

- to provide (necessarily) modest material assistance to meet the many urgent and important needs of the beneficiaries and their families.

Despite the existence of various associations providing assistance to foreigners and undocumented migrants, the needs of these groups remain considerable, urgent and constant. In addition, (among other things, because of the conditions and constraints attached to official subsidies) these associations limit their aid more and more to those whose right to remain in Belgium has already been approved, which leaves without any support those without status or documentation, who consequently often find themselves in utter destitution and despair.

In its work "L'Olivier" helps all those in need, without fear or favour. Those who are in Belgium legally can also receive our support, especially for procedures such as applications for Belgian citizenship, family reunification, the adoption or reception and/or care of their loved ones, social welfare benefits, marriage, urgent preventive or curative medical assistance etc.

The association makes no distinction among those in difficulty or distress, whether they be new arrivals, asylum seekers, legal residents, failed applicants or those with pending applications. Our assistance is free of charge, but beneficiaries are most welcome to make a donation if they have the means to do so.

## Helping us to help?

The "L'Olivier 1996" registered charity operates exclusively thanks to the generosity, solidarity and compassion of its donors, and relies on all those who are drawn to the cause of the poor, of 'strangers in a strange land' and of the excluded, and who seek to help us help them by providing financial assistance.

We rely on the contribution of generous people for fundraising. Our running costs are obviously reduced to a bare minimum because our migrant friends need all the support we can give them in every possible area of their lives.

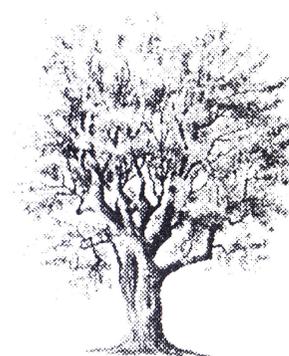
**Donations or standing orders are always hugely appreciated!**

Bank account  
**BE53 3630 4481 5353**

Editor  
Christopher Guichot de Fortis

# L'Olivier

**MIGRANTS' SOCIAL & LEGAL SERVICE**



**L'Olivier 1996 asbl**  
*Registered federal  
employment partner*

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[www.lolivier1996.be](http://www.lolivier1996.be)

## What is L'Olivier 1996?

We are a service that specialises in guiding and assisting migrants in distress in the Brussels region. We help those facing difficulties (concerning their legal status, their material needs or their psychological wellbeing) irrespective of their status in Belgium or in their country of origin.

We seek to listen to, get to know and support the poor, the excluded and the misunderstood, with whom Christ himself powerfully identified:

“ I was hungry, I was thirsty,  
I was a stranger, I was naked,  
I was sick,  
I was a prisoner  
and you welcomed me ”

MATHIEU 25:35

“L'Olivier 1996” also wants to go further, working upstream to promote a fairer and more coherent reception system:

*In the face of any human suffering ...you must work not only to relieve it immediately, but also to remove its causes ... No one can be truly good nor just nor true if he has not resolved to devote himself to both of these tasks. They cannot be separated without being denied.*

ABBÉ PIERRE

## Who are we?

Our small team is composed exclusively of volunteers with over twenty years' experience of giving legal assistance to refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers regarding their status, and providing material help to those foreigners who are marginalised and in need.

The service can count on the permanent presence of a specialised professional jurist and of a social worker, both with longstanding expertise in the daily problems faced by migrants. The charity also has immediate and permanent access to the services of a barrister specialising in asylum and migration law.

## What do we do ?

The work undertaken since 1996 by our service has achieved considerable success, leading to its complete autonomy, with legal status as a registered charity (ASBL), since April 2008. Our aims are stated in Article 3 of our statutes:

*“the Association aims to do everything possible to contribute to the integration of foreigners into Belgian society by means of legal assistance. It may carry out any acts whatsoever directly or indirectly connected, in whole or in part, with this objective or which may further its development or facilitate its accomplishment.”*

Thus, “L'Olivier 1996” is a project aiming to assist foreign nationals seeking (inter)national protection and to resolve their undocumented status in a reasonable, legal and above all humane manner.

### Its activities are therefore clearly profitable:

- to the State which needs to have a clear picture of its demographics if it is to implement its social policies with an adequate budget (in theory, the State currently funds expensive medical care which is for illegal aliens),
- to society, which should be able to live in safety and be sure that its support for the activities of the State benefits only citizens and migrants whose goal is to be legally present on Belgian soil,
- to foreign nationals and their families, who aspire to a stable, secure and legal basis for their stay in Belgium:
  - to understand the reason for the possible failure of their application to stay in Belgium,
  - to lead a normal life in Belgium, or
  - to return to their country of origin or of habitual residence:
    - having had their asylum or regularisation application rejected, or
    - having been informed that such an application would not be legally possible.

### Our legal and social services have been set up:

- to inform, advise and direct our beneficiaries;
- to assist in planning and drafting their applications and requests, if these are deemed to be well founded and/or where their outcome is likely to be positive;
- to accompany them through the required legal and administrative procedures, or assist those who require it in contacting outside legal counsel;