through our advocacy programme.



"SDS were delighted to receive the seed-funding grant, as it enabled us to try out new ways of training and engaging volunteer visitors. The grant encouraged the group to think creatively about its outreach tactics, and has set a successful precedent for our ongoing work."

SOAS Detainee Support

52 visitors were trained by AVID in 2016

Membership Support

Throughout 2016, we delivered a range of training opportunities to our membership network, ensuring volunteer visitors from all over the UK have access to quality learning opportunities that equip them to deal with the challenges that being a volunteer visitor can bring. In the year, we delivered five training sessions to 52 volunteers from 8 different groups including groups in Dorset, Nottingham, and Northern Ireland. Our core training modules in, for example **Introduction to Visiting and Immigration Detention** or **Introduction to Immigration Detention Policy and Practice** were complemented this year by bespoke training on **Supporting victims of trafficking in detention**, delivered by AVID, and **Supporting LGBTI People in Immigration Detention** delivered with our partner, UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group. These two new training areas complement our work to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable people in immigration detention. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and visitors told us they feel more confident and able to deal with the varying needs of people they are supporting in detention as a result of our trainings. In particular, working with thematic experts on topical areas for more experienced visitors has proved very successful this year and we look forward to building on this in 2017.

We were also pleased that as a result of the capacity building grant provided by AVID, six groups were able to enhance the support they offered volunteer visitors in a range of ways, funded by £8,000 through 'seed funding' grants distributed. AVID worked directly with groups to identify priority needs and support areas, and the resulting activities funded included mental health training, profile raising and awareness raising events, workshops, a visitors' handbook, new websites, revised training materials and volunteer recruitment to name but a few.



“Many thanks to AVID’s seed funding for making this training possible! ...our MIND trainer was brilliant and really worked with us to tailor the training to our specific needs including identifying cultural differences in mental health. We had our members attend from all over the country from as far afield as Glasgow and Cornwall to Yorkshire to Dover and several places in between.”

Sudanese Visitors Group, August 2016

“I found the discussions of evidence that could be support of a claim very helpful, also how to make the group more LGBTI positive and inclusive – as groups are so busy that we have little capacity.”

Training Attendee, Supporting LGBTI People in Detention August 2016

“The training was well run and very helpful! As a group we’ve a lot to think about.”

Training Attendee, Morton Hall Detainee Visitors Group November 2016

“Thank you for your clear perspective and thorough coverage of the issues!”

Training Attendee, Verne Visitors Group, September 2016

Provision of support, information and advice

The combination of face to face support and advice, through our outreach visits to groups, and the ongoing support provided from the office is the foundation of our work to develop and strengthen the membership network. As the groups vary in their capacity – some being large, registered charities with paid staff, others volunteer led and relatively new to the network – so our developmental input varies greatly. We are regularly able to provide ongoing advice and support that is tailored particularly to the visiting environment, whether this be a particular problem in volunteer recruitment or retention, a thorny

problem relating to issues of confidentiality or boundaries, or improving governance and fundraising systems. As always we prioritise the smaller and developing groups and in particular this year our Training and Membership Coordinator has worked closely to build the capacity of over 10 groups across the country, including Larne House visitors in Northern Ireland, visitors to HMP Wandsworth in London, and visitors in Manchester and Nottingham, enhancing their capacity and building their sustainability through bespoke, tailored guidance.

Over ten groups received tailored, in depth development support in 2016



“I think the work of AVID is wonderful and feel very privileged to be part of the Verne team” – **Training Attendee, Verne Visitors Group, September 2016**

Detention Monitoring Group

AVID continued to play a leading role in the continuation of the Detention Monitoring Group – monthly meetings for all civil society organisations working on detention – and following the retirement of Richard Lumley, took on the role of Chair in 2016. The meetings continue to provide a focal point for all of those working on detention on a daily basis, which includes visitors’ groups but also other detention NGOs providing medical advice, advocacy support or policy input. The meetings are an opportunity to share information between those working in detention centres, but also to identify common solutions or

concerns in the day to day work on detention, to raise the alarm about operational inconsistencies, poor conditions or ill treatment in detention, and to work together on proposed advocacy solutions to the benefit of all detainees. In her role as Chair, our Director has worked to expand the reach and productivity of the group, bringing new attendees and inviting key speakers on topical areas of concern including changes in policy affecting those leaving detention, healthcare, legal advice, accommodation and surveillance/monitoring within detention.



