

Impact Report



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Foreword from Jen Ang, Chair of Justice Together's Grants Committee

Across the UK, organisations continue to provide vital support to people navigating an increasingly complex immigration system. They do so in challenging circumstances, often responding to growing demand whilst managing limited resources and uncertainty about the future. Yet, throughout the year, I have continued to be struck by the commitment, creativity and determination of the organisations we work alongside.

As Chair of the Justice Together Grants Committee and Justice Collaborations board, I have the privilege of seeing the breadth of work taking place across our portfolio. From organisations providing life-changing immigration advice, to those working to influence policy, challenge injustice and build community power, there is an extraordinary amount of expertise, care and leadership within the migration sector.

The past year has also highlighted the importance of working collectively. The challenges facing migrants and the organisations supporting them are too complex for any one organisation to tackle alone. Time and again, we have seen the value of partnership, collaborations and shared learning. Whether through formal partnerships, peer learning spaces or collective influencing efforts, organisations continue to demonstrate what is possible when they come together around a shared purpose.

One of the things I value most about Justice Together is that it has always sought to be more than a funding programme. Alongside grant making, we have invested in relationships, learning and opportunities for people to connect across different parts of the sector. We know that strong organisations matter, but so too do the relationships between them. These connections help create the trust, solidarity and collective capacity that are needed to respond to challenges and seize opportunities as they emerge.

I have also been encouraged by the growing leadership of people with lived experience of the immigration system. Across our portfolio, individuals and organisations continue to demonstrate the vital role that lived experience plays in shaping services, influencing policy and strengthening movements for change. Increasingly, we are seeing organisations move beyond consultation towards more meaningful approaches that share power, value lived expertise and create genuine opportunities for leadership. We also recognise that this requires intentional investment. Meaningful lived experience leadership cannot be achieved without the right support, resources and organisational cultures that enable people to participate safely and sustainably, particularly for staff whose lived experience continues to intersect with the issues they are working to address.

Their leadership continues to enrich the sector and challenge us all to think differently about power, participation and accountability. It also reminds us that efforts to improve access to justice cannot be separated from the need to confront racial injustice. For many

people, experiences of the immigration system are shaped not only by immigration policy, but also by structural racism and unequal access to power. Supporting lived experience leadership is therefore not simply about inclusion; it is about ensuring that those most affected by injustice are helping to shape the decisions, systems and movements that seek to change it.

As we move further into the second half of Justice Together's ten-year journey, I find myself reflecting not only on what has been achieved, but on what we're building together. The stories throughout this impact report demonstrate the impact of sustained investment, collaboration and trust. They also remind us that lasting change takes time. I hope the report offers a glimpse into both the challenges and the possibilities that exist across the migration sector today, and into the collective effort that continues to drive progress towards a fairer and more just immigration system.



Reflection from Dami Makinde, Director of Justice Together

The past year has been one of significant change and uncertainty for the migration sector.

Nearly two years into a new government, organisations continue to navigate an evolving policy landscape. Over the past twelve months, we have seen significant debate about the future direction of immigration policy, including proposals relating to earned settlement and wider reforms to the immigration system. Many organisations have expressed concern about what these changes could mean for the people and communities they support, particularly those who already face significant barriers to security, stability and belonging. At the same time, conversations around legal aid, asylum accommodation and access to justice have continued to shape the environment in which organisations operate.

Whilst policy developments inevitably attract attention, what has struck me the most this year has been the extent to which many organisations are continuing to respond to a broader climate of hostility towards migrants and refugees.

The violence and disorder witnessed across parts of the UK during 2024, and the continued tensions experienced by some communities during 2025, have left a lasting impact. Most recently, incidents of unrest following the killings in Southampton and Belfast have reinforced concerns about the safety of migrants, refugees and the organisations that support them. Although these events are not currently dominating headlines, many organisations still describe a heightened sense of risk and vulnerability. We have heard from organisations that are reviewing their digital security, reassessing how they engage publicly and considering how best to protect their staff, volunteers and communities.

Perhaps most strikingly, some organisations have begun discussing whether they should remove words such as 'migrant' or 'refugee' from their names altogether. These conversations are not simply about branding. They reflect deeper concerns about the increasingly hostile environment in which many organisations are working and the risks that can come with being publicly associated with migration. For organisations that have spent years proudly advocating alongside migrant communities, having these conversations is significant and often uncomfortable.

The past year has also highlighted how quickly the political landscape can shift. Following the local elections in May 2026, many organisations found themselves operating in areas where political leadership had changed significantly. The growing success of Reform UK in a number of local authorities prompted new conversations across the sector about how best to engage with local decision-makers and continue advocating for migrant communities.

For some organisations, this has meant thinking carefully about how to build relationships with newly elected representatives and local authorities whose views on migration may differ significantly from those they have worked with previously. Others have been wrestling with more fundamental questions about whether engagement is likely to be productive at all. These are not straightforward decisions, particularly for organisations that rely on strong local relationships to support the communities they serve. They are, however, increasingly important ones.

Alongside these challenges, many organisations continue to grapple with questions of sustainability. Demand for immigration advice remains high, recruitment and retention challenges persist, and many leaders are balancing immediate pressures with the longer-term task of strengthening their organisations for the future. Across our portfolio, we are seeing growing conversations about leadership, succession planning, organisational resilience and what it will take to sustain the sector in the years ahead.

