

ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-14

JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF IMMIGRANTS



FORE- WORD

On 3rd September 2014 Brook Newmark, the then newly appointed minister for civil society, responding to worries among charities that the new Lobbying Act would limit their ability to campaign on issues of the day commented:

“We really want to try and keep charities and voluntary groups out of the realm of politics.”

In comments first reported on Civil Society, he added:

“The important thing charities should be doing is sticking to their knitting and doing the best they can to promote their agenda, which should be about helping others.”

I wish to say that we in JCWI, despite the condescending and misogynistic comments of this kind, irrespective of what we do in our spare times, are passionate about our work opposing and exposing the curtailment of the rights of immigrants in the UK from whatever source it comes.

It gives me great pleasure to present JCWI's Annual Review. This is the first time to have the privilege of doing this task. I, therefore, start by thanking Eric Fripp who has discharged admirably all the responsibilities of chairing the Executive Committee for the past six years.

We went into this year in a more optimistic frame of mind as our campaign against the harsh family immigration rules of 2012 gained momentum by the decision of Blake J in the High Court who ruled that the new minimum income requirement of £18,600 for sponsoring a non-EEA partner/spouse to live in the UK was unlawful.

Our euphoria, however, was short lived, as the Court of Appeal quashed this decision.

Lord Justice Aikins presiding over this Court, in his ruling stated that he was:

“very conscious of the evidence submitted by the claimants to demonstrate how the new minimum income requirements will have an impact on particular groups and in particular the evidence that only 301 occupations out of 422 listed in the 2011 UK Earnings data had average annual earnings of over £18,600.....”

He further stated that the:

“Secretary of State has done work to analyse the effect of the immigration on non-EEA partners and dependent children on the benefits system, the level of income needed to minimise dependence on the state for families where non-EEA partners enter the UK and what I regard as rational conclusion on the link between better income and greater chances of integration, my conclusion is that the Secretary of State's judgment cannot be impugned.”

This is indeed a disappointing ruling. The advent and rapid expansion of Zero hour contracts, which are approved and tacitly encouraged by the government, and practised by an

increasing number of employers, have made the minimum income requirement of £18,600 more unattainable.

We hope that the decision of the Appeal Court will be overruled by the Supreme Court. However, we should bear in mind that we have a more difficult, even alarming, time ahead of us. The relentless ideology-led attacks on the rights of migrants, and the constant negative depiction of them by the mass media; together with the rise of popularity of a party whose agenda is based on these issues, have resulted in making the immigration and nationality debate more one sided and toxic.

Our campaigns and policy work, reported in the following pages, are reflective of our determination in raising awareness and building coalition of supports for the immigrant communities and fighting discrimination.

I take the opportunity of thanking our committed volunteers, our hard working staff, members of Executive Committee and the Trustees to the Immigrants Aid Trust which have supported us for decades. My special thanks go to our funders and donators, and all our members without whose generous support we would be unable to carry out our mission to campaign for justice in immigration, nationality and refugee law, and to eliminate discrimination.

Minoo Jalali, Chair

NEXT PAGE

Top left: Shadow Immigration Minister David Hanson addresses a packed Parliamentary launch meeting of JCWI's Adult Dependant Relative report.

Top right: Baroness Lister speaks at the MAX Parliamentary meeting against the Immigration Bill.

Middle: Divided Families Campaign day of action. Protest at the Home Office.

Bottom left: Standing room only at the Adult Dependent Relative report launch in Parliament.

Bottom right: Delegates at the first MAX Conference tuck into a well earned lunch.



OVERVIEW

This year will be stained in our memories as the year in which the Coalition Government passed yet another notoriously divisive legislation, the Immigration Act 2014. On the pretext of creating a “hostile environment” for irregular migrants the Act was introduced in great haste. It contains a plethora of harsh and restrictive measures such as the abolition of appeal rights in almost all immigration cases, and the compulsion on private landlords and public bodies including NHS professionals to check immigration status of their tenants, clients and patients. The measures in this Act match the Government’s anti-immigration rhetoric and are destined to infringe indiscriminately on basic fundamental and democratic rights of all migrants, refugees and British citizens.

As I write this piece the quality national newspapers are reporting that around 40,000 human lives were lost in the last 12 years during hazardous journeys to cross borders from impoverished regions of the world to the rich countries. This is an appalling legacy of the first decade of the 21st Century’s harsh immigration controls in the developed world. Human tragedies of course do not stop there as every single day we witness on our TV screens horrendous news of deaths, destruction and suffering of millions of refugees in war stricken regions of the world. With this in mind, we have been striving against many adversities to make some positive difference in our own country for migrants, refugees and their families.

