



WHO WE ARE

Established in 2003, ReConnect is a Charity that works with unemployed and underemployed refugees with a professional background by creating opportunities to reconnect to their professions by organising training courses, work experience and one-to-one guidance; also creating opportunities for refugees to contribute with their skills to development in developing countries; and drawing attention to the causes and consequences of displacement.

OUR VISION

Enabling unemployed and underemployed refugees through the provision of appropriate guidance, training, work experience and development of innovative projects, to realise their potential as teachers and journalists and other professions/ employment and to become active participants in the economies of the UK, of their countries of origin or of developing countries.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Commitment to inclusion, diversity, equal opportunities and human dignity
- Commitment to transparency and accountability
- Promotion of an enabling and refugee centred environment that generates relevant ideas and targeted and coordinated projects
- Belief in partnership and cooperation – through shared ideas, resources and experience, with our networks of communities, organisations and individuals
- Commitment to building enduring and sustainable frameworks that link the skills of refugees in UK with the needs of developing countries

THIS YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS



ReConnect – Preparation for Higher Education Programme – supports refugees into teaching and higher education:

- In 2018/19 academic year (September to June 2019) - 52 students from 23 countries completed the programme. Their achievement was celebrated at a Refugee Week Event on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at IOE Institute of Education. Please refer to the video link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkriSEGiVzU>

- An additional 16 refugees (5 females, 11 males) have just completed the Autumn Term 2019 programme:

The support we give includes guidance, course fees and cost of travel.

Pathways into Teaching for Refugees, PGCE Post-Compulsory Education Programme

- In 2018/19 academic year we supported two refugees on this programme. Both are currently teaching in Further Education Colleges in London.
- We are supporting 3 refugees on the current programme, which commenced in September 2019.

The support we give includes guidance, tuition fees, Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and Occupational Health Checks fees and cost of travel.

Testimonials

One of the two students supported by ReConnect in 2018/19 academic year on a PGCE teaching qualification in Post-Compulsory Education at UCL Institute of Education, both of them are currently teaching in a London Further Education college:

“When I came to this country as an asylum seeker from my birth country of Ethiopia, I wasn’t sure what the future would hold. I was in “alien country” with an utterly different culture and no experience on how the system functioned. I am proud with my achievements so far, starting from humble beginnings as an asylum seeker and refugee. Nonetheless, my proudest moment was when I returned to teaching with the support I received from Reconnect to complete my PGCE in Post Compulsory Education at UCL – Institute of Education, London. I am now a College Lecturer. I am happy with that and enjoying it. This would not have been possible had it not been for the support I got from Reconnect. I hope to serve my community in earnest with my experience and knowledge for many years to come. Thank you Reconnect and the staff at the Institute of Education – University College London.”

One of the 52 students supported on Preparation for Higher Education Programme, 2018-19 academic year, currently enrolled on PGCE Post-Compulsory Education at UCL Institute of Education, with the support of ReConnect:

“I enjoy the programme. It's very well organized besides, tutors are so helpful and supportive. I had already studied teaching in my country so I am familiar with the content covered. Still, I have an opportunity to remember things I forgot. Most importantly I learn from classmates. Everyone has a different background and experience. It is exciting to hear about different perspectives.”



APPEAL BY SARAH BUXTON
Chair of Trustees of ReConnect

Appeal for funds

ReConnect is engaged in creating opportunities through education. Education provides a pathway out of disadvantage and towards participation through employment. Participation in education gives individuals a sense of purpose, a challenge to aim for, and increased self-esteem and aspiration. These gains are important for us all, in a country where inequality increases each year, and there are skills shortages, e.g. in teaching.

ReConnect supports people with a refugee background, most of whom were professionals in their home countries and many were teachers, to gain a UK teaching qualification (or to prepare to enter other courses). This opens up the opportunity of teaching at the post-compulsory level, in further education and adult colleges, 6th Form Centres, and other settings.

ReConnect also creates better opportunities for students in UK colleges, as our trained participants gain teaching positions in subjects where teachers are in short supply. As you will read elsewhere, both our 2019 PGCE graduates are now working full time in London colleges. This success immediately demonstrates the value of ReConnect's work.

To continue our work, ReConnect needs money! It would be wonderful if everyone reading this made a contribution to ReConnect's work, in one of the ways outlined under 'How to support us'.

Raising funds for this work is not simple. Each participant on the PGCE course, part-time, costs approximately £14,000 (over 2 years), and each participant on Preparation for Higher Education costs approximately £1100 (over 10 weeks). We need additional funds by February, to be able to commit to the 3rd term of Preparation for Higher Education in 2020.

Although the UK has many Charitable Trusts and Foundations, it takes time to find those which might be interested in funding us. Each application is lengthy and complex. Recently we have received modest grants from new sources. We do need funds from individuals, and hope you will feel our work is valuable, and that you would like to contribute.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

There are a number of ways to donate to ReConnect. Simply choose from the following options:

- 1. Donate via Just Giving**
through the following link:
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/reconnect/refugeeteacherpathways>
- 2. Write to us**
Send us a cheque or CAF voucher (payable to Reconnect) to:
*Reconnect
Resource for London
356 Holloway Road, London
N7 6PA, United Kingdom*
- 3. Donate using Gift Aid**
Gift Aid is a simple way to increase the value of your gift to ReConnect – at no extra cost to you. If you pay tax in the UK, Reconnect can reclaim the basic rate tax (25%) on your gift. So, if you donate £50, it is worth £62.50 to us. Please donate using the Gift Aid Form through the following link:

<https://reconnectonline.org.uk/gift-aid>

Contact:

theo@reconnectonline.org.uk
<https://reconnectonline.org.uk/>

OUR THANKS

To all those who have supported us with grants and donations during the year. These include: Equator Fund, Network for Social Change Charitable Trust, Sarah Hayward Memorial Fund, Hugh Fraser Foundation, J H Levy Charitable Trust, The Inchrye Trust, Salesforce.com and many private individual donors.

Our thanks also to our volunteers and members of our Advisory Group for their immense contribution to support our work.

Forced Migration Review

The Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University publishes 'Forced Migration Review' 3 times a year. The June 2018 issue was 'Economies: rights and access to work'. The editors' introduction to the contribution from Roger Zetter and Heloise Ruaudel clearly summarises the challenge: 'For refugees, the right to work and access to labour markets are key to becoming self-reliant, building their lives and securing dignity, and allowing them to contribute to their host communities. Host countries need to assess the potential for opening their labour markets to refugees, and enhancing access to decent work.'