At Justice Together, we recognise that funding alone is not enough to meet the challenges facing the sector. Alongside our grant making, we continue to invest in collaboration, learning, wellbeing and opportunities for organisations to come together, share knowledge and build collective strength. We know that sustainable change depends not only on individual organisations, but on the relationships, infrastructure and shared capacity that enable the wider sector to respond and adapt.

As I reflect on the year, I am also conscious that this marks an important point in my own journey with Justice Together. I first joined the Grants Committee in 2020, and over the past six years I have had the privilege of seeing, at close hand, the remarkable work of the organisations we support and the dedication of those working across the migration sector. In December 2025, I was honoured to take on the role of Director, building on the strong foundations established by Hazel Williams' leadership. I would like to pay tribute to Hazel for her vision, commitment and the lasting contribution she made during her time as Director until October 2025. She shaped Justice Together into a trusted and respected funder, strengthened our relationships across the sector and leaves a legacy that continues to guide our work. It is a privilege to carry that work forward, alongside our partners, trustees, Grants Committee members and the wider Justice Together community.

Who we are now

Justice Together is a unique collaboration of funders, organisations and people with lived experience working together to improve access to justice in the UK immigration system.

Established in 2020 with a ten-year vision, Justice Together was created in response to a growing recognition that access to justice requires more than legal advice alone. It requires strong organisations, effective collaboration, lived experience leadership and collective efforts to address the policies and systems that create injustice.

Over the past six years, Justice Together has evolved from a collaborative funding initiative into a trusted partner, convener and source of learning across the migration sector. Alongside our grant making, organisations increasingly look to Justice Together to create spaces for collaboration, support shared learning, strengthen relationships and help the sector respond collectively to emerging challenges.

Through grant making, learning, convening and collaboration, we work alongside organisations across the UK to strengthen immigration advice, support influencing and advocacy, and contribute to a sector that is more sustainable, connected and equitable.



Our vision

An immigration system in which people can access justice fairly and equally without being harmed.



Goal 1

A more sustainable, collaborative and co-ordinated immigration advice sector.



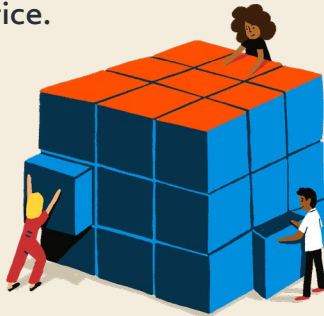
Goal 2

An immigration sector which is better able to advocate for fairness and justice in the immigration system and where people directly affected set the agenda for change.



Goal 3

Organisations in the immigration sector are actively contributing to racial justice.



Activities



Fund legal advice and influencing



Create opportunities for learning, networking and strategizing



Fund wellbeing support



Provide support and training on racial justice



Influence and advocate

Our Values



Equity and human rights



Collaboration



Inclusion



Racial Justice



Learning



Trust



Courage

How Justice Together creates change



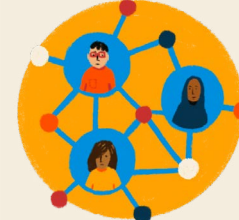
Funding



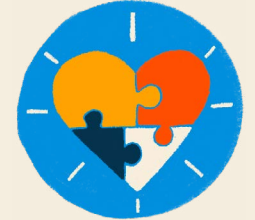
Collaboration



Learning



Influence



Sector strength

We believe that lasting change happens when organisations have the resources, relationships and opportunities they need to learn from one another, work collectively, embed lived experience, strengthen racial literacy, and influence the systems affecting the communities they serve.

By investing in both advice and influencing work, creating spaces for collaboration and supporting shared learning, we help strengthen the wider immigration sector's ability to respond to immediate needs while working towards long-term change.

Our strategic goals

Goal 1

A more sustainable, collaborative and co-ordinated immigration advice sector.

We support a sustainable, collaborative and co-ordinated immigration advice sector by investing in organisations, partnerships and the people who deliver immigration advice, so that everyone can access justice fairly and effectively.



How we deliver this goal

- **Investing in specialist immigration advice**, including funding over 72 immigration advice posts throughout the life of Justice Together, enabling organisations across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to provide high-quality legal advice and representation.
- **Strengthening advice partnerships** across English regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, helping organisations combine expertise, improve referral pathways and increase access to justice for people who might otherwise struggle to access specialist advice.
- **Building the future advice workforce** through training, leadership development and opportunities to strengthen specialist legal expertise, ensuring the sector has the skills and capacity needed to respond to growing demand.
- **Creating opportunities for peer learning and collaboration**, with 43 events delivered this year, bringing together 422 participants from 138 organisations through our Community of Impact, Community of Practice, the Festival of Sharing and the York Residential to share learning, strengthen relationships and develop practical solutions to shared challenges.
- **Supporting the wellbeing and resilience of the sector**, with 98 participants engaging in coaching and wellbeing initiatives, including the Black Wellbeing Collective, recognising that healthy organisations are better equipped to deliver sustainable, high-quality advice.

Our strategic goals

Goal 2 An immigration sector that is better able to advocate for fairness and justice.

We support influencing, organising and advocacy efforts that challenge injustice, amplify lived experience and contribute to system change.



