



Volunteering



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.

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The Volunteering and Befriending Programme is integral to enhancing the experience of our clients in prison. Many of the women who seek our support do not have family, friends or any other kind of support system in the UK. Our nationally accredited (ASP) volunteer befriending programme endeavours to lessen the isolation and distress that these women may experience.

The Volunteering and befriending Programme goes hand in hand with our community resettlement work. Volunteers have worked on our community based projects including assisting in providing IT and ESOL courses, accompanying newly released women to appointments in the community and assisting in the organisation of activities such as visits to museums and arts events. Our volunteers come from a range of cultural and educational backgrounds.



What is Befriending?

Befriending is a one to one voluntary relationship in which the befriender and the befriended receive a mutual positive experience from the time spent together. This experience includes one to one meetings and letter writing.

Women who have been befriended in prison and in the community are:

- Supported during a difficult time in their lives
- Enabled to express their feelings and emotions in their own language
- Improving their confidence and self-esteem
- Encouraged to plan for the future
- Provided with a vital link to the outside world

Who are the Befrienders?

Anyone can become a befriender. We aim to find women of all ages, with a wide variety of life experiences and a range of backgrounds. We offer training, monthly support meetings and travel expenses.

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:

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