

scottish detainee visitors

**Annual
Report
2010**

Chair's Report

In 2010 Scottish Detainee Visitors' twice-weekly visits to Dungavel provided much needed emotional and practical support to **134** people who are geographically and politically excluded from society.

The coordinator's report details the contact we had with other visitor groups in 2010. This marked a strengthening of working relationships between visitor groups across the UK. I believe this will become increasingly important as UK government cuts begin to hit frontline services for people navigating the immigration system.

This year also saw us team up with London Detainee Support Group as part of their Detained Lives campaign. This campaign is an extraordinary indictment of indefinite detention. It is inefficient and ineffective; it has profoundly negative impacts upon people's mental and physical well-being, and most importantly it is an abuse of human rights. Importantly, the campaign marks a significant increase in the credible and thorough research demonstrating the negative impacts and legal injustices of long-term detention, and has increased public awareness of these issues. The UK government's refusal to adopt a time limit on detention, in direct contrast to most other European countries, is shameful. SDV joins this campaign to call for the end to the cruel and unjust practice of indefinite detention.

Finally, 2010 marks my final year as chair of SDV. Throughout the last three years as chair, I am proud to say that I have worked with my fellow committee members to develop SDV's capacity, structures and ambitions, whilst remaining true to our core values. Although I will no longer be chair I will, in my continued capacity as member of SDV, endeavour to support detainees and visitors.

To my fellow committee members and the coordinator, thank you for all your hard work. It has been a joy to work with you. Best of luck as you move forward. And, to SDV – thank you for having me.

Catrin Evans, Chair

Coordinator's Report

I want to start by thanking all the visitors and management committee without whom SDV would not exist. Over the past year many detainees have contacted me to say how much they appreciate SDV's visits and the better I get to know our volunteers, the more I appreciate the devotion and hard work they contribute.

My work has taken me further afield this year, resulting in a widening and strengthening of SDV's links with other organisations involved in the field, both based in Glasgow and nationally.

In August SDV hosted London Detainee Support Group's 'Detained Lives' Roadshow in Glasgow. This followed the publication of their report, 'No Return No Release No Reason: Challenging Indefinite Detention', which evidenced the ineffectiveness and the human cost of indefinite immigration detention. Through hosting a Roadshow, SDV positioned this debate within Scotland and Dungavel.

In October SDV ran two workshops as part of the 'Action for Refugee and Migrant Rights Conference' organised by the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns. The day was a great success allowing a space for organisations all over Glasgow to get together, learn from each other, and develop lasting working relationships.

In November I attended the AVID Coordinators Conference in Birmingham. This brought together the coordinators from all the detainee visitor groups around the UK. It was an amazing opportunity for all groups to discuss their similarities and differences in regard to policy and practice, and to learn from each other.

I believe that it is through talking and sharing, both at an individual level between visitors and detainees, and on a more expansive level of awareness-raising, that change happens. SDV will continue down both these paths throughout 2011 and beyond.

Anna Beesley, Coordinator

What did SDV do in 2010?