POLICY AND LOBBYING WORK

JCWI has increasingly become one of the main organisations which provides alternative and progressive views on immigration, nationality and asylum law and policy of the UK. It will be noted from the policy and campaign section of this review that our decisions about what to focus on has been driven by the urgency of issues affecting migrants, refugees and their families, and the extent to which proposals engage human rights obligations and principles.

As reported last year, our policy and campaign work from the middle of 2012 concentrated mainly on the extremely restrictive family reunion immigration rules. More recently in 2013 our policy team worked tirelessly on the new Immigration Act 2014, during its passage through Parliament.

In addition to our briefing of Parliamentarians, in July 2014, we published a highly acclaimed 100 page report entitled—

“Harsh, Unjust, and Unnecessary: Report on the Impact of Adult Dependent Relative Rules on Families and Children”. This report was launched in a packed House Commons Committee room.

On the strength of our policy briefing and lobbying work we garnered support from a number of Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs and Peers including The Shadow Immigration Minister who gave commitment to review the Family Immigration Rules of 2012, if Labour forms the next Government.

CAMPAIGN WORK

Our experience shows that reactive and wholesale policy analysis and briefing work without the support of a strong campaign to influence public debate on the issues tends to achieve very limited success. Public anxiety about immigration in the midst of economic austere times is increasingly being exploited by both irresponsible media and politicians. All main Westminster political parties, except for a handful of MPs and Peers, have adopted a negative stance on immigration. It is therefore proving very difficult to have a nuanced and reasoned debate on immigration free from xenophobia.

As reported last year, we have been able to combine all our campaign work under the banner of MAX as planned. MAX enjoyed a very successful daylong conference at SOAS on 15 March 2014 attended by more than 150 delegates. We are pleased to report that to date 105 civil society groups, faith groups, trade unions, community groups and activists sponsor MAX and JCWI acts as the Secretariat of this movement.

We have also been invited to speak at numerous public meetings, conferences and seminars including TUC conferences. As a result of our lobbying of TUC its Annual Congress 2014 applauded MAX's work, particularly its work against the Immigration Act 2014. The TUC called upon the next Labour Government to repeal this divisive Act and urged all its affiliates to join and support MAX's work. We consider this a great endorsement of our campaign work in 2013/14.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS WORK:

JCWI remains the first port of call for media on immigration issues. On the strength of our proactive media work we have been inundated by both print and broadcast media demanding to provide alternative views on salient issues. From July 2013 to August 14 we gave 71 interviews and comments to media and responded to numerous media queries. We continue to disseminate prescriptive high quality information through our website to encourage and facilitate activism.

ADVICE AND CASEWORK

Our small but effective advice & casework team (comprised of 3 solicitors) undertake strategic and challenging legal work to benefit wider groups of people affected by the unfairness of British immigration control. Our policy and campaign work is enriched and informed by our diverse range of case work.

As planned we have restructured our policy and casework teams to work collaboratively under the leadership of Saira Grant, our Legal Policy Director. We have been joined by two new colleagues in the team, Nicola Burgess, the Supervising Solicitor and Alex Cooray, Advice and Caseworker who is also a solicitor. They have already made a significant difference in the team's work. I am confident that through collaborative efforts the legal and policy teams will improve our work significantly.

We also continue to run 2 telephone advice line one for UNISON members funded by the union and the other for irregular migrants funded by the Trust for London. We have recently received a small new grant from the Touchstone Trust to provide telephone advice to foreign national prisoners. These advice projects are functioning efficiently.

TRAINING

We have continued to provide legal training to practitioners and advisers in the community. This service remains a core area of our activities as it enables us to contribute towards improvement of legal advice and assistance in the community as well as to generate income for the organisation. Under our training programme from Oct 13 to

Sept 2014 we trained 715 practitioners and advisers in the community delivered 42 training courses including in-house courses over 89 days. Our specially devised courses are geared towards providing up-to-date information on legal changes in this rapidly changing field of law and practice.

PUBLICATIONS

As reported last year we are working to publish the new edition of the 'Immigration, Nationality and Refugee Law Handbook' which is an enormous task and is taking longer than expected to complete. We expect to publish this book in the beginning of 2015.

FINALLY

JCWI's strength lies in our diverse membership and we are grateful to all members (organisations and individuals) for their continued support. We are as always eager to increase our membership base to strengthen our realm of influence. Therefore, I take this opportunity to urge our members to continue their support by encouraging their friends and colleagues to join JCWI.