How we deliver this goal

- **Investing in influencing capacity**, including funding 21 influencing roles throughout the life of Justice Together, enabling organisations to undertake policy advocacy, strategic litigation, campaigning and evidence-based influencing.
- **Convening organisations around shared priorities**, facilitating four policy convenings this year to bring together grant partners, share intelligence, identify emerging issues and develop collective responses to policy challenges. This has included convening organisations around issues such as Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, creating space to coordinate learning, strategy and collective action.
- **Supporting collaborative influencing**, enabling organisations to work together on research, parliamentary engagement, campaigns and strategic advocacy, strengthening the sector's collective voice and increasing opportunities for shared impact.
- **Undertaking direct influencing as Justice Together**, working in partnership with organisations such as RAMP to contribute to coordinated advocacy, engage decision-makers and strengthen the migration sector's influence on policy and practice.
- **Using frontline evidence to influence systems change**, by ensuring the experiences of migrants, refugees and the organisations supporting them reach decision-makers. This includes parliamentary research launches, policy convenings, consultation responses, supporting grant partners to use evidence from their communities, and bringing together funders, policymakers, practitioners and people with lived experience to shape policy and public debate.
- **Creating opportunities for lived experience to shape influencing work**, recognising that people directly affected by the immigration system bring essential insight, credibility and leadership to efforts to improve policy and practice, and supporting organisations to move beyond consultation towards meaningful participation and shared decision-making.

Our strategic goals

Goal 3

Organisations in the immigration sector are actively contributing to racial justice.

Racial justice has always been a core commitment of Justice Together. In our refreshed strategy, we have made it a distinct strategic goal to sharpen our focus, strengthen our accountability and ensure this work remains central to everything we do.

We support organisations to strengthen racial literacy, embed anti-racist practice and create environments where people affected by racism and the immigration system can lead and thrive.



How we deliver this goal

- **Delivering racial justice learning programmes**, with **92 participants** engaging in racial justice initiatives this year to strengthen organisational understanding of racism, power, privilege and anti-racist practice.
- **Providing practical tools, resources and specialist expertise** to help organisations embed anti-racist approaches within their governance, leadership, recruitment and organisational culture.
- **Creating spaces for honest reflection and dialogue**, through programmes such as Beyond Beef: Navigating Conflict Through an Anti-Racist Lens, enabling organisations to explore difficult conversations, build confidence and strengthen anti-racist leadership.
- **Supporting peer learning and organisational development**, creating opportunities for organisations to share challenges, learn from one another and turn reflection into meaningful organisational change.
- **Investing in lived experience leadership**, supporting organisations to share power more meaningfully with people directly affected by the immigration system and creating opportunities for lived experience to inform organisational leadership, strategy and decision-making.

July 2025

June 2026

In numbers

The figures in this section provide a snapshot of Justice Together’s work over the past year. Behind every grant awarded, event convened and partnership supported are organisations and individuals working to ensure that people can access justice, build secure futures and influence the systems that affect their lives.

This year we continued to invest in immigration advice, influencing and sector infrastructure across the UK. Alongside funding, we created opportunities for organisations to learn from one another, develop collective responses to emerging challenges and strengthen the relationships that underpin lasting change.

Together, these figures represent more than activity. They reflect a growing network of organisations, communities and leaders working towards a fairer immigration system and a stronger, more sustainable sector.

Terminology						
Advice grant partners: Organisations funded by Justice Together to provide specialist immigration advice, legal representation and related support to people navigating the UK immigration and asylum system.	Advice partnerships: Collaborative grants bringing together two or more organisations to deliver joined-up immigration advice, combine specialist expertise and improve access to justice for the communities they serve.	Influencing grant partners: Organisations funded by Justice Together to influence policy, law, public debate and systems affecting migrants and refugees through research, campaigning, strategic litigation, lived experience leadership and advocacy.	Influencing partnerships: Collaborative projects where organisations work together to achieve systems change by sharing expertise, evidence and lived experience to influence policy and practice.	Racial justice programme: Justice Together’s programme of learning, reflection and organisational development that supports grant partners to embed anti-racist practice, challenge structural racism and create more equitable organisations and movements.	Festival of Sharing: Justice Together’s annual learning event that brings together grant partners and sector organisations to exchange knowledge, build relationships, share practice and identify opportunities for collaboration across the migration sector.	Community of Impact: Justice Together’s learning and collaboration programme, bringing together grant partners to share knowledge, strengthen relationships, develop new skills and build a more connected migration sector.

£2,111,000 invested across the migration sector in 2025-2026

Funding	£2,111,000 awarded 10 renewal grants approved (total) 16 organisations funded 7 regions and 3 nations reached
Advice & representation	43 advice posts funded (total) 6 grant partner organisations providing advice to the wider sector 4 organisations participating in advice partnerships
Influencing & systems change	21 influencing posts funded 4 Influencing grants funded 4 policy convenings facilitated 1 consultations responded to
Influencing & systems change	43 events delivered in total 422 attendees across Justice Together events 138 organisations participating 98 coaching and wellbeing participants 92 racial justice programme participants 90 Festival of Sharing participants 142 participants across other Justice Together events
Lived experience leadership	30 organisations led by people with lived experience
Collaborations	80 organisations collaborating through Justice Together-funded partnerships 138 organisations participating in Community of Practice or strategic convenings
Geographic reach	52 lead grant partners across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Funding reaching over 100 organisations

Beyond the numbers **5 Key achievements**

1

York residential

Building on the success of previous years, the 2025 Justice Together York residential brought together a wide range of organisations working at the intersection of migration and related issues such as housing, employment and poverty.

