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Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the Peter Tatchell Foundation’s case work report for 2016.

It documents our work giving advice, support and practical aid to individuals who are victims of injustices, such as discrimination and hate crime.

We are particularly proud of our success in helping to win asylum in the UK for refugees fleeing persecution by repressive regimes.

Despite our limited size and funding, the Peter Tatchell Foundation still manages to make a positive difference to the lives of many people every year. Special thanks to our case work staff member, Pliny Soocoormanee.

Please consider making, or increasing, a regular donation, so that we can carry on the life-changing work that we do. To all of you who have or will donate, our sincere appreciation.

Jeremy N. Hooke DipFa MILFB
Chairman, Peter Tatchell Foundation
1. About us

The Peter Tatchell Foundation (PTF) seeks to promote and protect the human rights of individuals, communities and nations, in the UK and internationally, in accordance with established national and international human rights law.

The aims and objectives of the PTF are to raise awareness, understanding, protection and implementation of human rights, in the UK and worldwide. This involves research, education, advice, case work, publicity, lobbying and advocacy for the enforcement and furtherance of human rights law.

Through our case work, we are making a tangible, positive difference to the lives of people who've suffered discrimination and hate crime and who are seeking refugee status. One of our great strengths is our ability to respond professionally and compassionately to calls for help wherever they are from.

2. Requests

The Peter Tatchell Foundation receives requests for help from all over the UK and around the world.

Very often people contacting us are depressed, harassed and are emotionally drained. The PTF is a small organisation with very limited resources, despite this we assist people in a number of ways as depicted in Fig 1.

This case work service is provided free of charge.
3. Key Facts

Key Facts - Case work 2016

What do we do?
We receive requests for help from all over the UK and around the world and despite our small size and limited resources we assist people by listening to their concerns, providing moral support & hope, guiding them with information and advice and referring them to appropriate specialist agencies.

People we helped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Asylum cases</th>
<th>Non Asylum cases</th>
<th>International cases</th>
<th>UK Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016 we helped 239 people.

Geographic breakdown

- **#1 Commonwealth** (incl all other categories, mentioned) - 164
- **#2 Africa** (incl Uganda & Nigeria) - 60
- **#3 Indian Subcontinent** - 55
- **#4 Uganda & Nigeria** - 28

We helped people from over 50 different countries.
4. Why do people come to us?

We are known to get things done. Peter Tatchell is a nationally and internationally renowned human rights defender with over 50 years’ experience. Because of his high profile, many people see the Peter Tatchell Foundation as a first point of contact for help on issues such as discrimination, asylum, harassment and hate crime. A high proportion of the people who contact the PTF for assistance don’t know of anyone else.

5. Case work in brief

In 2016, we dealt with 239 individuals who requested assistance. Many of these individuals required extensive multiple correspondence and support. This is illustrated in Fig 2. Case work over the years.

![Fig 2. Case work over the years.](image)

The number of cases dealt with has increased over the years. From 2012 to 2016, we assisted 902 individuals in total.
6. Global reach

More than a quarter of requests for help come from the UK but, increasingly, a greater number come from around the globe. This is shown below in Fig 3:

25% of the calls for help were from people originating from Africa whilst 23% originated from people of the the Indian subcontinent. 12% of the people we helped came from Uganda and Nigeria.

Nearly 70% of the people we helped were from the Commonwealth and it is important to note that around three quarters of the Commonwealth member nations criminalise homosexuality. They account for half the world’s countries where same-sex relations are illegal.
In accordance with human rights law, we agree that all Commonwealth countries should:

- Decriminalise homosexuality.
- Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Enforce laws against threats and violence, to protect LGBT people from hate crimes.
- Consult and dialogue with LGBT organisations.

We have helped people from 54 different countries, namely: Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Syria, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, UK, USA, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
7. Issues

The nature of the individual requests from the PTF is detailed in Fig 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALGBT: Asylum LGBT - 114</th>
<th>HH: Harassment and Hate crime - 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTLGBT: International LGBT - 21</td>
<td>PP: Police malpractice and Prison - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASL: Asylum non-LGBT - 13</td>
<td>IMM: Immigration - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIS: Discrimination - 13</td>
<td>HLH: Health - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISC: Miscellaneous - 37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig 5. Case work: Issues
Asylum and immigration overall represent nearly 60% of all the people that we have helped.

We are helping many genuine LGBT asylum refugees who tell heart-breaking stories of discrimination and violence in their home countries. These are very vulnerable people who have suffered greatly. They’ve shown great courage, given their persecution in their countries of origin. LGBT asylum seekers represents nearly half of all the people that we have been helping.

Seeking asylum in the UK is a long and complicated procedure and LGBT people face the additional burden of having to prove their sexuality: plus, there is always a risk of being put into detention. These people have come to the UK expecting a safe haven but are sometimes detained for weeks or months.

Deportation is a major concern because they fear harassment, imprisonment or death if they are returned to their country of origin.

The number of LGBT asylum seekers asking us for help has increased by 37% compared to 2015.

The category International LGBT consists of calls for help which are not related to asylum or immigration from people outside of the UK.

The category health includes people that have contacted us exclusively for mental and non-mental health issues. Going through the asylum process can be quite stressful and in several cases, LGBT asylum seekers have required mental health support.
8. Case Studies
Abbey

We have helped Abbey in the past and he has been granted asylum status. Abbey today helps other asylum seekers through the Out and Proud African LGBT group. He has won an nOscar from the Naz Foundation for his work and was listed 25th on the Independent on Sunday Rainbow list in 2015. This is Abbey’s journey.