I am pleased to report that my colleagues have worked tirelessly throughout the year as a strong team to meet the new challenges of the year I am grateful to them for their dedication, hard work and achievements during the year. We are in the process of setting a range of demanding goals for the coming years and I am confident that we will work even harder to achieve our objectives. I am sorry to report that Guy Taylor, our Communications and Campaign Officer, is going to leave us after 4 years of dedicated service to take up a new assignment. I thank him for his support and hard work and wish him all the best.

Finally, I would like to thank our funders and donors for their generous financial support without which we would not have been able to face the enormity of our task in the last year. I am also indebted to our very active Executive Committee and Trustees of the Immigrants' Aid Trust for their unstinting support throughout the year.

Habib Rahman
Chief Executive

POLICY & CAMPAIGNS

The Government's declared intention to create a 'hostile environment' for irregular migrants has dominated the scene in the past year. It has been obvious to many that the hostility is not simply reserved for those without immigration status. The damaging nature of the Immigration Act has stirred people in many quarters to activity, Movement Against Xenophobia (MAX) is well placed to make that activity as effective as possible. MAX was formally launched in Parliament in October 2013 and has gone from strength to strength.

MOVEMENT AGAINST XENOPHOBIA

At every step of the Immigration Bill's progress through Parliament we issued briefings and suggested amendments for policy makers to refer to. They were very well received by the few in Westminster who opposed the Bill. Our regular meetings in Parliament continually met with success, with the House of Lords' first reading meeting attended by a good number of Bishops, Baronesses and Lords. Sadly, with no conviction to oppose the legislation from the Opposition the Bill received Royal Assent in May 2014, with just a handful of minor amendments.

However, our work continues and with the announcement in September of the landlord checks entering phase 1 from December 2014 in the West Midlands, MAX has created a monitoring mechanism to document discrimination and monitor the efficacy of the scheme. JCWI has been invited to be a stakeholder and give evidence to the panel that has been set up to monitor the scheme and report back by May 2015. JCWI will do this as the secretariat for MAX. Depending on the findings and the next Government the scheme may be rolled out nationwide. We will work with our partner organisations to ensure that this does not happen or at the very least ensure there are adequate safeguards in place.

On 15 March 2014 we held the inaugural conference of MAX, a very successful one day event held at SOAS. There were 2 plenary sessions and nine workshops, which were very well

received. We elected a steering committee of 19 people at the end of the conference. They meet four times a year to decide the general direction of MAX, with working groups to carry out more focussed work.

At the first steering committee of MAX it was agreed there would be three main areas of work prioritised: Impacts of the Immigration Act, Media Coverage and Elections. Working Groups have been established for each of these areas.

We held a public meeting entitled Stop Scapegoating Immigrants shortly before the European Elections on 19 May 2014, we took our spectacular Stop Blaming Immigrants banner on two big demonstrations over the summer, and attracted a lot of interest. We have distributed over a third of the 100,000 leaflets kindly printed for us by PCS Union.

Other initiatives planned with MAX include; rapid rebuttal of press lies and myths, media training for activists and migrants, a commission on reporting immigration in the UK's media, work alongside other organisations monitoring the impacts of health provisions in the immigration Act and a poster campaign in the run up to the General Election.

There are now 105 organisations formally supporting MAX, including most recently the PCS Union and the TUC. With such fantastic support we feel both confident and a heavy responsibility on our shoulders. Our attention now turns to

securing the necessary finance to ensure that we have the resources to meet the expectations that rest upon us. We are grateful to GMB Holborn, PCS Union, Steve Green, Lush and Globalise Resistance for financial support in the early days of the campaign.

DIVIDED FAMILIES CAMPAIGN

Of primary significance is again the MM & Ors Case which challenged the £18,600 income threshold required before a spouse can be allowed to come to the UK. We reported on this in the last annual review and the casework department have expanded on the case. As a result of the Court of Appeal's decision there will be an appeal to the Supreme Court and JCWI will be intervening in that appeal. In the meantime the Home Office has refused all those cases it had pending awaiting the outcome of the Court of Appeal. It has meant that thousands of families affected by the family migration rules have been confronted with even more time apart. Children are the innocent victims being separated from their parents. The Office of Children's Commissioner has undertaken a review of these rules with a view to assessing the impact on children. JCWI has been asked to sit on the reference group advising on the report and will be contributing to the final report.

We have continued our close partnership with Migrants' Rights Network and Britcits in the Divided Families Campaign. Again we held a successful day of speaking out in Westminster on 9 July to mark the second anniversary of the implementation of the Family Migration Rules. Local media outlets have continued to give good positive coverage of those affected by the Rules, but there has been scant sympathetic coverage nationally. We have continued to brief and argue against the rules at every given opportunity.