Coordinators Conference 2016

“The AVID conference was great and I came out full of ideas and resources.”

Conference Attendee, September 2016

100% of conference attendees felt that the conference met their expectations,

79% said they would make changes to the way their group supports its volunteers as a result of their learnings at the conference

Coordinators Conference

Our annual coordinators conference is the focal point for our formal and informal skills sharing amongst the network. Always a highlight, this two-day residential event provides all member groups with training and best practice workshops, and the opportunity for groups around the country to learn, share, and network. This year, 14 attendees from 12 different groups were provided with a tailored programme of sessions including *Bail Provision in Detention and Prison* delivered by Bail for Immigration Detainees; *Statelessness and Immigration Detention* by Asylum Aid; *Immigration Act 2016* by the Immigration Law Practitioners Association, and other sessions including Supporting Volunteers, an interactive ‘*Visitors Group Showcase*’ and a workshop exploring all aspects of running a visitors group. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the impact can be felt year round, with visitors’ group coordinators feeling supported, sharing communications and best practice much more easily.

14 volunteers from 12 groups attended our conference in 2016.

“It is particularly surprising that the Home Office makes so little use of alternatives to detention.”

Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons,
a report to the Home Office by Stephen Shaw, January 2016



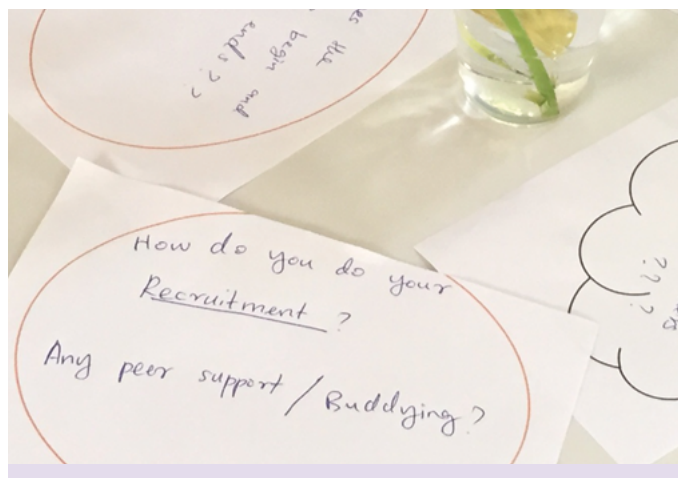
Stephen Shaw at AVID AGM, 2016



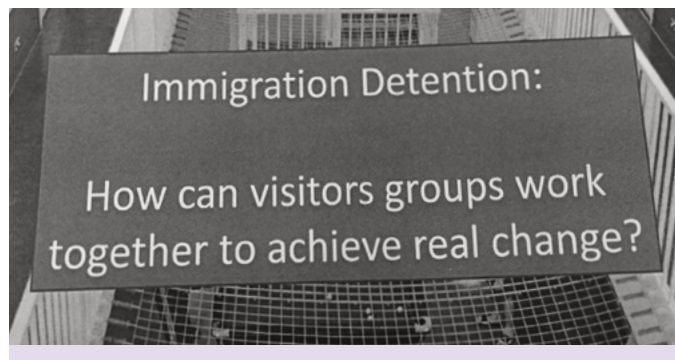
Stephen Shaw at AVID AGM, 2016

Information and Awareness-Raising

We've enjoyed continuing to develop our **web based presence** this year, having launched a new website in 2015. The new site has enabled us to greatly enhance our reach and ensure accurate information on the realities of detention is available to all. A wealth of information is regularly updated on the site, covering all aspects of detention visiting and volunteering – enabling potential visitors to be linked to visitors' groups at the touch of a button – but also much more broadly covering changes to detention policy and practice, and AVID's policy work to improve the system. A particularly popular area is our **member's area**, in which we can provide visitors' groups with guidance, advice and information that is easily accessible and covers a range of areas as diverse as boundaries and confidentiality, through to volunteer recruitment, or fundraising. With a small staff cohort of two, the members' area reduces the distance between AVID and its member groups and helps the network feel more connected.



We've also worked to raise awareness of visitors groups and visiting, for example through distributions and screenings of our **Hidden Stories report and film**. 70 copies of our report were distributed to a range of groups, and film screenings were held, for example by AVID in East London, in partnership with Walthamstow Migrants Action Group, and by AVID members for example Morton Hall Visitors Group in Nottingham as part of Refugee Week. The film is also available and regularly viewed on our website.



