

# Annual Report 2012



**Romain Ngouabeu**  
*NCADC Chair*



**Jessica Wheeler**  
*Secretary*

## **Chair and Secretary's report**

Fighting for the right to stay in the UK has never been harder and the need for resistance has never been greater. This year, as every year, the NCADC has worked with, and brought together, inspiring and determined campaigners across the UK who are working tirelessly to challenge and stop deportations.

The nature of this work is shifting. It is harder than ever to access good legal support. This injustice is made worse by incompetent fast track immigration processing, expansion of the detention estate, the use of charter flights, and the increasing securitisation of social provisions. It is easier than ever for powers to be abused and deportations to occur. It is harder than ever to build campaigns fast enough to successfully defend a person's rights to stay.

We began this year undeterred but aware that our methods need to be adaptive to remain effective. We have taken time to reconsider our aims and strategies to build greater capacity and strengthen future work. Our focus remains anti-deportation campaigning. In line with this we are actively pursuing a number of major areas of work, with exciting progress in the last 12 months in the following areas:

**Building local campaign group capacity** around the UK. Our workers have supported multiple individual campaigns and delivered campaign training to many local campaign groups around the country. We are also extremely proud to launch the NCADC *Campaigning Toolkit*, a unique resource for migrants and campaigners,

which condenses years of campaigning experience alongside up to date guidance on the asylum system.

**The Young People Seeking Safety network.** The NCADC has facilitated the formation of a network which focuses on the experiences of young people fighting against deportation in the UK.

**Information services.** Our information services are a valuable resource for campaigners and there are many hundreds of people, from individual migrants to immigration solicitors, who use the NCADC website content as a source of information and advice.

**Airline campaigning.** We are committed to bringing together migrant and anti-deportation communities to challenge both charter flights and the use of commercial flights for deportation. This is a major focus for the coming year – we aim to host a major campaigning event to unite campaigners and plan strategic action.

**Membership involvement.** This year we have conducted a membership survey, which has given us insight into the kinds of campaigning going on around the country, and the ways in which NCADC resources are being used. The findings of this survey are already feeding into

the development of our work. We thank everyone who has taken part in this for their responses.

There are many other exciting projects and great potential for expansion of the NCADC's work. We are exploring the collaborative use of film and drama in activism, and are excited to be working with Mazloom, and we have hosted major public events in Glasgow targeting the frightening securitisation of social housing for asylum seekers and refugees, and in London targeting mass deportations of Afghan youths.

This has been a vibrant year of work, and for the breadth and depth of these achievements we must credit especially our two workers, Michael Collins and Lisa Matthews, and the team of volunteers who work with them. We thank them all hugely – our work would not be what it is without their dedication.

As well as bearing witness to great suffering in a cruel system, we share in the joy of success where campaigns have resulted in justice - there are some great examples in this report – this is what it is all about!

*Romain Ngouabeu & Jessica Wheeler, September 2012*

# What are we doing, why do we do it, and is it working?

*NCADC workers, Lisa Matthews  
and Michael Collins*



## What is NCADC for?

People migrate for many reasons – seeking sanctuary from persecution, war or climate change; or for family, economic or other social reasons. Migrants to the UK from outside of the European Union may be exercising their rights under international conventions, or under the complex UK immigration rules.

NCADC was founded in 1995, a coalition of groups working for the rights of people facing forcible removal from the UK. It was felt then, as now, that migration controls quite clearly include measures to undermine the ability of people to exercise their rights, and that detention and deportations are unnecessary and unacceptable aspects of migration control.

The coalition was formed to help counter injustice in the immigration and asylum systems. NCADC would seek to stop removals, as part of efforts to secure the right of sanctuary or settlement for an individual or family.

## Recent years

In the years since 1995, we have witnessed huge changes to the asylum and immigration systems, changes that have had dramatic consequences for people seeking leave to remain in the UK.

As international migration has increased, states such as the UK have responded with ever-tighter immigration controls, both at the borders and internally. It has become increasingly difficult to navigate the legal routes within the asylum and immigration systems. Applications for discretionary leave outside of the immigration rules have similarly been curtailed. Asylum seekers' right to work has been effectively removed, welfare benefits drastically cut, and detention and deportations have increased.

## A new focus to our work

In 2011, we started a review of our work - our aims and methods. We have consulted members, and the groups and organisations we work with.

Basically, our overarching aim remains the same: to help people secure their rights to stay in the UK. Since our last Annual General Meeting in July 2011, in response

to the review and consultation, we have started to implement substantial changes in what we do to meet that aim. The main changes are that we now seek to support people far earlier in the process, we are involved in a wider range of strategies and tactics, and we aim to support more local groups in carrying out this work.