This year we have seen more affected people take a lead in the campaign, which is excellent news, there are thriving forums on Surinder Singh and more generally the family rules on social media and those groups are now organising campaigns and protests against the rules, a development that JCWI fully supports. We are frequently contacted by individuals affected and provide advice and training for individuals campaigning for family unity.

ADULT DEPENDENT RELATIVES

This year saw our policy and campaigning work develop significantly in the area of Adult Dependent Relatives. Having gratefully received funding from the Strategic Legal Fund to research the impact on migrant children of separation from their grandparents and the impact on the family unit as a whole, we spent six months interviewing, briefing and collecting data through a series of meetings across the country and questionnaires followed by interviews. We were ably assisted by Britcits who played an important role in reaching out to those affected by the rules. The project culminated in a detailed 94 page report which

included research from child psychologists at the Tavistock Centre in London and concluded that the ADR rules, were harsh, unjust and unnecessary and negatively impacted on children especially those from a migrant background. The report was launched in Parliament on 9 July 2014 to a packed meeting in one of the committee rooms and has met with high acclaim.

We were particularly encouraged to hear an undertaking from Shadow Immigration minister David Hanson at our report launch that he will be conducting a review of the Family Migration Rules should he be Immigration Minister after the 2015 General Election. This is the best we have heard from Labour on the issue to date.

Subsequent to the report launch we are working on getting the issue debated once more in Parliament and are taking legal cases forward. The policy and casework department have worked closely together in order to challenge the lawfulness of the rules themselves and we hope to do so by way of judicial review.

As a result of the report we are working closely with the British Medical Association in order to prepare a shorter report on the impact of the ADR rules on doctors. Many of our doctors are from non EU countries and wish to be able to look after their parent(s) in their old age but are unable to do so and as a result many are considering leaving Britain. This is a significant loss for the NHS and the country. We aim to use the data and financial statistics we gather in collaboration with the BMA to make both an economic and social argument for repealing these rules.

IRREGULAR MIGRANTS CAMPAIGN

We were delighted to hear of the extended and increased funding for our work on irregular migrants. With a new solicitor joining JCWI dedicated to this work we are now in a position to draw together detailed and solid data of those who approach us for help. We will also be conducting far more outreach work on the issue, and expect this campaign to play a far more prominent part of JCWI's work in the coming year.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top left: Dr Tommy Tomescu addresses the MAX public meeting "Stop Scapegoating Immigrants" shortly before the EU Elections.

Top right: JCWI Chief Exec Habib Rahman addresses a protest at the Home Office calling for justice for Rubel Ahmed, a young Bengali man who died at Morton Hall IRC.

Middle: Protesters calling for justice for Rubel Ahmed at the Home Office.

Bottom left: People affected by the family immigration rules gather at the beginning of the MM case outside the Royal Courts of Justice.

Bottom right: Valentines Day protest of the Divided Families Campaign at St Paul's Cathedral.



CASEWORK

TESTING TIMES: HOSTILITY, DISCRIMINATION AND DIVISION

It has been a year of change, both within JCWI and in this ever more divisive area of law. In April 2014 Nicola Burgess, a Solicitor with extensive experience in immigration and asylum became the new full time supervising solicitor. We were then joined by Alex Cooray in September 2014 as a part time Solicitor. Alex's role is funded by Trust for London. He is manning our Irregular Migrant Helpline which is receiving an increasing number of calls per week. This is a result of the changes to Legal Aid from April 2013 which continue to heavily impact on our clients and due to the Conservative led government's creation of a hostile environment for immigrants. Richenda Buxton continues to work part-time in the casework department.

IMMIGRATION ACT

On the 14 May 2014 the Immigration Act received Royal Assent. At the time of writing only limited provisions have come in to force. The most notable and indeed worrying changes relate to appeal rights, access to: housing and the NHS, the ability to open a bank account and obtain a driving licence. The aim is to create hostility and division which will only escalate in the run up to the election.

LEGAL AID

On a more positive note the Secretary of State's proposed further damming changes to Legal Aid were struck down in a powerful judgment from the Administrative Court. Lord Justice Moses found that the **residence test** (which would have limited access to justice to those not lawfully resident in the United Kingdom for over 12 months) was discriminatory. This was warmly welcomed by JCWI who like many other practitioners are still coming to terms with the changes which came in to force in April 2014, where payment in judicial review claims will only be made by the Legal Aid Agency if permission is granted. As the majority of our cases are successful and the Secretary of State inevitably pays our costs it is difficult to see how this will make savings to the public purse. This could be better achieved by improving the decision-making process. We have noted an increase in responses to pre-action protocol letters, unfortunately normally maintaining the decision on the same flawed basis and so not preventing the need for litigation.

