



Community Resettlement



What is Hibiscus Initiatives?



Hibiscus Initiatives provides support to foreign national women and men in the UK. Our work ranges from those who are in prison, immigration detention, requiring support in the community after leaving prison or detention and to those who have been victims of trafficking.

The charity's work falls within four broad categories:

- Welfare and Advocacy
- International Resettlement
- Combating Trafficking
- Volunteering and Community Resettlement

We provide representation, advice and information on these issues to thousands of people every year.

Community Resettlement

Many of the women who seek our support are not clear about their entitlements. Their immigration status may be uncertain or they find it difficult to make a new start after release from prison. The overall aim of this project is to address the inequalities that women ex-offenders face on a daily basis, sometimes experiencing the multiple setbacks of discrimination and stigmatisation as a consequence of having a criminal record and living in abject poverty. It has also been proven that help with rehabilitation reduces the risk of reoffending.

Each individual circumstance is assessed in order to discover how best we can help our clients, this includes:

- Determining legal and immigration status and subsequently providing access to legal advocacy
- Establishing entitlements on housing and benefits
- Exploring employment and training opportunities
- Researching support options for women who have been abused/involved in sex trade
- Examining possibilities of re-establishing family links and exploring child care options

Our support ranges from food, clothing and toiletries to assistance with immigration claims to help with preparing CVs.

We liaise with many different agencies in order to facilitate our clients' community resettlement including:

- Social services
- Local housing offices
- Local MPs
- Solicitor firms
- The police and court services
- Our volunteers who can provide translation or simply a listening ear

The Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is a safe and welcoming place for women who want to improve their employability skills, build their confidence, improve their English language skills, learn about volunteering, spend some time in the company of other women and much more. The Resource Centre is available to women who have been through the Criminal Justice System, are from migrant and minority communities and for those who are experiencing restrictions whilst they are waiting for the Home Office to decide on their immigration status. The Resource Centre is a partnership between Hibiscus Initiatives and Working Links.



Hibiscus Initiatives is at the Resource Centre Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

Hibiscus' Resource Centre offers the following services:

Tuesday	10:30am to 12:30pm	Drop-in advice and information sessions	Every week
Tuesday	12:30pm to 1:00pm	Lunch	
Tuesday	1:00pm to 3:30pm	Employability skills: CV writing, interview skills, volunteering, dressing for job interviews, online job search	3 week course
Friday	10:30am to 12:30pm 1:30pm to 3:30pm	IT class IT class	6 week course
Friday	12:30pm to 1:30pm	Lunch	
Friday	10:30am to 12:30pm	Literacy class	every week for 6 months
Friday	1:30pm to 3:30pm	Group work	every week for 6 months

- The aim of our drop-in sessions is to give the client an opportunity to talk to our community support worker on a one-to-one basis and discuss what their needs are. We can provide information on, for example, obtaining National Insurance Numbers, registering with

a GP, completing applications or explaining the content of official communications.

- Our IT classes are a six-week course for clients who are complete beginners and also for those who have some experience of using a computer.
- The literacy classes are aimed at clients from the Roma community who would like to improve their knowledge of the English language and gain a better understanding of life in the UK. The classes take place once a week over a six month period.
- Employability skills is a three week course on a range of subjects which will be adapted to clients' needs and will include: CV writing, interview skills, volunteering to find out what you may be interested in doing, online job search. We also invite external organisations to deliver specific sessions.
- Group work takes place once a month and will give clients the opportunity to discuss subjects in the safety of the group. Topics include amongst others health and wellbeing and are decided by those who attend.

Asylum Seekers

If in the process of seeking asylum, Hibiscus can help to obtain the support to which asylum seekers are entitled. This may include finding NASS accommodation while applications are processed. Many of our clients are uncertain about their entitlements as asylum seekers and the process can be lengthy and difficult to understand but our objective is to make the process comprehensible and to help overcome obstacles where possible.

Contact us

If you would like to know more about Hibiscus Initiatives, receive support or know a friend or family member who could do with our assistance, please contact:

Community Resettlement

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[Twitter.com/HibiscusCharity](https://twitter.com/HibiscusCharity)

FPWP Hibiscus was renamed Hibiscus Initiatives in September 2013.
Hibiscus Initiatives is a registered charity no. 1104094, and a company limited
by guarantee, registered in England no. 4533442.

Registered office:
Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA, United Kingdom.