Central to this new focus is the development of our Campaigning Toolkit - a printed and online resource, with a rolling programme of training and capacity-building events across the country.

We have also initiated or joined networks focusing on specific issues directly or indirectly related to deportation. The Young People Seeking Safety network, campaigns against removals to Afghanistan, against mass deportation charter flights, and detention and destitution networks.

To find out more about our work, or to get involved, visit our website at [ncadc.org.uk](http://ncadc.org.uk) or get in touch.





## Campaigning Toolkit

**An aid to understanding the asylum and immigration systems, and campaigning for the right to stay.**

Over the last year, the NCADC workers have been hard at work to produce the Campaigning Toolkit - a comprehensive printed and online resource for people at risk of removal and the groups working to support them.

The Toolkit aims help migrants understand the asylum and immigration systems, to know their rights, and to be as well-equipped as possible to make a successful application. In the case of a refusal, we hope the Toolkit enables migrants to know what a campaign is, whether it's right for them, and to be at the centre of the campaign and of all of the decisions made.

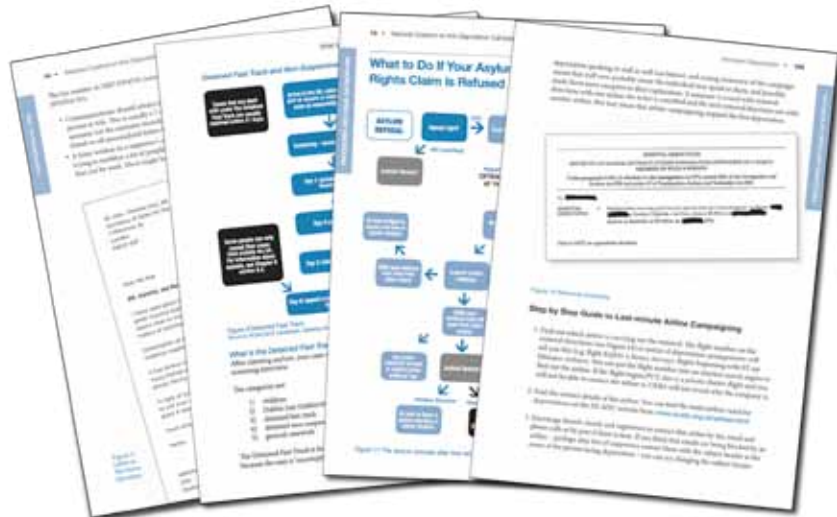
## What's in the Toolkit?

The print copy of the Toolkit is a 128 page A5 booklet. Part One sets out different ways of campaigning for the right to stay in the UK that may be useful in an individual campaign. The strategies could be used individually, or in combination. Some of the actions are public, others can be taken up in non-public campaigning.

Part Two gives an explanation of the procedures for applying for asylum or immigration status. It is a general overview, it is not legal advice. No guide can be a substitute for quality legal representation, but this section should help people to understand the system, and their place within it.

## Who is the toolkit for?

Most of the Toolkit is written addressing a person going through the process, but is intended to be used by anyone who finds it useful in supporting migrants through anti-deportation campaigns.



## How to get a copy

The toolkit is available in digital format at the NCADC website at [www.ncadc.org.uk/toolkit](http://www.ncadc.org.uk/toolkit). To order a printed copy, please get in touch.

The toolkit is free, but if you would like to support the funding of distribution and updating, you can make a donation. Suggested donation per copy is £5.00. Contact a Campaigns Coordinator for details.



# Campaign case study



At NCADC we provide advice and information to many individuals at risk of removal, their friends, families, and support groups who get in touch.

Some of these enquiries become campaigns to stop a removal and for the right to stay. Some are successful, others are not. Some, no matter their outcome, are powerful and inspiring examples of solidarity in action.

## #AhmedMustStay

The case of Ahmed Abdullah is proof positive that campaigning can and does work.

Ahmed had been refused asylum. Like many others, he had not been able to provide enough evidence. UKBA refused to believe Ahmed was from Somalia. Whilst trying to source evidence for an appeal, Ahmed was detained, and told he would be deported to Tanzania in 10 days time.

Whilst living in Glasgow, Ahmed had built up a solid network of friends. He has been active in the Govan & Craigton Integration Network, and associated projects. He was aware of the threat of detention and deportation, and was prepared.

Within hours of being detained, his solicitor, the Integration Network and local group Unity had been alerted, and an email appeal for solidarity had been





sent out. A campaign group was formed, and NCADC provided advice and helped organise a first meeting.

The campaign group focused on three issues:

**Personal support** for Ahmed and those close to him

**Advocacy** - particularly liaison with lawyers, collecting evidence for a fresh claim, then helping Ahmed to do his own legal work.