Our key awareness raising event in 2016 took place in June, on the topic of **Vulnerability in Detention**. Our keynote speaker was Stephen Shaw, author of the **Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable People (the 'Shaw Review')** along with Paul Dillane, Director of UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Jane Ryan, Solicitor at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors. The event was attended by over 60 people and provided the opportunity for a lively discussion of the recommendations made by Shaw in his review, and the government's response in terms of detention reform.

A further success this year has been the growth of **AVID's Visitors Forum**, an online google group that puts coordinators instantly in touch with others around the country carrying out similar work. This discussion forum enables skills building, identification of best practice, but also identifying common approaches to similar problems, something that can be a lifeline for isolated groups working outside of the southeast 'bubble'. Our forum is open to all members, is confidential, and provides a safe space for problems and issues to be identified. Visitors have told us they feel much more connected and informed as a result.

Sadly as a result of limited capacity this year we had to put our highly popular In Touch newsletter on hold for a few months. This monthly digest of immigration detention policy, practice, parliamentary updates, statistics, and the work of detention NGOs, publications, reports, events, jobs and funding, is sorely missed by AVID and its members. We look forward to relaunching this important publication next year.

As at 31 December 2016, the longest length of detention was

1,333 days. That's over three and a half years.

Advocacy and Policy

This year our policy work was shaped and guided by the publication of the *Shaw Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable People* in January. We were pleased to see our evidence cited throughout the publication, and to hear from Shaw himself at our AGM in June, that 'AVID's input directly influenced the recommendations' in his review. Echoing the Parliamentary Inquiry into the use of detention, Shaw concluded that there was a need for systemic change, including an end to the detention of vulnerable people and a reduction in the use and length of detention. We welcomed the commitment made by the Government, shortly afterwards, to substantive detention reform. Throughout the year we worked to ensure these promised reforms were realised, carrying out regular awareness raising and briefing our members during the passage of the Immigration Bill. While this was not a 'detention bill', the level and scale of debate on immigration detention throughout was testimony to the importance allocated to issues such as a time limit or the detention of vulnerable people by a range of MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum. While the promised reforms remained largely elusive by year end, some small concessions were made including a time limit on the detention of pregnant women, and the introduction of automatic bail provisions for those detained without a criminal conviction. A crucial new policy was introduced in September, the *Adults at Risk policy* and we remain concerned that this has downgraded rather than strengthened protections for vulnerable people. We have raised this at a range of levels including directly with the Home Office and

in Parliament and we will continue to work with our members to monitor its impact on the ground.

This year we have also prioritised a push for **greater transparency and scrutiny on the use of immigration detention**. This has included working to increase the information available about detention, for example through FOI (freedom of information) requests on a number of diverse topics such as the use of biometric data of visitors to detention, or healthcare performance indicators. Particular useful has been our investigation into the use of prisons for immigration detention, which remains relatively unknown. These FOI outcomes have been regularly published on our website to show the changes and increase in the use of prisons for this purpose as the year progressed. We also continued to produce our statistical bulletins on the use of detention, enabling comparisons to be made and expansions monitored – this information is not readily available elsewhere.

Our work to support detainees, visitors and visiting through targeted advocacy initiatives is based on evidence gathered and concerns raised by our membership. This is done in a range of ways including **policy briefings to parliamentarians and the Home Office**, bilateral **interventions**, and **regular attendance at a range of key stakeholder mechanisms**. This year, this included working with other NGOs and civil society organisations to re-establish the detention sub group of the NASF (National Asylum Stakeholder Forum) so that this avenue for communication remains open and productive.



AVID Conference 2016

We have also represented our membership in meetings with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons, the Independent Chief Inspector of UK Borders and Immigration, national and international human rights mechanisms and other bodies. Submissions are based on the evidence gathered by our visitors and those they support in detention, and has had a particularly focus on those made most vulnerable by detention. This year this included **giving evidence to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)** during their visit to the UK in February. We raised evidence in relation to vulnerable people (pregnant women, survivors of torture and people with mental health needs), the use of handcuffs on vulnerable and dying detainees, and the absence of rules governing short term holding facilities. **Policy briefings** were presented to a range of bodies, including the British Institute of Human Rights for their synthesis report as part of the UN Periodical Review of the UK, and the recently appointed Rapporteur on Mental Health and Human Rights to the JCHR (Joint Committee on Human Rights). We also responded to the **Ministry of Justice consultation on Expedited Appeals Processes for Detainees**, in which we outlined a range of concerns from members about the detained fast track process.