MM V SSHD

The Court of Appeal provided a less welcome decision in the eagerly awaited case of **MM v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2014] EWCA Civ 985**. This dealt with the minimum income amount for settled sponsors (and refugees) wishing to bring their non EEA spouses to the UK. Following an earlier positive judgment by Blake J and the wealth of evidence to show that large swathes of individuals on the basis of their nationality and sex would be unable to meet the threshold of £18,600 the Court of Appeal found that it was nevertheless lawful. To put this figure in context, of the 422 occupations listed in the 2011 UK Earnings Index, only 301 of them were above the £18,600 threshold. As families continue to be divided, the challenge goes on and it is hoped that JCWI will intervene in the Supreme Court.

Despite the changing legal landscape we confirm our commitment to Article 8 ECHR cases. We have successfully challenged the "no recourse to public funds" restriction in the new 30-month term of Limited Leave. We have been successful in the appeal of the wife and child of a Sudanese (now British) client who could not meet the financial threshold. We continue to act for and achieve good results for foreign nationals working in the care sector. These people no longer qualify for visas under Tier 2 and often have difficulty extending their stay or applying for settlement. We have obtained permission to bring Judicial Review proceedings in 2 cases in which dependants were not granted leave to remain in line with their parents/partner under the "Legacy" Programme. We are also appealing to the Court of Appeal on the issue of the rights of family members of family members under the European Regulations, which is an area in which the law needs to be clarified.

We continue to run an advice line for members of Unison. This is a good source of clients for JCWI.

ADULT DEPENDENT RELATIVES RULES (ADR)

Following the success of JCWI's policy work on ADR, the casework team have dealt with an increasing number of applications and challenges. We have recently had our first successful appeal before the First Tier which was allowed under the rules. This case was supported by strong medical evidence and circumstances which showed the care required by this appellant was simply not available in her

home country. Rather unsurprisingly the Secretary of State has applied for permission to appeal. JCWI continue to view the rule as unlawful and are in the process of applying for judicial review in a different case.

DEPORTATION AND DETENTION

JCWI continue to run a dedicated advice line for Foreign National Prisoners (FNP), yet another further marginalised section of society. Again there has been an increase in calls from detainees and their family members due to their inability to access Legal Aid. They will be further affected by provisions of the Immigration Act as to access to bail and the likelihood of their removal prior to the exercise of their appeal. How this will work in practice when such large number of detainees are simply irremovable due to a lack of documentation or safety in their own country it is difficult to tell. It is only likely to increase the number of judicial review claims and so the burden on the courts.

This inability to remove coupled with a presumption in favour of detention for FNPs has given rise to ever more unlawful detention claims. JCWI are currently acting for an extremely vulnerable FNP. Extensive medical evidence showed that she was unsuitable for immigration detention as she posed a high suicide risk. Nevertheless, she was detained under immigration powers at the end of her sentence, still within the prison estate. JCWI secured her release by way of High Court bail, order by Singh J. Her claim for unlawful detention is ongoing as is her appeal against deportation. She has strong grounds to resist deportation under both Articles 3 and 8 ECHR. The latter, of course, being ever increasingly narrowed and the Strasbourg jurisprudence chipped away.

ASYLUM

JCWI have also seen an increased number of initial asylum applicants this year. A large proportion have been recognised as refugees at first instance by the Secretary of State. This includes a Ugandan national who is also a victim of trafficking. Despite being recognised as a refugee the Secretary of State has provided her with a negative conclusive grounds decision in respect of her trafficking claim. This is subject to an ongoing challenge and is a good example of the poor decision making which is still endemic within the Home Office.

She is however lucky to have received a decision as there are increasing delays between the screening and substantive asylum interviews. It is now a common occurrence to have to wait for in excess of 1 year. This perpetuates the uncertainty and limbo that so many asylum seekers face. There continue to be delays at the appeal stage with many having to wait on average 7-8 months for their appeal hearing before the First Tier. JCWI have routinely sought and been granted expedition by the Tribunal in appropriate cases. We also continue to enjoy a high success rate with determinations. Recent examples are a Kyrgyzstan national, an Iranian Kurd and a gay Libyan whose asylum appeals were all allowed.

THE FUTURE

These are testing times, for if we are not fighting the Home Office, it is the Legal Aid Agency, and on occasion the Tribunals and courts. However, now more than ever it is important that the battle continues so that those who truly need our help continue to have access to justice, and so that discrimination and division do not win out. JCWI are in the process of restructuring our private fees so that those whose cases are no longer in scope but cannot afford to pay are not denied a voice.