**Publicity** - creating a mailing list, NCADC webpage, Facebook group, twitter hashtag, leaflets, posters, protests etc

Ahmed was visited in detention. When he was moved, the group made sure the local visitors group was involved (Thanks, Detention Action and Haslar Visitors!)

With no solicitor willing to take on the case, the campaign group submitted a Rule 39 application to the European Court of Human Rights.

The day of removal came. The group used the NCADC guide for last minute campaigning, and organised a

'phone-jam' of the airline. Ahmed was removed from the plane just before take off.

Still no solicitor could be found, so the group helped Ahmed to submit his own fresh claim on human rights grounds. It was refused, but an appeal was allowed. Ahmed got bail, and returned to Glasgow. It was all very emotional.

A few weeks after he had sat on a plane, minutes away from deportation, Ahmed's appeal was heard. It was successful. It was finally accepted that he does indeed have the right to stay in the UK.

Without a doubt, it was Ahmed's preparation, his tenacity and most importantly his amazing campaign team that overcame what seemed like insurmountable obstacles to win his right of sanctuary.



# Campaign case study

## *Aziz and Gemma: Snatched away on wedding day*



### **Aziz Hussini, from Afghanistan**

In March, the UK Border Agency arrested 18 year old Aziz on his wedding day, at the Registry Office, leaving his British fiancée Gemma distraught.

Aziz arrived in the UK as a lone child seeking safety but, like many, his application was dismissed. The UKBA systematically rejects the evidence of children. It is also possibly the only body in the world to claim that deporting teenagers to Afghanistan poses no risk to their safety.

NCADC helped Aziz and Gemma's friends to start a campaign - getting Aziz's college and local community involved, all putting pressure on the Home Office to review his case. One of the main problems was finding a solicitor to take the case on. It is increasingly difficult, once detained, to secure free legal assistance. NCADC supported Aziz's friends to find and work with a solicitor. His flight was cancelled and he was eventually released on bail, and allowed to submit fresh representations.

Without this support, Aziz would have been returned to Afghanistan.



NCADC has continued to play a leading role in YPSS, the network we helped to establish in 2010, to provide a platform for local and national groups across the UK to communicate, meet and work towards ensuring the care and human rights of young asylum seekers in the UK.

The first YPSS awareness week in 2011 was a resounding success. In April 2012, the second awareness week was even larger. All across the UK, young people contributed

*"for grassroots organisations that are not big corporate charities it's been really useful to have the networking, policy input and media support to make us more effective."*

- YPSS member feedback

art, photography, film, music and dance to express their experiences of seeking asylum and living in the UK.

One of this year's highlights was *Brave New Words*, a

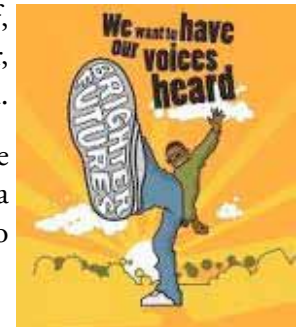
collaborative event in London involving Brighter Futures, Praxis, Merton & Wandsworth Asylum Welcome, New Vic Activ8, DOST and English PEN held at the Free Word centre. Young people gave inspiring poetry readings to a packed venue, followed by a scratch performance of Mazloom, a theatre piece made with unaccompanied young people seeking safety.

*"Membership of YPSS has been immensely useful. It has enabled us to develop links with other organisations working across England."*

- YPSS member feedback

Other events were held across the country, including the Student Action for Refugees Northern Conference in Manchester, in Sheffield InterACT and the Children's Society Embrace project held a very successful event. Groups in Newcastle, Cardiff, Croydon, Plymouth, Leicester, and Glasgow were also involved.

In the coming year, we see young people seeking safety as a key campaign, and we hope to help YPSS keep growing.





Pinar. Working on women's issues and destitution.



Molly. London office volunteer and resident blogger.



Gabbi volunteered for a year with NCADC



Liam, leaving NCADC for life in Argentina.

*"Volunteering with NCADC was an entirely rewarding experience. The ethos of the organisation is present in every element of their work. I particularly enjoyed creating online campaign material for those facing removal, getting personally involved with a number of cases. The success of a number of NCADC campaigns gave me the inspiration to carry on fighting for those facing removal."*

Gabbi Gray

## Volunteering at NCADC

NCADC has just two full time workers, the Campaigns Coordinators - Lisa and Michael - based in London and Glasgow respectively. The workers would not be able to provide the service we do without the support of a small team of unpaid volunteers.

At any time, there are usually 5 or 6 volunteers at NCADC, each giving a day or two a week, covering few specialised roles. We have campaign casework volunteers, assisting the Coordinators in the support of potential campaigns. Communications volunteers help with the NCADC information service: comprehensive news on the latest legal, policy, media and campaigning issues. And some volunteers get involved in more than one area of work.