Our work to ensure **visitors' group input into the statutory inspection process** also continued this year, working closely with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons to raise issues throughout the year, but also ensuring groups had the chance to meet directly with the inspection team during three inspections held in 2016.

This national level advocacy was complemented by several **local advocacy supports and input**, with individual visitors' groups and the centres in which they visit, working to sustain and enhance levels of access, so that detainees can benefit from the supports of a local group and that groups can provide this support unburdened. This year in particular we have invested much time and resource into ensuring the very limited access visitors groups enjoy is not restricted further and we anticipate this continuing into 2017; sadly, the increased scrutiny of detention nationally has impacted on local level initiatives and we intend to work to address this.

We've also continued to play a key role in the **Detention Forum** initiative, a coalition of over 30 civil society organisations working to challenge detention. As part of the Coordination Group, we have worked to develop strategies to help build this coalition and promote its three key objectives for detention reform. As Policy Lead on Vulnerability, we have carried forward our advocacy strategy based on the findings of our report **Rethinking Vulnerability in Detention: A Crisis of Harm** as well as providing regular policy updates to Detention Forum members, awareness raising and information provision.

484 immigration detainees

were held in prisons in England and Wales at the end of 2016 – the equivalent to another large detention centre. Sadly these immigration detainees face even greater barriers in accessing justice.



"It has been a privilege to be a trustee of AVID for the last five years. During that time, AVID marked its 20th anniversary. Whilst the continuation of immigration detention for such a long period of time is nothing to be celebrated, the documentation of the relationship between detainees and volunteer visitors in Hidden Stories report and film demonstrated just how important AVID's work is. I hope that AVID continues to provide invaluable support to volunteer visitors and use its voice to raise issues affecting detainees for as long as such work remains necessary."

Polly Brendon

Summary of Accounts

Financial year January 2016–January 2017

Income	Unrestricted Funds 2016	Restricted Funds 2016	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
Grants				
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation*	-	10,000	10,000	40,000
The Tudor Trust	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
The Allen Lane Foundation	7,500	-	7,500	-
Noel Buxton Trust	3,500	-	3,500	-
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
ExPat Foundation	4,000	-	4,000	-
Haramead Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Chillag Family Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Westcroft Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Cotton Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Persula Foundation	-	2,000	2,000	-
Souter Charitable Trust	3,000	-	3,000	-
Oakdale Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Other grants under £1,000	1,500	-	1,500	750
Grants subtotal	34,500	42,000	76,500	70,750
Donations				
M and K English	-	-	-	2,627
Donations under £1,000	5,282	-	5,282	4,533
Donations subtotal	5,282	0	5,282	7,160
Bank interest receivable	91	-	91	103
Subtotal (donations, grants and bank interest)	39,873	42,000	81,782	78,013
Income from Charitable Activities				
Membership income	1,870	-	1,870	2,085
Sponsored events (British 10k)	1,320	-	1,320	2,423
Provision of training	-	-	-	724
Subtotal (income from charitable activities)	3,190	-	3,190	5,232
TOTAL INCOME	43,063	42,000	85,063	83,245
Expenditure				
Fundraising costs	353	-	353	545
Visitors Group Support: advice, outreach, training & development	10,513	24,707	35,220	40,443
Policy and advocacy	20,876	7,120	27,996	31,833
Information and awareness raising	20,041	7,051	27,092	31,735
Hidden Stories (oral history project)	-	-	-	7,503
Governance Costs (Trustees, AGM, Independent examiner)	4,303	-	4,303	2,457
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	56,086	38,878	94,964	114,516

*total grant received from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation in 2015 was 40,000. 10,000 was carried forward into 2016.

The expenditure figures above include the following for 2016:

Note to accompany accounts:

AVID has 3 months of reserves set aside (£22,750).

The full set of independently examined accounts for the year can be obtained on request from AVID.