3,675
OUR TOTAL NUMBER
OF FOLLOWERS ON
twitter



JCWI BLOG ENJOYS
2,300 visitors
— PER MONTH —
UP FROM 2,200 THIS TIME LAST YEAR

WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD
our first successful

ADULT DEPENDENT RELATIVES APPEAL BEFORE THE FIRST TIER



32

NUMBER OF
INTERVIEWS ON NATIONAL
TELEVISION AND RADIO



MAX HAD A LETTER PUBLISHED
IN THE TIMES ON 4TH OF JUNE



422 OCCUPATIONS LISTED IN
THE 2011 UK EARNINGS INDEX
—
ONLY 301 OF THEM WERE ABOVE
THE £18,600 THRESHOLD



WE SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED THE “NO RECOURSE
TO PUBLIC FUNDS” RESTRICTION IN THE NEW 30-MONTH
TERM OF LIMITED LEAVE



108 ORGANISATIONS SUPPORT MAX, THE MOVEMENT AGAINST XENOPHOBIA

COMMUNI- CATIONS

We continue to represent the pro-immigrant voice and to ensure that media coverage is balanced and fair and factual. Since our last AGM in November 2013 we have undertaken 32 interviews on national television and radio (BBC, Sky, Channel 4 and ethnic language channels) covering topics as diverse as 'sham' marriages, European Immigration, the Immigration Act and its impact and the Tilbury docks disaster during which a man died as asylum seekers travelled from Afghanistan in a sealed cargo container.

We have also been quoted in several newspapers and on BBC news-on-line. MAX had a letter published in the Times on 4 June commenting on UKIPs gain in the European election.

Reported elsewhere in this Review was the 94 page report on Adult Dependent Relatives which was extremely well received by affected people, Parliamentarians and public alike.

BLOGS

For another year we have experienced a steady growth in the readership of our website. The Blog now has a monthly readership of around 2300. We continue to write regular blogs on topical issues and publish them on our website. These blogs aim to comment and challenge. We also continue to provide a weekly media round up for our members.

In the world of social media, we have enjoyed an influx of followers on Twitter with over 3,500 now receiving our tweets.

SPEAKING OUT

We receive invitations to speak at meetings and conferences on a regular basis and have been actively doing

so again this year. Our contribution ranges from providing detailed information on current legal provisions such as the Immigration Act, to discussing Government policy and the rise of UKIP.

We have started interacting more with students and recently have spoken at two colleges, the National Union of Students annual conference and their International Students Conference. In the next year we aim to work more with young people and students to ensure they are not indoctrinated by unsubstantiated anti-immigrant rhetoric.

MEDIA ROUND UP

We have been providing members with an almost weekly round-up of media coverage of immigration stories. Despite conveying inevitably negative news to your inboxes, this service has proven very popular given the feedback we have received.

MAX NETWORK

We send regular updates of news and events to the signatory organisations of MAX. Sending these updates to the 108 organisations involved helps to create a more cohesive and coordinated network of progressive groups concerned with the nature of immigration debate in the UK.

TRAINING

JCWI courses have retained their popularity throughout the years and continue to attract large audiences from the voluntary as well as the commercial sectors.

We incessantly endeavour to deliver high quality trainings through our very experienced and knowledgeable trainers and our course material updated to the latest changes. Our good work is praised in the affirmative feedback we receive from the delegates attending our courses.

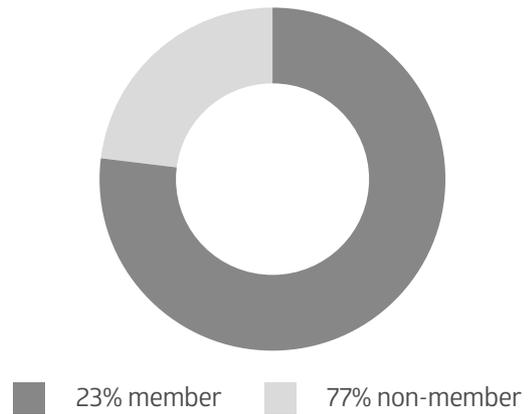
In addition to our OISC level of competence courses, which continue to maintain their popularity, we had a positive reaction to our OISC non-core knowledge courses on "Professional Conduct & Ethics" and "Practice Management" which were introduced last year. An encouraging result was also noticeable on our "Tiers 1+2 +5" courses which over the years have shown a persistent high attendance level. Further, an extra basic Point Based System course which was added this year in response to our delegates' requests to cater for beginner level proved successful, too.