2

Taking Care of You programme

We continued our commitment to racial justice and wellbeing by delivering another successful round of the Taking Care of You programme for racialised staff at grant partners, in partnership with Black Wellbeing Collective. The eight-week wellbeing programme provided participants with dedicated space for reflections, healing and peer support, recognising that sustaining movements for justice requires investing in the wellbeing of those leading change.

3

Launch of legal aid report

We supported the publication and parliamentary launch of Jo Wilding's updated landmark report on immigration legal aid deserts. The report showed that access to immigration legal aid had continued to deteriorate and generated significant engagement with policymakers, including one-to-one meetings with MPs, strengthening calls for sustainable investment in the advice sector.

4

Support through fundraising capacity

We began investing beyond grant making by offering fundraising support to 22 grant partner organisations in response to requests. This support aimed to strengthen organisations' long-term sustainability and diversify income streams, helping partners build resilience and secure resources for the future.

5

Engaging local authorities

We brought together **87 local authorities** to strengthen understanding of the role local government plays in supporting access to immigration advice. By sharing evidence, showcasing effective local approaches and facilitating peer learning, the convening created opportunities for collaboration between local authorities and the voluntary sector and helped inform future thinking on local responses to migration.

What we are noticing

Across our grant portfolio, several themes are becoming increasingly visible



Advice providers are increasingly engaging in influencing work, using evidence from frontline services to advocate for change.



Organisations are placing greater emphasis on sustainability and leadership development



Collaboration is becoming more intentional, with organisations investing time in building long-term relationships rather than short-term partnerships.



Lived experience leadership is becoming more embedded across organisations, although there remains more work to do.



Organisations continue to navigate growing demand whilst balancing the wellbeing of staff and volunteers.

Whilst these trends are not universal, they offer important insights into how the sector is evolving and where future investment may be needed.

Goal 1

Building a sustainable advice sector

For many people navigating the immigration system, access to high-quality advice can be life-changing. It can mean securing immigration status, reuniting with family members, accessing support or simply understanding what options are available.

Yet access to advice remains uneven across the UK. Many organisations continue to report growing demand, workforce pressures and challenges recruiting qualified advisors. Against this backdrop, building a sustainable advice sector remains one of the most important ways of improving access to justice.

Over the past year, we continued to invest in organisations providing immigration advice, strengthening partnerships and supporting efforts to build long-term capacity across the sector.

Strengthening advice provision across the UK

Throughout the year, our grant partners continued to provide high-quality advice and representation to migrants and refugees across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Together, they supported people navigating complex immigration systems, accessing their rights, challenging poor decision-making and securing pathways to safety and stability.

During 2025–26, Justice Together continued to invest in organisations delivering specialist immigration advice across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Funding supported frontline legal advice, representation, advisor training, partnership working and capacity building, helping organisations respond to increasing demand whilst strengthening the long-term sustainability of the advice sector.



Organisation spotlight: JustRight Scotland



JustRight Scotland is a human rights organisation committed to improving access to justice for people whose rights are at risk. Through a combination of legal advice, representation, strategic litigation, policy influencing and community engagement, the organisation works alongside individuals and communities to challenge injustice and create lasting change.

With support from Justice Together, JustRight Scotland has continued to provide specialist immigration and asylum advice to people facing some of the most complex legal challenges, whilst also using evidence from frontline casework to influence wider systems and policies.

Over the past year, the team worked with around 86 and 111 clients across approximately 100 to 150 legal matters. Many clients came with multiple interconnected issues, including asylum, trafficking, age assessment, family reunion, housing and destitution. Rather than treating these issues in isolation, JustRight Scotland takes a human rights-based approach, supporting people across the different legal problems affecting their lives.

Our funding has helped strengthen the organisation's capacity to provide high-quality legal advice and representation. This support has enabled the team to spend time building relationships with clients, responding to complex needs and pursuing cases with the potential to create wider change.

"We would have fewer lawyers. We would be doing less. We would be saying no overwhelmingly to every area of our work. JTI is a vital resource. It really is."

The impact of this work can be seen both in individual lives and in wider systems change. Over the past year, JustRight Scotland has supported families affected by conflict to reunite with loved ones through complex family reunion cases, including work relating to families in Gaza. The organisation has also pursued strategic litigation on age assessment, helping to clarify how young people can challenge decisions that wrongly identify them as adults and place them at risk of losing access to support and protection.

Alongside direct representation, JustRight Scotland provides training and second-tier advice to community organisations, advocacy services, social workers, housing providers and statutory agencies. This has become increasingly important as access to specialist immigration advice continues to decline across the UK.

Andy Sirel, Legal Director and Partner at JustRight Scotland, described the growing shortage of quality immigration advice as one of the biggest barriers to justice facing the sector.

Organisation spotlight:

JustRight Scotland

“Access to advice is diminishing at an alarming rate. It is now common for even the most vulnerable people to be unable to access quality legal advice. When quality legal advice retreats, it is not just nothing that fills the gap. Other bad things come in.”

Despite growing demand, the organisation continues to play a vital role in supporting individuals, strengthening community organisations and influencing wider systems. Their work demonstrates that legal advice is not separate from systems change. Rather, it is often the foundation upon which wider change is built.

“The work we do is literally life-changing. Good quality-legal advice can be the difference between health, safety and integration, or being returned to harm, legal limbo or destitution.”