	Total 2016	Total 2015
Expenditure		
Premises and running costs	11,842	13,084
Staff costs	64,129	78,056

Treasurer's Report

It has been another successful year for AVID – made possible only by our funders' commitment to our work. Continued support from the Tudor Trust allowed our capacity building work to continue and saw Gee Manoharan take over the Training and Membership Coordinator post in April 2016, following Jessica Lousley's relocation to sunny Australia. The Allen Lane Foundation made a generous donation to our core costs which helped ease the transition to a new office at the start of 2017. And then there are our loyal individual donors, members, small trusts, and community and faith based local groups; it is thanks to all our supporters that we were able to continue to provide training and capacity support to visitors' groups, carry out policy and advocacy work on detention and raise awareness of the system as a whole.

We would like to thank everybody who supported us this year. With your help, we hope to continue to build on our work next year.

Farewell

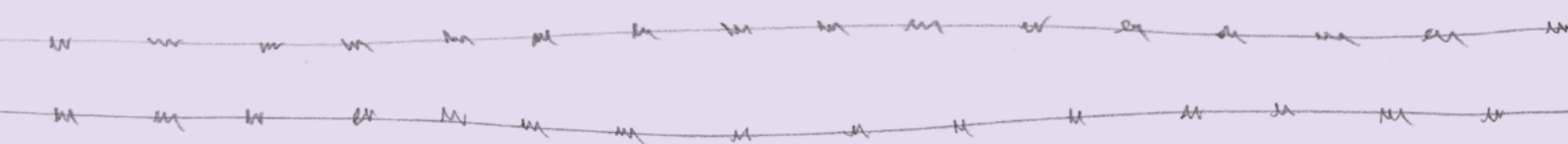


After over four years on the Board of Trustees, the time has come for me to say my good byes as I have relocated to the North West of England, to beautiful Manchester. It has been a rewarding experience to work with so many talented, knowledgeable people who, like me, believe that it is worth fighting to improve the wellbeing of the thousands of migrants held in detention centres and prisons in the UK. It was my own visiting in detention centres that brought me to AVID in 2013. After volunteering with Detention Action and listening

to the varied personal experiences of migrants in detention, I decided I needed to 'do more'. I was then, and still am now, impressed by how much influence AVID has in government, how policy leaders listen to what its staff have to say, and how meaningful the support and training provided to visitor groups is. AVID is a small organisation with a big voice and credibility, thanks to its unique membership and the endless dedication of its Director and staff. I wish you well, AVID, and hope to remain a friend of yours for many years to come.

This year we also say farewell and thanks to Polly Brendon, who has been an AVID Trustee since 2012.

Suko Fricke



“I have often thought that the worst experience in life is to be associated with something that you know to be fundamentally wrong, but feel unable to prevent. I am experiencing that today, because, to our collective shame, this House could be about to sanction something that, as a nation, we have roundly condemned, and indeed fought against, when practiced by others over the years—namely, the arbitrary detention of innocent people by administrative diktat, rather than the due process of the rule of law...

...the immigration system in this country is so dysfunctional that even the Home Office’s favourite reporter, Stephen Shaw, has criticised it in detail. As an optimist, I hope that the Home Secretary will read what he said, and has been said during our debates in this House, before she wilfully damages our global reputation for being a civilised nation by going ahead with her alternative to limiting detention to 28 days. It is with a heavy heart that I beg to move.”

AVID Patron, Lord David Ramsbotham, 10th May 2016, withdraws his amendment to the 2016 Immigration Bill.

