

2025/2026

# Refugee Family Reunification Trust Newsletter



Refugee Family Reunification Trust

## Over Three Million Dollars Raised for Refugees!

Since the Trust was established in 2001, with your support and generosity, we have raised more than \$3,000,000 to help refugees bring their loved ones to New Zealand. This is a remarkable achievement given that not a single dollar of donations has been used to generate this amount. To every one of our donors, thank you. You are directly responsible for the successful reunification of so many refugee families.

Soo-Jin Rhee, the UNHCR Regional Representative for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, has acknowledged the work of the Trust in helping bring refugee families back together:

*“UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, truly values the longstanding and collaborative relationship we’ve built with the Trust over the years.*

*Since its inception in 2001, the Trust has worked tirelessly to reunite refugees with their families in Aotearoa New Zealand, helping those affected by conflict-related trauma to heal with the support of family and feel confident and safe to participate and adapt better in their new communities.*

*Especially for groups such as women, children, and older people, who may experience heightened vulnerability, being reunited with family members not only provides a sense of safety but also contributes to economic self-reliance and integration.*

*Achieving these outcomes for refugees is not easy and does require investment: in time, energy and money. In this respect, we are very pleased to see that the Trust recently raised its 3 millionth dollar in support of refugees. In an extremely difficult time for the funding of humanitarian assistance around the world, each one of these dollars is vital.*

*The tireless work being done by the Trust to support refugees to bring their families to Aotearoa New Zealand truly deserves credit. It is a true example of the “whole of society” approach to refugee protection, and along with other grassroots organisations complements the generous resettlement programme of the Government of New Zealand.*

*With over 370 families already reunited, and with the confidence of its donors and stakeholders, we are sure the Trust will continue to go from strength to strength.*

*UNHCR is excited about continuing to deepen our partnership with the Trust into the future.”*

OUR SUCCESSES  
*together*  
SINCE 2001

**24** years  
HELPING  
REFUGEES

 OVER \$3 MILLION  
*raised for*  
REFUGEES

MORE THAN 370  
refugee families  
REUNITED



MORE THAN 1,130  
*applications for*  
HELP APPROVED

NEARLY 980  
*airfares to*  
NEW ZEALAND



Thanks to YOU!

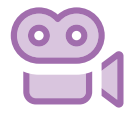
# thank you

## FOR YOUR HELP

We remain extremely grateful to all our donors – without you we could not have reunited so many deserving families. The ongoing support of generous individuals and charities is critical to everything we have been able to achieve over the past 24 years.

A number of individuals and private trusts, who prefer to remain anonymous, have made very generous donations to our Trust. Other significant donors over the past year include: Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand; Tai Shan Foundation; Archdiocesan Tindall Allocations Committee; Queen Margaret College and Yvonne and Peter Cottier. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Many volunteers have kindly given their time, skills and enthusiasm to help run the Trust or to help new families with their resettlement. Special thanks to our honorary accountant, Alison Dyer CA, and to the Trust's auditor, P J Major CA. KiwiClass lets us share its mailbox. We would also like to thank Phil Dyer for taking the beautiful photographs we use. Special thanks to Hannah and Thomas Schickedanz at Schickedanz Design Studio for designing and building our website pro bono, and again generously donating time to format this newsletter. Lesley Hooper kindly helps to manage the database. Simpson Grierson provides pro bono legal support and produces our Christmas card. Your assistance is invaluable.



## Simpson Grierson Charity Movie Night

In July 2025 Simpson Grierson Wellington's Social Committee hosted a movie fundraiser for the Trust. Simpson Grierson have been the Trust's Honorary Solicitors since its establishment. The night featured friends, family and food with a great movie.

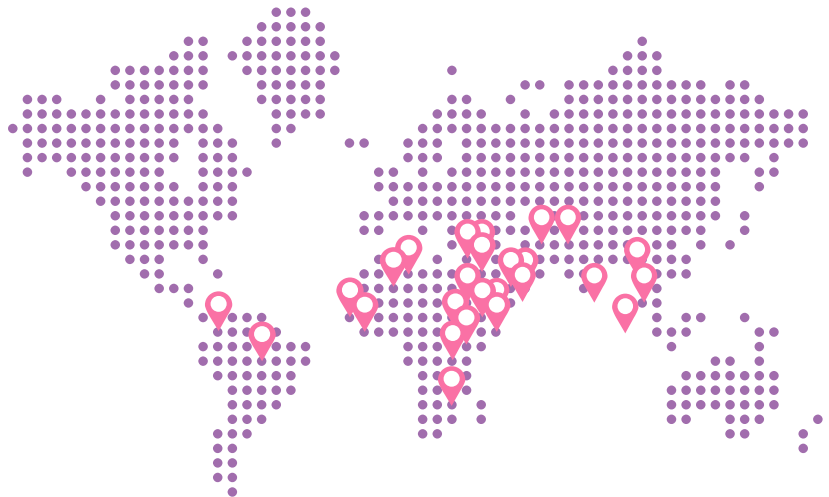
Special thanks in particular to Mathew Barnett for all his hard work organising the event, which raised \$1,400 for the Trust. Simpson Grierson lawyers have also worked pro bono on six refugee family reunification cases this year which have been approved, with seven other cases underway.



## DLA Piper Charity Quiz Night

In September 2025 DLA Piper Wellington hosted a quiz fundraiser for the Trust. It was a most enjoyable evening at the Thistle Inn, with good company, keen competition and wonderful raffle prizes. We wish to thank those who generously donated prizes, including Tandem Pet, Hivern, Luxe Realty, Property Brokers Greytown, Thistle Inn, Cuba Street Tavern, Mallett Partners and DLA Piper.

Special thanks to DLA Piper for organising and running the quiz night, which raised \$2,230 for the Trust. DLA Piper lawyers have also worked pro bono on three refugee family reunification cases this year which have been approved, with three other cases underway.



## We have helped families from...

Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Palestine/Gaza, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Pakistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Brazil and Colombia.



## Refugee Family Reunification Trust

### About us

The Refugee Family Reunification Trust financially assists refugees, primarily in the Wellington region, to bring immediate family members to join them here. Reuniting these families greatly improves the lives of those refugees already living in New Zealand, and is critical to their successful resettlement and integration.

All money raised is used exclusively to help refugees pay for the expenses directly related to bringing family members from refugee situations. This includes application fees and medical reports required by INZ, and the cost of airfares to bring approved family members to New Zealand.

The Trust is a registered charity and donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible.

### How you can help

#### Financial donations

You can donate money to us regularly, or as a one-off donation via bank transfer or a regular automatic payment. See details to the right.

#### Other help

Call or email us if you are organising a fundraiser which might make a contribution to the Trust: [acalder@xtra.co.nz](mailto:acalder@xtra.co.nz) or 04 475 7994

If your contact details have changed, you no longer wish to receive our newsletter or if you'd prefer to receive it via email to save on postage, please let us know.

#### PATRONS

Dame Fiona Kidman | Niborom Young  
Kim Hill | Ismail Ibrahim

#### TRUSTEES

Amanda Calder, Chairperson  
Therese O'Connell | Brigid Feehan

#### CONTACT US

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