JustRight Scotland’s work highlights why specialist advice and representation remain essential for access to justice. It also demonstrates how legal expertise, community partnerships and strategic litigation can work together to challenge injustice, improve systems and create lasting change for people seeking safety, security and belonging.

The value of partnership working

Partnerships remain at the heart of our approach.

Many of the challenges facing the immigration advice sector cannot be addressed by individual organisations working in isolation. Through partnership models, organisations are able to combine legal expertise, community knowledge and specialist support, creating more joined-up pathways for the people they serve.

Across the portfolio, partnerships have continued to strengthen referral routes, share expertise and increase access to advice in areas where provision remains limited.



Organisation spotlight:

Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) and the West Midlands Immigration Advisors Network

For organisations providing immigration advice, the work can often feel isolating. Advisors are navigating one of the most complex areas of law while demand continues to grow, immigration rules continue to change and resources remain stretched. Many organisations are facing the same challenges, but until recently there were few opportunities to learn from one another or work together.

With support from Justice Together, the Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) has helped bring organisations across the West Midlands together through the West Midlands Immigration Advisors Network. What began as a way of strengthening immigration advice has grown into something much bigger: a trusted network where organisations share knowledge, support one another and work collectively to improve access to justice.

The funding has enabled organisations across the partnership to train and accredit more immigration advisors, increasing the amount of free, high-quality immigration advice available across the region. Through regular study groups, peer learning and shared expertise, advisors have developed the confidence to take on increasingly complex cases, while organisations have built stronger referral pathways so people can access the right support more quickly.

Perhaps just as importantly, the network has helped reduce the sense of isolation many advisors previously experienced. Instead of working through difficult cases alone, advisors now have a community of peers they can turn to for guidance, encouragement and practical support.

One advisor reflected:

"The West Midlands Immigration Advisors Network meetings have been a really positive change. It often felt before that we were facing complex changes and cases alone in the free advice and representation sector. The meetings have allowed for shared opinions and experiences. It has also allowed for better understanding between organisations to share workload and understand each other's processes."

As relationships between organisations have grown, so too has their collective influence. The network has become a platform for sharing frontline experience with national partners, contributing to consultations and ensuring that the experiences of communities in the West Midlands help shape conversations about immigration policy and access to justice.

Organisation spotlight:

Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) and the West Midlands Immigration Advisors Network

As relationships between organisations have grown, so too has their collective influence. The network has become a platform for sharing frontline experience with national partners, contributing to consultations and ensuring that the experiences of communities in the West Midlands help shape conversations about immigration policy and access to justice.

The impact can be seen both in the strength of the organisations themselves and in the lives of the people they support. More advisors are qualified, organisations are working together rather than in isolation, and more people are able to access timely immigration advice that helps them secure their status, avoid homelessness and begin to build more stable futures.

By investing in collaboration alongside frontline advice, Justice Together has helped strengthen not just individual organisations, but the wider immigration advice sector across the West Midlands, creating foundations that will continue to benefit communities long into the future.

Emerging Themes

Workforce and recruitment challenges: Many organisations continue to report difficulties recruiting and retaining qualified immigration advisors. Competition for experienced staff remains high, whilst the time and resources required to train new advisors can place significant pressure on already stretched organisations.

Building advice capacity: organisations continue to invest in developing the next generation of advisors, and trying to support trainees and build capacity.

Addressing advice deserts: access to immigration advice remains uneven across the UK.

Future of legal aid: the sustainability of immigration advice continues to be closely linked to the future of legal aid. Whilst recent redevelopments have been welcomed by many organisations, grant partners continue to highlight the challenges of delivering high-quality advice within an under-resourced system.

Goal 2

Strengthening influence and systems change



Access to justice is about more than helping people navigate the immigration system. It is also about changing the systems, policies and structures that create barriers to justice in the first place.

At Justice Together, we believe that those closest to the issues are often best placed to identify what needs to change. That is why we continue to support organisations that are working to influence policy, shift public narratives and create a more just and equitable immigration system.

Organisation spotlight:

Reunite Families UK



For families separated by the UK's immigration rules, the impact goes far beyond policy. It affects children's wellbeing, relationships and people's ability to build a life together. Reunite Families works to ensure those experiences are not only heard, but shape decisions made at the highest levels of government.

With support from Justice Together, Reunite Families has strengthened its ability to bring together lived experience, research and policy influencing to challenge unfair immigration rules. What began as a grassroots community has grown into a recognised and credible voice, producing evidence that informs national debate and contributes directly to policy discussions.

Over the past year, the organisation's research has reached senior decision-makers across government, including the Home Office and the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). Their evidence closely aligned with the findings of the MAC's own review, reinforcing the experiences of families affected by the spouse and partner migration rules and helping ensure those voices were reflected in national policy discussions.

The organisation has also continued to provide evidence to parliamentary inquiries, contribute to legal challenges and engage directly with senior Home Office officials on proposed policy changes.

Alongside this, Reunite Families has supported hundreds of community members to engage their own MPs, equipping families with the knowledge, confidence and tools to advocate for change.

Justice Together's support has enabled the organisation to invest not only in influencing activity, but also in the organisational capacity needed to sustain it. An infrastructure grant helped Reunite Families secure dedicated fundraising support, leading to new investment that will strengthen the organisation's work beyond the lifetime of individual grants.