We also had a significant result with the new course on "Adult Dependent Relatives". The course was devised to provide a full understanding of the new rules in place since 2012 for the settlement of parents and grandparents. It aimed to complement our ADR campaign and to further inform immigration advisors on the restrictive rules as well as to enable them to represent clients with more certainty. The course was well attended and the comments very positive and supportive of JCWI work.

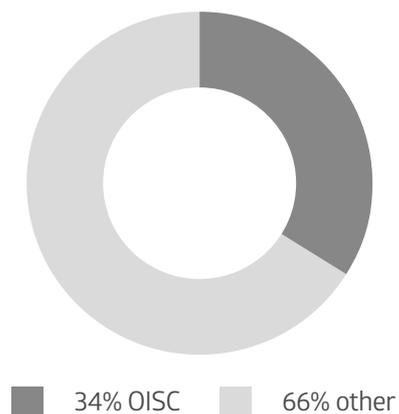
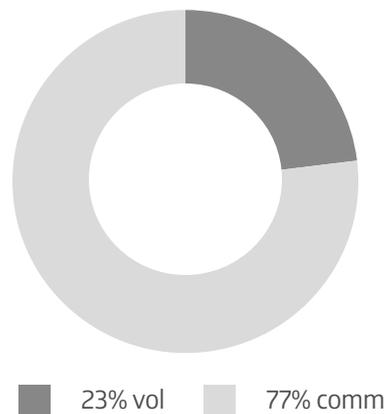
In June, as a timely response to the introduction of the New Immigration Act 2014 we offered a course which was attended by a very large audience and received very good comments. An update of the same course is due to take place this October.

In the period between Oct 2013 and Sept 2014 we have delivered through our main training programme and in-house courses 42 training courses over 89 days to a total number of 715 ((443 (standard courses) + 272 (in house)) participants.

**NO OF ATTENDEES
OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2014**



**% VOLUNTARY & COMMERCIAL
OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2014**



JCWI would like to thank all our trainers for their sustained support and commitment to the delivery of high quality training. We would also like to thank the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit for their continued support.

Our courses as well as our trainers continue to receive high praises from the participants for their quality and their interactive nature.

TRAINEE'S FEEDBACK

"It was another excellent day. It is so good being taught by people currently in practice who have such extensive knowledge of the rules and practice within the rules plus the wide range of people attending the training day which means you get to look at the issues in the round."

— Tier 2

"Excellent and well prepared and presented by both trainers, thoroughly recommend it!"

— Tier 2

"The trainer beamed with knowledge of relevant law of appeals. He interacted actively with us participants. He delivered confidently and called for questions. He could be interrupted at any point. He reserved questions and faithfully returned to it with full satisfaction. I will return to take courses again!"

— The Law of Appeals

"Good/Excellent course. Trainer was able to engage participants in relevant and interesting discussion."

— The Law of Appeals

"Very good-managed to deal with a lot of complex information in a clear + interesting way."

— OISDC L1

"Amazingly large amount of material disseminated very well. I have had many years of this sort of training in the past- none was this well presented or delivered. Brilliant."

— OISC L2

"Trainer is a remarkable teacher and has great expertise in immigration law. The course was very helpful; and in the 2-days period a wide range of topics were covered in sufficient details."

— OISDC L1

"Very good course – will recommend this to my colleagues!"

— Professional Conduct and Ethics

"The trainer's delivery was clear and fluid. The citations of the relevant law were exacts. The trainer gave historical and current examples that participants could relate to."

— Settlement Provisions

"I enjoyed the course and environment. Will come again."

— OISC 2 Refresher and Update

TREASURER'S REPORT 2014

It's with great pleasure I present JCWI's audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2014. I assumed the Treasurer's responsibility from Mr Desai who retired at the last AGM after many years of dedicated service to JCWI. I thank him for his long voluntary service to JCWI and wish him a very happy and enjoyable retirement.

In spite of the financial challenges of the year, the organisation has continued to deliver its important work in the interest of migrants and refugees. It will be noted from the accounts that through careful management of the organisation's finance there was a small surplus of £1350 at the end of the year.

JCWI continues to rely on wide-ranging charitable income sources as it does not accept central government funding to preserve its independence and therefore we will strive to increase funding from these sources. The organisation is more and more dependent on its self-generated income streams: training delivery, advice and casework, sale of publications and membership. I am pleased to report that the Executive and staff are continually focusing on the development of these self-generated income streams so that we can sustain our services without being too reliant on funding from external sources.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the staff and management for their hard work and my Fellow Officers, Members of the Board and the Trustees of The Immigrants' Aid Trust for their support throughout the year. I am also sincerely grateful to the funders and donors for their generous financial support, without which the organisation would not be able to continue its valuable work.