“I came from hell, with cigarette burns in both my palms and on my legs, scars on my face which resulted from the constant beating. I went through every kind of human degradation in my home country Uganda just because I failed to conform to the social norms of not being gay.”

“I came to England thinking I had come to the promised land, the country which would accept my sexuality and give me protection but unfortunately, after I applied for asylum, I was detained in Oakington Detention Centre in Cambridge.”

“Being locked again behind bars brought fresh memories of the torture I had gone through in my country, Uganda, because of my sexuality. I was in Detention Centre for about four weeks, but within those weeks I went through a lot of and I even contemplated suicide.”

“Having been granted refugee protection. I started to look around for people who would help me to reactivate my activism – yes I might have been safe in London, but there were many people I left in Uganda going through a lot of hardship. I wanted to make a change, and that change had to start with me.”

“I would say, without the support of Peter and the Foundation, it would have been nearly impossible to achieve all that I have achieved. Thank you for giving me another chance to start a new life.”
Christine

We are currently helping Christine to get asylum status on the basis of her sexual orientation. The UK Home Office has refused her application, stating that they do not believe that she is a lesbian. This is Christine story.

"I am Christine from Uganda and claimed asylum in 2015. I escaped Uganda in order to gain protection because I was being persecuted, victimised and discriminated because of my sexual orientation."

“I was in a bar in Uganda and I kissed another woman. Unfortunately, one of my neighbours saw me. She shouted and insulted me. The word got around that I was a lesbian and I was harassed. People started spitting at me on the streets and some people on motorcycles tried to run me over. I feared for my safety and my life and I felt I had no other options than to run away."

“If I am being sent back to Uganda, I fear that I will be discriminated against, I may be imprisoned and threatened to be killed. I will not be able to live openly as a lesbian and will be separated from my partner Teddy. I would have no protection in Uganda."

“If I was granted asylum, I would feel overjoyed and so happy because it would mean I would be able to stay in the UK and start my new life with my partner here. I also won’t try to prove I am a lesbian. In the UK, I am able to express my sexuality freely without fear of being persecuted or killed."

“In 2016, I was at Pride in London. It was reassuring and comforting to know that I am not alone and it gave me a sense of belonging.”
2017 marks the 50\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the 1967 Act that partially decriminalised homosexuality in England and Wales. Whilst, the 1967 Act was a step in the right direction, police repression continued and increased after 1967. Tim is among one of the 50,000 to 100,000 men who were victims of discriminatory anti-gay laws between 1885 and 2003. This is what he says."

“I turned to the Peter Tatchell Foundation when I found myself in crisis.”

“I had been a successful teacher and manager for 20 years. I worked in various rewarding roles within Special Educational Needs. I loved my job and I was proud of the success and vast experience I had gained.”

“In 2008, my employer asked for the mandatory enhanced DBS disclosure which was required of employees working with children and vulnerable adults. My certificate returned detailing a caution for a sexual offence. This offence was S.32 of the sexual offences act (Soliciting and importuning by a male for immoral purposes). I was called out of my classroom and sent home as I had not disclosed this information. I had not disclosed this caution as the incident itself which took place in 1995 was not what was explained to me. In fact, I was unlawfully arrested and charged by the Metropolitan Police.”

“On leaving a bar in 1995, I was followed by a man who crossed the road to talk to me. Perhaps he fancied me, but to this day I do not know what his intention was. As he spoke to me, I was placed on the ground by plain-clothed police officers and taken to a police cell. I was not told the reason for my arrest and I denied any wrong doing throughout the ordeal. I was released on the condition that I sign a piece of paper. Had I known the consequence of signing what turned out to be a caution, I would not have done so.”

“In 2008, my manager saw that I posed no risk owing to the explanation for the caution on my record. However, on leaving that job in 2015 my DBS still stated that I was cautioned for a sexual offence. I soon realised I was unable to find work in the field of education and so became desperate and depressed.”
“I also realised that the road to clearing my name would be a very long one and not necessarily successful. That is where I met Pliny at the PTF. Through every step of my journey to clear my name, he was able to advise and offer guidance. He understood the awful situation I was in and I am not sure how would have done this without this support and I do not know where I would be now without them.”

“I will be eternally grateful to Pliny and the Peter Tatchell Foundation. I also know that there are thousands of others just like me who have been dealt a cruel unjust card in their life. Thank you.”
9. Feedback

“Thank you so much for your response, you have given me a lot of **valuable information** and contact points.” **Chibu**

“I really appreciate your support, it means a lot that **you understand what I am going through**. I can’t take the risk to contact any local organisations or go to the police because some of relatives are working in different security departments and they may know about my sexuality easily.” **Arvind**

“Your email was **encouraging and supportive**. It meant lot to know that there is someone who understands what I am going through at the moment.” **Sherry**

“Thank you so much for your supportive and informative email. It gave me the **courage to act** and I have started to gather information for my application.” **Joyce**

“Your response contained detailed answers to my questions. I am more **confident** to improve my current situation.” **Iftab**

Note: Names have been altered
10. Support our work: Get involved

DONATE TODAY

LEAVE A LEGACY

FUNDRAISE FOR US

FUNDRAISE WHILE YOU SHOP

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