Looking ahead, Reunite Families is expanding its influencing work by building partnerships with organisations including Coram and the University of Bristol to gather long-term evidence on the impact of family separation on children and young adults. The aim is to ensure that future policy decisions are informed not only by legal arguments, but by robust evidence of the lasting social and emotional consequences of separation.

"We started as a Facebook group. Now we're recognised as a credible voice that government comes to for evidence and discussion. That's because lived experience, backed by strong evidence, deserves to shape policy."

Caroline Coombs, Reunite Families.

Organisation spotlight:

Women for Refugee Women



For Women for Refugee Women (WRW), influencing change starts by ensuring women with lived experience of seeking asylum are not simply included in conversations about the asylum system, but are leading them. Their vision is an asylum system where every woman seeking safety is treated with dignity, has the opportunity to rebuild her life, and can live free from violence and abuse.

The past year has been one of the most challenging the organisation has experienced. Against a backdrop of increasingly restrictive asylum policies and rising anti-migrant rhetoric, securing policy change has become harder than ever. Yet, despite these challenges, they have continued to build influence in the places where it matters most.

Over the past year, WRW has helped bring the experiences of women seeking asylum further into mainstream political and public debate. Their research on the unique harms women face in asylum accommodation prompted positive engagement with government officials and contributed to discussions about improving guidance for accommodation providers. The exemption of women from large-scale accommodation sites marked an important step forward, even as the organisation continues to campaign with the sector for safer accommodation for everyone seeking asylum.

Central to this work are the women themselves. Through a 12-week Spokesperson Network and Campaign Champions programme, women with lived experience develop the confidence, skills and knowledge to influence decision-makers, speak to the media and shape campaigns. Over the past year, participants have briefed journalists, spoken in Parliament, engaged directly with Home Office officials and challenged harmful narratives in public spaces. Rather than speaking on behalf of women, the organisation is creating opportunities for women to speak for themselves.

The organisation has also strengthened partnerships across the women's sector, helping ensure that migrant women's experiences are no longer treated as a separate issue within discussions about violence against women and girls. Working alongside partners, they have challenged misinformation, particularly harmful narratives adopted by the far-right who have exploited issues of gender-based violence to fuel racism and xenophobia. Through practical resources for campaigners and parliamentarians, they have contributed to a more informed public conversation about migration and gender-based violence.

Organisation spotlight:

Women for Refugee Women



Justice Together's funding has helped make this possible by supporting the organisation's communications and lived experience leadership work. Beyond the funding itself, WRW reflected on the value of our partnership approach, highlighting the openness, transparency and early conversations about future funding that enabled them to plan ahead during an increasingly uncertain funding landscape.

"Justice Together has enabled women to become the advocates for change themselves. Rather than having staff speak on behalf of women, we've been able to equip them with the confidence to challenge harmful narratives and share their own perspectives firsthand."

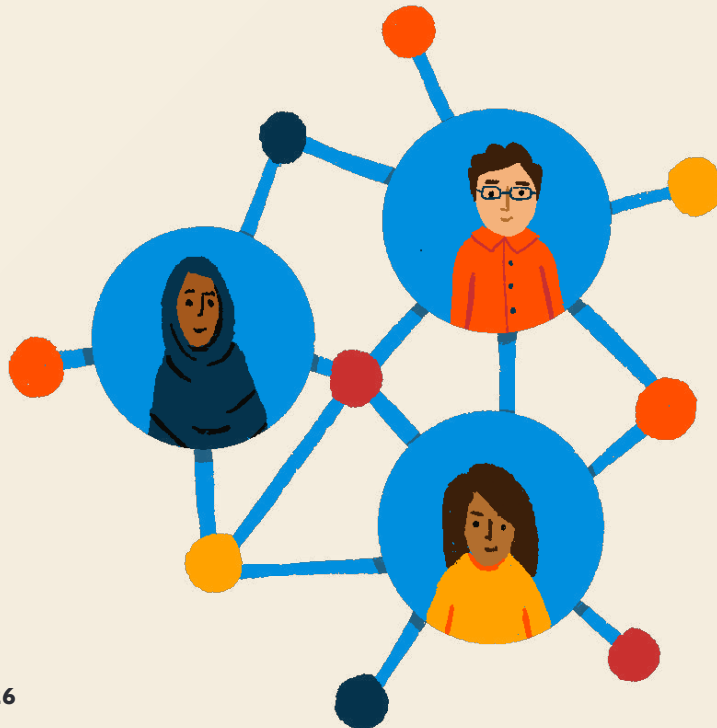
Together, these stories demonstrate that effective influencing takes many forms. Whether through research, strategic advocacy, coalition building or lived experience leadership, our partners are helping to shape a more informed public debate and influence the systems affecting migrant communities.

What we're noticing

Across our influencing portfolio, several themes are becoming increasingly clear. Organisations are placing greater emphasis on combining lived experience with robust evidence to influence policy. Rather than responding to policy in isolation, partners are building long-term relationships with decision-makers, strengthening coalitions and creating opportunities for people directly affected by the immigration system to shape public debate. Increasingly, influence is not being driven by a single organisation, but through collaboration, shared learning and collective action.

Building collective influence

This year, Justice Together continued to convene organisations working across different areas of the immigration system to share intelligence, explore emerging policy developments and identify opportunities for collaboration. These conversations helped strengthen relationships across the sector, encouraged joint responses to emerging issues and created space for organisations to learn from one another. They also reinforced that some of the most effective influencing happens collectively rather than in isolation.