Visiting Detainees

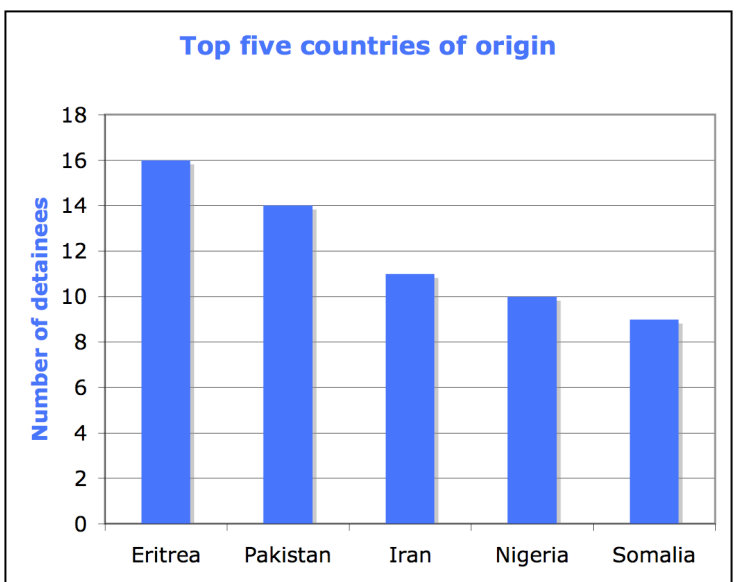
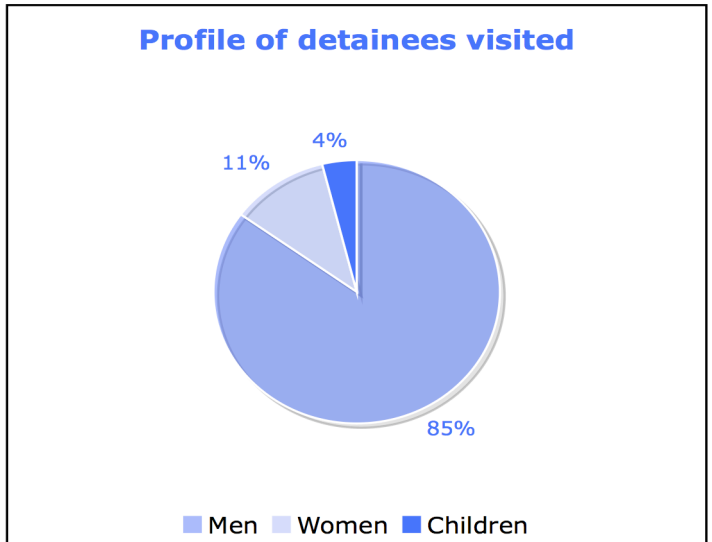
SDV alleviates feelings of isolation and disempowerment for people detained in Dungavel by providing emotional, practical and social support. Because of the isolated location of Dungavel, SDV relies on visitors giving up their evening and using members' own cars to travel there every Monday and Thursday.

Now with **38** active visitors, SDV made **94** visits to Dungavel in 2010, despite having to cancel visits at the end of the year due to bad weather.

SDV visited **134** detainees in 2010. The average number seen on each visit was **6**, but the number varied from **3** to **13**. The proportions of men, women and children were consistent with previous years. However, children were not detained at Dungavel after May 2010, in line with the government's announcement of the end of child detention. The average number of visits a detainee received was **6**, but one detainee received his **102nd** visit in 2010.

Where are the detainees from?

In 2010, SDV supported detainees from **37** countries. The country producing the most detainees was Eritrea (16), followed by Pakistan (15). As in 2009, Iran and Nigeria and Somalia also produced large numbers of detainees.



Providing support to detainees

"I really like them when they come visit me I feel much better myself. They are really helpful if I have some problems I share with them they try their best to help me"

Rehana, detained Feb 2010, still in detention

SDV offers many practical services. Our visitors go out of their way to provide specific items requested by detainees. They also often contact detainees outside of visits by dropping them an email or making a quick phone call to see how they are. A

few detainees we visited in 2010 were released on bail to Glasgow and other places, and visitors have continued to emotionally support them to deal with the hardships of life once released.

In 2010, visitors:

- Provided **509** phone cards to detainees and **9** mobile top ups;
- Provided toiletries, clothes, and holdalls to detainees on **145** occasions;
- Provided £20 emergency money to **12** detainees when they were removed;
- Liaised with lawyers and other organisations on behalf of detainees once a week;
- Made Medical Justice Referrals for detainees with medical issues that are either going untreated or the level of treatment has not been satisfactory.

SDV's Visitors

SDV's Induction and Recruitment Days continued successfully in 2010, recruiting **21** new visitors. This has assisted us in increasing the average number of visitors on each visit to **4**, a significant increase from 3 in 2009.

"Sometimes I am moved to anger by the inhumanity of indefinite detention but I am always gratified by meeting so many interesting and lovely people".

