

# The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

## Refugee Youth Service UK CIC

#CGQKC88QFH submitted on 26 May 2023

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### **1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us**

RYS is seeking funds for its new No Children in Hotels project, which supports age-disputed unaccompanied children to leave adult-only accommodations, enter the appropriate child care systems and access their rights as children. The project will identify age-disputed children, visiting them to monitor their safety and well-being, inform them of their rights, provide child friendly activities, and make referrals to local authorities for an age assessment, or to pro-bono lawyers where this is denied.

### **1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative**

Over the past seven years, RYS has supported thousands of unaccompanied children and young people along their journey, many of whom are now in the UK. We now want to support those children who are experiencing the injustice of a broken system that wrongly judges them as adults, and as a result denies access to family life, education, and the right to remain in the UK.

Note: Data collected by the Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium (RMCC, 2021) found that three-quarters of the 450 young people living in adult accommodation centres that had been referred to several children's services around the country, were found to be children following a detailed age assessment. In fact, in 2020, 853 cases were age-disputed out of a total of 2,773 applications from children, whereas in 2021, 2,517 cases were age-disputed out of a total of 3,762 applications.

Our aim is to help as many children as possible leave adult hotels as possible; to make sure that each and every one of them knows their rights, is referred to local authorities, and is consequently taken into care. Where denied, we will facilitate pro-bono legal support. Throughout this process we will provide emotional support and respite, through regular welfare checks and the delivery of child friendly activities. Via the building of relationships with children we will be able to monitor their well-being and be able to raise the alarm when mental health deteriorates.

More specifically the project has three core outcomes:

#### Access to Rights

RYS will identify and meet children, and provide them with information on their rights. We will receive referrals from other organisations as well as make regular visits to the adult hotels where the children reside. The Welfare Officer will have the duty to explain the children's entitlements and the legal procedures for them to be adequately age-assessed and to enter into the child protection system. Consequently, they will refer the child to the appropriate local authority responsible for removing the child from the hotel, and transferring them to suitable accommodation in order to start the age-assessment process. Where refused, we will refer the child to a pro-bono lawyer and continue supporting them until their rights have been respected.

#### Improved Mental Health

The Welfare Officer, supported by volunteers, will be in charge of planning and delivering activities for children in spaces away from hotel accommodations. The activities will give an opportunity to take respite, relax and have fun with other children. Children will start building friendships with each other; which will aid in the development of supportive networks. Children will also be connected with other local support services and activities where available. The RYS team will monitor children's well-being

and mental health and will promptly act on any concerns that may arise.

### Supporting Advocacy Work & Systems Change

The RYS team will gather quantitative and qualitative data on the living conditions of hotels, including safeguarding concerns, and the impact of these conditions on children's mental health. This information will be shared with a network of partner organisations who are also working on this issue, and be used to advocate for the end of housing children in adult accommodation structures.

The approach is innovative because it provides a mobile unit that can respond to the needs of children across a whole county. The project is to be launched in Berkshire but will also support children in neighbouring London boroughs. Partner organisations will be able to request that we visit the children that are outside of their geographical scope. Over the duration of a year, RYS will support over 100 children via these interventions.

### 1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

E - Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

#### 1.3e Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

The project focuses solely on supporting forcibly displaced children that have arrived alone in the UK.

### 1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

### 1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

#### 1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

RYS is highly proactive in seeking new funding opportunities and has a track record of securing multi-year grants for its work with displaced children and young people. RYS will continue to seek funding to maintain and expand this work for as long as it is needed.

### 1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

The project will be monitored and evaluated using the Lamplight Database Online case management system, which provides comprehensive tracking and analysis capabilities. This platform allows for real-time data entry and secure collaboration among team members, facilitating streamlined information sharing. Children's case files can be updated with progress on their journeys towards accessing their rights, whilst their wellbeing can also be tracked. Lamplight's robust reporting features produce individual and aggregated impact data.

## 2.1 Expenditure

| EXPENDITURE ITEM   | AMOUNT  | NOTES   |
|--|---------|---|
| 8 seater vehicle   | £4,000  | Secured   |
| Vehicle Insurance & Road Tax   | £1,300  | Secured   |
| Vehicle MOT & Repairs  | £500    | Secured   |
| Vehicle Fuel & Rail Transport  | £6,000  | Secured   |
| Personnel: Welfare Officer (3 days per week)   | £20,000 | Secured   |
| Personnel: Session Workers with Lived Experience (3 hours per session, 2 times per week, £16 per hour) | £4,608  | Unsecured. Funding is sought to hire people with lived experience of forced displacement to support our sessions with age-disputed children. The session workers will also support with |

|                             |         |   |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|
|                             |         | interpretation and cultural mediation.<br>Job description available on request. |
| Recreational Activity Costs | £1,200  | Secured   |
| TOTALS                      | £37,608 |   |

## 2.2 Income

| INCOME SOURCE       | TARGET AMOUNT | AMOUNT RAISED | NOTES |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| The Blaggrave Trust | £33,000       | £33,000       |       |
|                     | £0            | £0            |       |
| TOTALS              | £33,000       | £33,000       |       |

## 2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£4,608

## 2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

## 2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£162,297

## 2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

## 2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Refugee Youth Service UK CIC  
45425660  
309950

## 3.1 Your name

Jonathan Willis

## 3.2 Your contact telephone number

07533659541

## 3.3 Your position within the organisation

CEO

## 3.4 Your email address

[jonny@refugeeyouthservice.org](mailto:jonny@refugeeyouthservice.org)

## 3.5 Organisation name

Refugee Youth Service UK CIC

## 3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

Community Interest Company

## 3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

Refugee Youth Service supports displaced unaccompanied children and young people to re-start and rebuild their lives where they are, or safely and legally reach an alternative destination that is in their better interests. RYS was created in 2015 in the camp settlement in Calais, France, formerly known as "The Jungle" and has since delivered work in Italy, Greece, and the UK.

**3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation**

25 Leigh Road  
Highfield  
Southampton  
SO17 1EF

**3.9 UK telephone number**

+44 7312 921393

**3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)**

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**3.11 Year established**

Established under Prism the Gift Fund in 2017, and as an independent CIC in 2022.

**3.12 Website (if applicable)**

<http://www.refugeeyouthservice.org>

**3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)**

[https://twitter.com/RYS\\_org](https://twitter.com/RYS_org)

<https://www.instagram.com/refugeeyouthservice/>

<https://www.facebook.com/refugeeyouthservice>

**4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

fundsforngos.org