Emerging themes

The importance of lived experience leadership: people directly affected by the immigration systems continue to play a vital role in shaping influencing efforts across the sector.

Collaboration creates stronger influence: many organisations reported that some of their most significant achievements came through working collaboratively together.

Connecting evidence to change: organisations continue to find powerful ways of using evidence gathered through advice services, research and community engagement to highlight systemic issues and advocate for reform

Changing policy environment: continues to evolve, creating both opportunities and challenges for organisations seeking change.

Goal 3

Advancing racial justice

We recognise that racism and immigration systems are deeply interconnected. Many of the communities affected by the immigration system also experience racial discrimination and structural inequalities that shape their access to opportunities, services and justice. Addressing these issues requires more than good intentions. It requires ongoing reflection, learning and action at both an individual and organisational level.

We do not see racial justice as a separate piece of work. Rather, it is something that should inform how organisations operate, make decisions, share power and support the communities they serve.

Over the past year, we have continued to invest in opportunities for organisations to deepen their understanding of racial justice, strengthen their practice and engage in honest conversations about power, privilege and accountability.

Supporting learning and reflection

Through our racial justice programme, organisations were supported to explore how racism operates within both society and the migration sector, and to consider how their own structures, cultures and practices can contribute to greater equity and inclusion.

Participants engaged in workshops, facilitated discussions and learning opportunities designed to encourage reflection as well as practical action. Feedback from participants highlighted the value of creating dedicated space for these conversations, particularly in a sector where people are often balancing significant operational pressures.

One participant reflected:

“Personally [it’s had] a huge impact. In terms of work, lots of thoughts about our clients and the struggles they face and how there is so much more we can do for them by unlearning and learning.”

Another shared:

“It made me think about how to use some of this learning. I liked how the facilitators presented their own power dynamics at the beginning.”

These reflections demonstrate the importance of creating environments where people feel able to explore complex issues, challenge assumptions and consider how change can happen within their own organisations.

From reflection to action

Throughout the year, organisations were supported to move beyond reflection and begin embedding learning into their everyday practice.

Community of Practice, delivered with JMB Consulting, created a facilitated peer-learning space where organisations could share challenges, apply racial analysis and explore practical ways to build sustainable anti-racist practice.

Immigration Policy as Racial Project workshop, led by Kimberly McIntosh, encouraged participants to examine the historical roots of UK immigration policy and consider how that history continues to shape advocacy, casework and campaigning today.

Our partnership with the **Racial Justice Network** created opportunities for deeper reflection through two complementary programmes. **Unlearning Racism** provided a political education space where participants explored the impact of white supremacy on organisations and systems. Alongside this, **Repair Space** created a dedicated environment for people racialised as Black and Brown, and those with lived experience of migration, to reflect, connect and centre healing from racialised harm experienced within organisations.

Alongside this, our **Beyond Beef programme: navigating conflict through an anti-racist lens** created space for participants to explore conflict, power and accountability within organisations and partnerships. Rather than viewing conflict as something to avoid, the programme encouraged organisations to consider how disagreement and tension can be navigated in ways that strengthen relationships, build trust and support more equitable ways of working.

Do it Now Now supported organisations to think more intentionally about Black leadership and access to opportunity within the sector. As an open innovation organisation committed to the empowerment of Black people through the provision of access to opportunities for social mobility through financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

Finally, through our partnership with **Black Wellbeing Collective**, organisations were able to access wellbeing support that recognised the impact of racism, exclusion and migration on individual and collective wellbeing.

What we're learning

One of the clearest lessons from this work is that there is no single route to becoming a more equitable organisation.

Organisations are at different stages of their racial justice journeys and are navigating different challenges. For some, the focus is on organisational culture and leadership. For others, it is about decision-making, power-sharing or strengthening their understanding of how racism shapes the experiences of the communities they serve.

What has been encouraging is the willingness of organisations to engage honestly with these questions. Progress is rarely straightforward, but creating space for reflection, challenge and learning remains an important part of building a more equitable sector.



Community of Impact

Strengthening the sector beyond funding.

Alongside our grant making, we invest in the relationships, learning and infrastructure that help organisations thrive. Through our Community of Impact programme, we create opportunities for people across the migration sector to connect, share expertise, develop new skills and strengthen the relationships that underpin collective action.

Over the past year, our Community of Impact programme brought together organisations from across the UK to learn from one another, explore shared challenges and identify opportunities for collaboration. From fundraising and legal aid sustainability to racial justice and organisational culture, these spaces have enabled organisations to build knowledge, strengthen practice and develop connections that continue beyond individual events.

The impact of these programmes extends beyond attendance numbers. Participants consistently describe the value of building relationships, exchanging ideas and finding solidarity with others facing similar challenges. In a sector operating under significant pressure, these opportunities for reflection, learning and connection remain an important source of strength.



Future plans

Over the coming year, we will focus on three key priorities.



Strengthening our influencing role

Throughout this report, we have reflected on the increasingly challenging environment facing the migration sector. Our grant partners have consistently told us that this is a moment for funders to do more than provide financial support. They want funders to use their voice, relationships and influence to help create change.

So over the next year, we want to strengthen the influencing arm of Justice Together's work. This means taking a bolder approach to speaking publicly on issues affecting the sector, building and sharing evidence from across our portfolio, and creating more opportunities to connect grant partners with policymakers, funders and decision-makers. We also want to strengthen collaboration between organisations so that evidence, lived experience and frontline expertise can play a greater role in shaping policy and public debate.