Belaynesh Hailemariam
Treasurer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JCWI depends on the financial support of our major funders. The following funders have given us the means to carry out our work in the previous year, we are grateful for such valuable support:

Hilden Charitable Fund

Immigrants' Aid Trust

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Methodist Church

Strategic Legal Fund (funded by Trust for London & Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)

Touchstone Trust

Trust for London

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS SINCE JANUARY 2014



- Unwaged (students & pensioners): 3
- Individuals: 39
- Practising Lawyers L5: 13
- Practising Lawyers O5: 4
- Voluntary Orgs Income L £300k: 5
- Voluntary Orgs Income £1m income: 22
- Commercial Orgs turnover L £300k: 22
- Commercial Orgs turnover 0 £300k: 2
- Commercial Orgs £1m turnover: 3

We would like to say thank you to all our existing members for their support of JCWI. We greatly appreciate it and look forward to your continued support in 2015 onwards.

The beginning of 2014 to date has seen membership numbers drop, factors such as the economic climate and financial restraints due to cuts in legal aid have both played a part preventing some members from renewing.

Members of JCWI will:

- Receive a weekly media round up to keep abreast of what is being said and discussed on the issue of immigration
- Receive regular blogs and updates on topical issues
- Receive details of our on-going campaigns and ways they can get involved
- Qualify for a discount on all training courses and advance mailing of training manual
- 25% discount on our industry leading Immigration, Nationality and Refugee Law Handbook, including the new forthcoming edition out soon
- Be sent invitations to selected conferences and events including JCWI's AGM and seminar
- Know that their support is making the vital work of JCWI possible.

WEBSITE UPGRADE

Our website has recently undergone an upgrade. There is now a facility to pay for membership by online direct debit. This should serve to make taking out membership easier and to make renewal automatic. Members will also find booking training simpler and there is now a smoother way of applying members' discounts. Users will also notice a 'donate' button on our home page.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, STAFF AND TRUSTEES

JCWI is a charity (number 1117513) and a company limited by guarantee (company number 2700424).

Executive Committee

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
EC Members

Minoo Jalali
Sham Qayyum
Belaynesh Hailemariam
Nasim Ahmed, Susan Cueva, Eric Fripp,
Melaku Getachew, Daniel Wilsher

Vice President
Dilbagh Chana MBE

The Immigrants Aid Trust
(IAT)
IAT is a charity and a company limited by guarantee,
formed in 1971 to support the charitable work of JCWI
(registered charity number 262860, company no 6548809).

IAT Trustees
Alison Stanley (chair), Eric Fripp, Belayeth Hussain,
Naresh Kumar JP, Minoo Jalali, Sonali Naik

Staff

Chief Executive
Legal & Policy Director
Supervising Solicitor
Solicitor
Solicitor
Communications &
Campaigns
Training
Office Administrator
Legal Secretary
IT Consultant
Finance Consultant

Habib Rahman
Saira Grant
Nicola Burgess
Richenda Buxton
Alex Cooray
Guy Taylor

Lucia Vanzo
Tony Philip
Charlotte Peel
Louis Hlomador
Dilip Gudka

Trainers

Navtej Singh Ahluwalia, Kahiye Alim, Rimmy Bedi,
Julian Bild, Azhar Chohan, Nicky Dean, Clement Kulang,
Kate Lewis, Tony Gomez, Saira Grant, Taffy Nyawanza,
Sadat Sayeed

Interns & Volunteers

Nikhil Advani, Nandini Archer, Kate Barnekow, Rachel
Benson, Amanda Bottomley, Katharine Gittins, Idina Glynn,
Kevin Hempstead, Maye Henning, Cherreem Lindsay,
Lydia Makonnen, Kai Ming Man, Maria Oshodi, Subashini
Sithamparanathan, Charlotte Thomsen, Jonathan Wong



JCWI
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020 7251 8708

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
is a registered charity (number: 1117513).

ABOUT JCWI

JCWI was established in 1967 to provide immediate and direct support to immigrants and to respond to the injustice and unfairness of UK immigration controls. Since its inception the organisation has been instrumental in creating a partnership amongst voluntary and other service providers and acting as a vital resource to them.

JCWI is a leading independent voluntary organisation providing legal advice and representation to individuals, training and resources to others working in the field of immigration law, producing excellent written materials, both printed and online, and plays a leading role in striving for a better deal for immigrants in today's society.

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