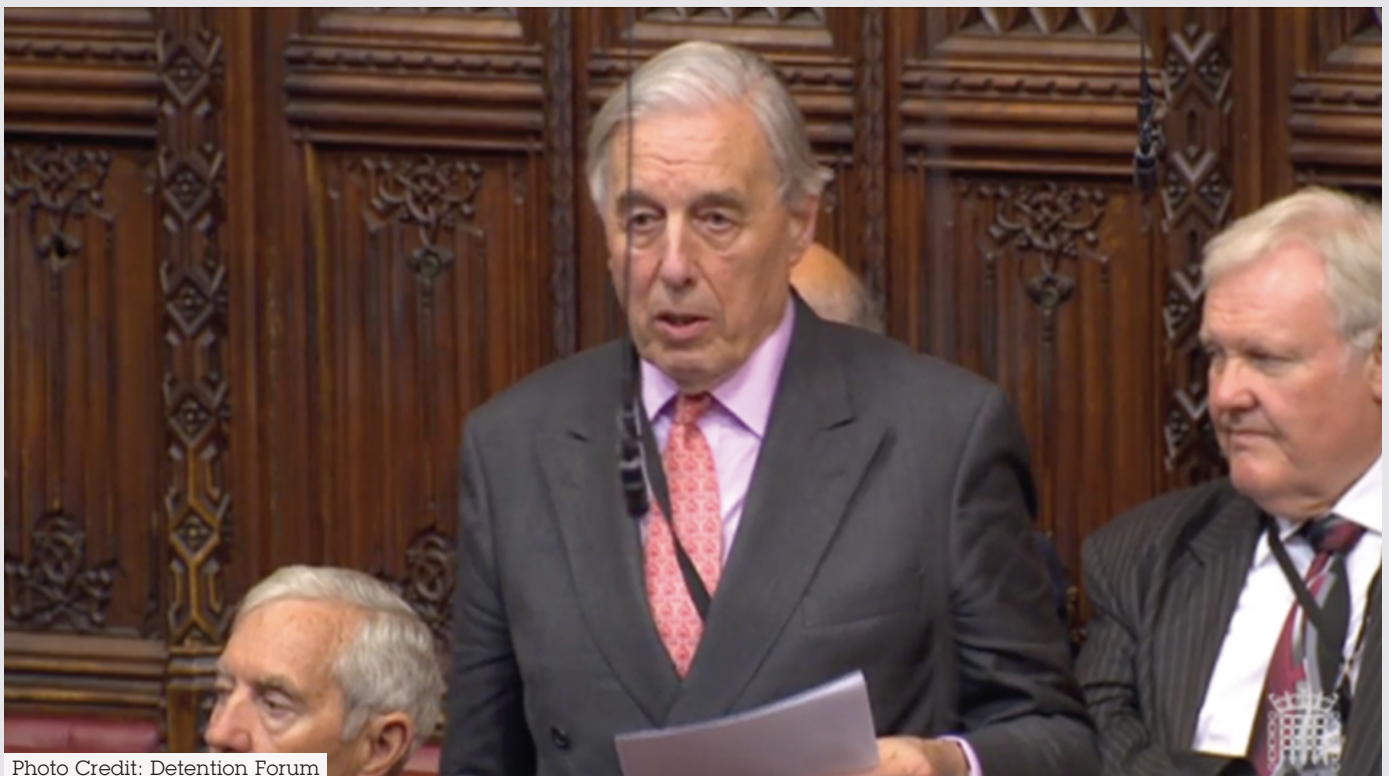


Photo Credit: Detention Forum

About us

Trustees

Andrew Wilson (Chair)
 Madeline Church (Treasurer to 2nd June 2016)
 Suko Fricke (Treasurer from June 2016)
 Jane Ryan (Secretary)
 Carolina Albuerne Rodriguez
 Polly Brendon
 Jennifer Choi
 Ciaran Price

Staff

Ali McGinley, Director
 Gee Manoharan, Training and Membership
 Coordinator (from April 2016)

Volunteers

Laura Perrin
 Eledia Bundo

Patrons

Colin Firth
 Lord David Ramsbotham

With thanks:

We are grateful for the support of our membership as detailed on page 4, and the following:

Funders

The Allen Lane Foundation
 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
 Calpe Trust
 Chillag Family Trust
 Cotton Trust
 ExPat Foundation
 Haremead Trust
 Marsh Christian Trust
 Noel Buxton Trust
 Oakdale Trust
 Persula Foundation
 Souter Charitable Trust
 The Tudor Trust
 Westcroft Trust

Donations:

All Saints Church, Milton, Cambridge
 Parish of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, Guildford
 Lewes Group in Support of Refugees and Asylum
 Seekers
 Muswell Hill Friends
 Andrew Wilson
 BE Rodmell Trust
 Dave Hewitt
 Eike Ndiweni Muller
 Heather Jones
 Jan Hoy/Littlestone Trust
 Jennifer Turner
 Jeremy Thorne and family
 Judith Rattenbury
 Kathleen English
 Madeline Church and Kimmet Edgar
 Marielle Barclay
 Rebecca Roberts
 Sylvia Platt



British 10k runners: Isobel Crowther, Madeline Crowther, Sarah Walker and Nills Garnes (L-R)

British 10k runners

Isobel Crowther, Madeline Crowther, Sarah Walker, Kay Greveson and Nills Garnes

And to all those who worked with and supported us in 2016!

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