Learn together

As Justice Together is now in the latter end of its ten-year commitment, we want to take stock of what we have learned and how our work can continue to evolve. Over the coming year, we plan to commission an independent piece of research to reflect on Justice Together's journey to date. We want to better understand the impact of our funding model, identify where we have contributed most effectively, explore where gaps remain across the migration sector, and consider how we can maximise our impact over the years ahead.

Learning has always been central to Justice Together's approach, and we remain committed to learning alongside our grant partners. By sharing insights, listening to lived experience and drawing on the expertise of the organisations we support, we hope to strengthen our collective understanding of what creates lasting change.



Advancing racial justice

Racial justice will remain a core priority for Justice Together. We will continue to invest in learning opportunities that help organisations strengthen anti-racist practice, reflect on power and privilege, and create more inclusive organisational cultures.

Building on the progress made this year, we will continue to work alongside specialist partners to support organisations to embed racial justice into their leadership, decision-making and everyday practice. We know this work is ongoing, and we remain committed to creating spaces where organisations can learn, challenge themselves and support one another in turning reflection into meaningful action.

Our current funder partners

Justice Together is made possible through the commitment and collaboration of our funder partners. Their long-term investment has enabled organisations across the migration sector to provide advice, build community power, influence policy and strengthen the conditions for lasting change.



The Baring Foundation



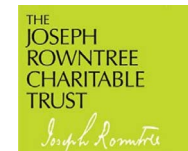
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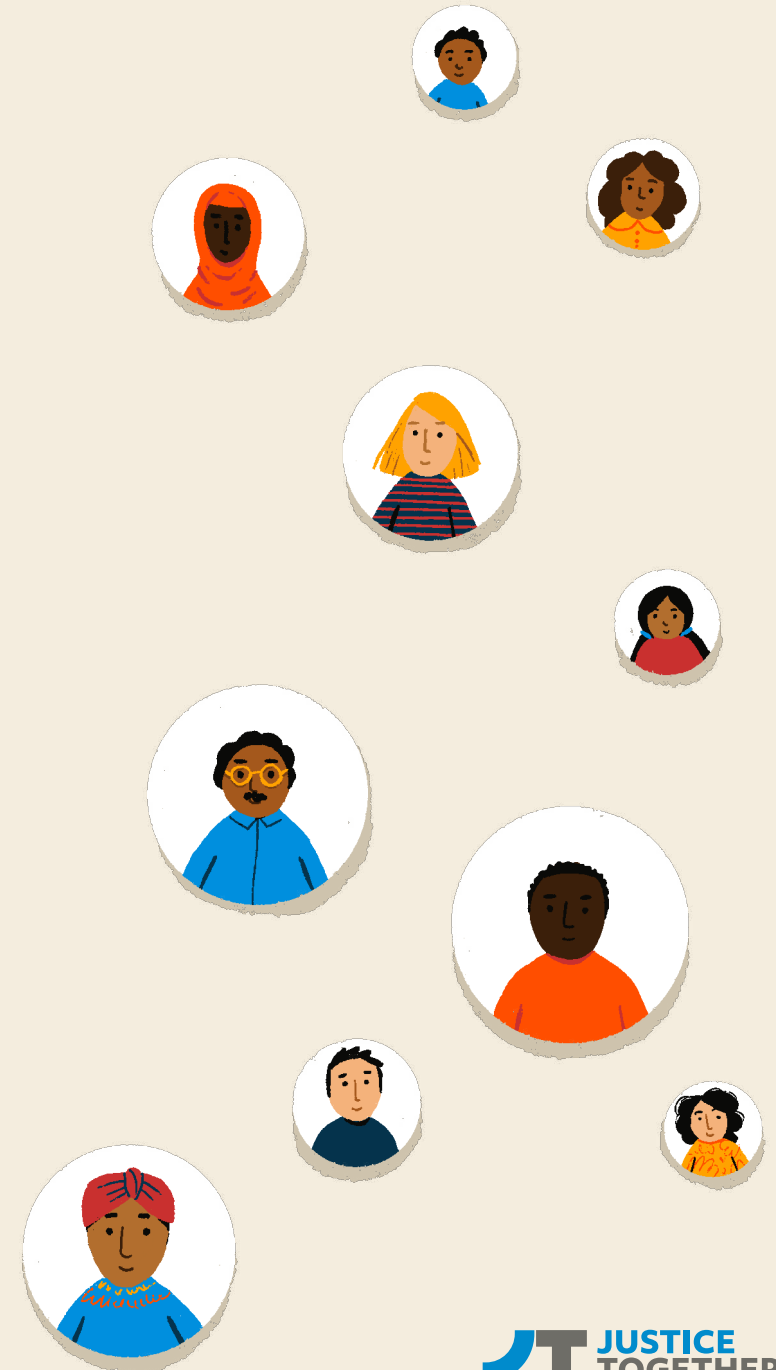
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This work would not be possible without the commitment, expertise and generosity of our grant partners, funder partners, committee members, advisory group members, learning partners and everyone who has contributed to the Justice Together Initiative over the past six years.

We are particularly grateful to the individuals with lived experience who continue to shape our work, challenge our thinking and help ensure that access to justice remains at the heart of everything we do.





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