



Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP
Member of Parliament for Islington North

Message of Support from Jeremy Corbyn MP

I have been a patron of the Refugee Therapy Centre since it was first established back in 1999, in response to the need of asylum seekers and refugees for therapeutic support. Aida Alayarian and Josephine Cline, the original founders of the Centre, understood the needs of the people they set out to help due to their own personal experiences.

The Centre has helped many people across all ages by providing support via psychotherapy, associated treatments, community development projects and mentoring projects. When arriving in a new country such as the UK, asylum seekers not only have to deal with the personal trauma they have due to experiences of violence and persecution from which they have fled in their country of origin, but they also have to adapt to a new culture and way of life. All of these services offered by the Refugee Therapy Centre contributed to helping the people they worked with be able to overcome their trauma and successfully integrate into their new community.

I have always been inspired by the understanding and empathic approach of the Refugee Therapy Centre and have been proud to be a patron for the work that they have delivered over so many years. However, we are living in very challenging times, whereby the policies of austerity have resulted in many charities facing financial difficulties. Unfortunately, the Refugee Therapy Centre has not been immune from these financial constraints and has had to make the difficult decision to temporarily close the operational aspect of its work to eliminate any future risks while continuing to support clients already in therapy.

I recently met with Aida Alayarian, a trustee, and I am pleased and inspired by her determination to seize this moment as an opportunity to reflect and to develop a new strategic operational and financial plan that will enable the service to reopen again at full capacity. I feel confident that under her leadership the Refugee Therapy Centre will survive and be able to continue its much needed, essential work

Through this exciting period of change, the Centre is currently looking to recruit a number of new Trustees. They are particularly looking for individuals with an understanding or passion for the issues their clients experience as well as having expertise in finance and funding. I would encourage people to contact the centre to discuss their suitability for the roles with Aida Alayarian. It is important to stress that through Aida's commitment to the work, the Centre owns the wonderful building where it is based and this in itself provides a secure grounding and opportunity from which to grow the service.

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