Alex - SDV Visitor

In addition to our commitment to detainees, we also acknowledge the importance of supporting our visitors. Visitor Updates, held every 6 weeks, provide the basis of this support. They also provide opportunities for increasing visitors' knowledge of detention issues and we invited a wide range of external speakers and trainers to the meetings in 2010, including:

- Kate Wrigley from Medical Justice, who trained visitors on how to identify and refer detainees with neglected medical needs;
- TARA, who did a very informative presentation on trafficking in Scotland and how that relates to our work in Dungavel;
- Ali McGinley, director of the Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) gave a talk about the work of her organisation and good visitor practice.

SDV Organisational Plan 2011-2013

At the end of 2010, SDV made public our Organisational Plan for the next three years. The plan details SDV's commitment to develop our work, to improve the experience of our volunteers and the service we provide to detainees. It is also a commitment to tie into the work and support being offered by other organisations working in Glasgow and other parts of the UK.

The document lays out organisational priorities for 2011, 2012 and 2013 and offers a detailed breakdown of how we plan to develop in 2011. All of the priorities have been developed in addition to our core objectives and have been identified as ways in which we believe we can continue achieving our core aims.

SDV's priorities for 2011 include:

- Reporting on and responding to recommendations of the evaluation of our services, which will be carried out in the first half of 2011;
- Developing new strategies for supporting detainees being held in Dungavel;
- Focusing on volunteer and staff training.

For a copy of SDV's Organisational Plan please visit our website or contact the coordinator.

Financial Accounts 1 January–31 December 2010

INCOME	2010	2009	EXPENDITURE	2010	2009
	£	£		£	£
Restricted			SDV Expenditure		
Tudor Trust	15,000	15,000	Coordinator Costs	9,907	11,113
Norda Trust		5,000			
Robertson Trust		5,000	Detainee Items, Emergency Payments & Phone Cards	3,811	4,253
A B Charitable Trust	5,000				
Total Restricted	20,000	25,000	Visit Travel Expenses	1,870	1,318
Unrestricted			Training/Meeting Costs	1,291	971
Jill Franklin Trust	500	500	Memberships/Subscriptions	425	554
Donations	1,907	3,616	Admin and website	147	102
Interest	203	1,451	Insurance	286	434
Celtic Charity Fund		2,000	Fundraising Costs	20	0
Scottish Enterprise		150			
Total Unrestricted	2,610	7,716	Total Expenditure	17,757	18,745
Total Income	22,610	32,717	Operating Surplus	4,854	13,972

Treasurer's Report

In 2010, SDV continued to be supported by the Tudor Trust and received grants from the A B Charitable Trust and the Jill Franklin Trust. Regular private donations continued to provide steady support, with other donations made during the year. The Scottish Refugee Council continued to provide SDV with office space and supplies and we thank them for their support.

SDV's total expenditure decreased slightly from 2009 due to the reduced expenditure on coordinator costs. Expenditure on phone cards, items for detainees and emergency money remained stable whilst visit travel expenses increased.

SDV has successfully retained healthy cash reserves throughout the year. The focus for the coming year will be to resume fundraising events to support the income received from the grant-making bodies. This will ensure that SDV is able to continue providing vital emotional and practical support to detainees.

Sarah Smith, Treasurer

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Thanks

SDV Committee

Catrin Evans (Chair)

Michelle Opit (Vice Chair)

Mary Kate Dickie (Secretary)

Sarah Smith (Treasurer)

Kate Alexander

Clare Malloy

Julie McGee

Karis Thain

Katherine Ballingall

Joe Farquhar

Moya Flynn

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Catriona Gibson

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Razgar Hassan

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Maeve Wightman

Graeme Williamson

Gerry Wilson

Other SDV Members

Jennifer Ades

Charlotte Ager

Rima Al-khalidi

Miana Badd

Anna Beesley (Coordinator)

Colin Chapman

Mary Child

Anna Cook

Erika Crichton

Martin Dean

Marion Fairweather

Giovanna Fassetta

SDV Funders

Tudor Trust

A B Charitable Trust

Jill Franklin Trust

Scottish Refugee Council

And

Everyone who donated, sponsored, and set up standing orders in 2010