## **London office volunteer Molly Haglund, on volunteering at NCADC**

After hearing countless stories of individuals who have been lost to the depths of immigration detention, learning about an asylum system that seems determined to criminalize those seeking protection, and feeling as if there was little that could be done for the better, volunteering with NCADC provided a positive ray of hope in an otherwise grim landscape.

Just when it seems return is imminent and generally all avenues have been exhausted to impede an unjust removal, NCADC is one of the few organizations that does everything possible until the end—that is, until the flight has left UK soil (and sometimes they have been known to go even beyond that).

Working alongside individuals who challenge the injustices of the UK immigration system head-on, through the launching of personal and general campaigns, has been both an inspirational and refreshing experience.

Despite the fact that success is not always a guarantee,

an organization and the hundreds of its members who regularly write letters to their MPs, the Home Secretary, sign petitions, or protest are testament to the UK's unjust immigration system while simultaneously taking a stand against it.

As a result of my work with NCADC, I have acquired great practical knowledge and precious insight into the world of campaigns—making it some of the most personally rewarding volunteer work I have taken part in.

In addition to acquiring greater understanding of the building and creation of campaigns in general, I have also witnessed through various meetings and workshops the great potential for cooperation and teamwork across many organizations, individuals, and groups.

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have given their time this year.**

**Molly Haglund, Gabbi Gray, Catriona Webster, Pinar Aksu, Steve Collins, Neal Robb, Liam Docherty, Livia Dragomir, Mairi Annan.**

**We couldn't have done it without you. Many thanks.**

<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012</b>			
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		<b>Unrestricted</b>	
		<b>Funds</b>	
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Grant Funding		99,639	49,713
Standing orders and donations		13,968	15,881
<b>Total income</b>		<b>113,607</b>	<b>65,594</b>
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>			
Salary Costs		56,665	58,972
Training & recruitment		244	873
Meetings, Events & Travel		7,600	8,890
Office rent		2,783	2,291
Communications & IT		5,084	4,481
Accountancy fees		2,180	2,100
Insurance		0	1,408
Miscellaneous		554	1,279
Depreciation		691	692
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>75,801</b>	<b>80,986</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>		<b>37,806</b>	<b>-15,392</b>
Funds balance brought forward		70,301	85,693
<b>Funds balance carried forward</b>		<b>108,107</b>	<b>70,301</b>

**NCADC is extremely grateful to our funders:**

Joseph Rowntree Trust, Lankelly Chase Foundation, Lush Cosmetics

And also to the hundreds of individuals who support our work through donations.

Thank you.

# NCADC information service

Our information services are a valuable resource for campaigners and there are many hundreds of people, from individual migrants and campaigners to immigration solicitors, who use the NCADC website content as a source of information and advice.

This year we revamped the website using a new framework. It should now be easier and faster to find your way around. The new framework makes it easier for the growing number of users who view it on mobile devices, but we also aim to keep it simple and accessible to people using older computers and software.

The Campaigning Toolkit section is being built as we go to press. This will be a constantly updated resource, simple to navigate and with the option to easily print sections as required.



The Country of Origin section, at [ncadc.org.uk/coi](http://ncadc.org.uk/coi) is a growing resource of country reports. At time of going to press, we have 851 reports on 76 countries, collated from sources such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, UNHCR and the UK Border Agency.

Around 4,000 people subscribe to our email news service, which covers developments in immigration and asylum policy, law, media reports, research, campaigns and events. You can also sign up to anti-deportation campaign alerts. Many people choose to connect with NCADC through social media these days, so our news all goes out through Facebook and Twitter too.



# **NCADC Management Committee**

## **2011-2012**

Romain Ngouabeu, Chair  
Jessica Wheeler, Secretary  
Robert Swinfen, Treasurer  
Felix Ngatchou  
Dorothy Ismail  
Bill MacKeith  
Alison Phipps  
Shafiq Mohammed

### **NCADC Workers**

Michael Collins, Campaigns Coordinator North  
Lisa Matthews, Campaigns Coordinator South

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company number: 04026564

## **Special thanks**

### **Felix Ngatchou**

Very special thanks to outgoing Management Committee member, Felix Ngatchou, stepping down after several years of often hard work on the committee. Many thanks, Felix, for all your work at NCADC.

### **Dorothy Ismail**

Dorothy returned for a second period on the Management Committee this year, and has proved invaluable for her guidance in constitutional and worker management matters, amongst other things. Thanks for everything Dorothy.

### **Isabelle Caillol-Birch**

Isabelle was NCADC secretary, before handing over and standing down just after the last AGM. Her support during rocky times cannot be overstated, and we wish her all the best.