



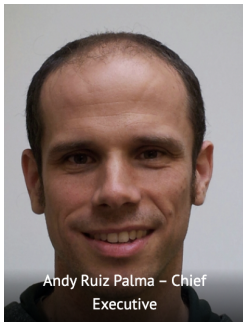
## Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants Volunteer Induction Information

Thank you for wanting to be part of Islington Centre!

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### Who's who at the Centre

Meet the staff:



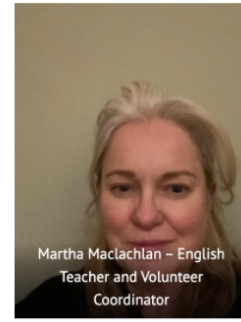
Andy Ruiz Palma – Chief Executive



Anna Giokas – Head of Fundraising



Anya Paul – English Teacher and Community Project Worker



Martha MacLachlan – English Teacher and Volunteer Coordinator



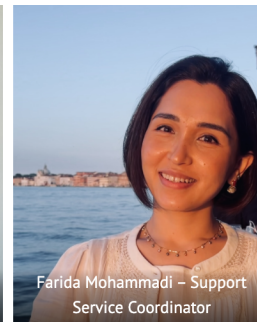
Ruth Hill – Administrator



Shannon Rayner – Activities and Services Coordinator



Cassia Lewis – Support Service Caseworker



Farida Mohammadi – Support Service Coordinator



Gwen Morris – Group Leader and Support Service Volunteer

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### Who do we support?

Meet the clients:

We currently support **170** people who originated from **39** countries. The majority of our clients are from Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkey, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Pakistan

**Other countries of origin include:** Abkhazia, Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Kuwait, Mauritius, Namibia, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia.

The majority of our clients are **Asylum Seekers** who have left their country because of persecution, human rights abuses and war. They cannot return because they fear for their life and have asked the UK government for the right to stay in this country. While they make this application, they receive £39.63 a week and are mainly unable to work.

We also work with many **Destitute Asylum Seekers** who are trying to appeal the government's refusal of their application for asylum, having reached the end of the asylum system. While they try to make this appeal, they have no access to financial support or housing and are unable to work.

Some of our clients are **Refugees** and have been given the right to stay in the UK for five years as the government has believed and accepted their claim for asylum.

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## How do we support our clients?

### Online Zoom Sessions

- English Language Classes run by ESOL teachers
- Community classes such as Choir, Art and Writing, Gym, Yoga and Book group

### In-person Centre Days

On Wednesdays, between 11am-2pm we welcome clients to the Centre for a social session. We offer hot drinks, lunch and snacks. We have a weekly choir session and often run other group activities, like movement workshops. During our Centre Days some clients have appointments with the Support Service to talk about issues like housing or healthcare. We also assist clients with any technical problems, with their phones, laptops or accessing Zoom.

### Support Service

The Support Service provides support, referrals to partner organisations and advice on: housing; income and benefits; healthcare (both physical and psychological); education and training and negotiating the asylum system.

### Support Packages

We reimburse travel expenses and the data costs for people to access our Zoom sessions. We also provide destitute asylum seekers with money for food and essentials.

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## Who funds Islington Centre\*?

**Trusts** - 80% of our income usually comes from grant-giving trusts and foundations.

**Individuals** - 17% of our income comes from the very generous donations of individuals. We are so grateful to all those people who have chosen to support us. We couldn't do what we do without them.

**Community Partnerships** - 3% of our income comes from our community partners, this includes a wide range of organisations many of which work with our clients directly, offering experiences and support alongside donations.

\*Correct as of April 2022

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## Important Contacts Details

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