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COVID-19 Europia Emergency Fund

Universal Credit is not enough for those who have been hit the hardest.

Europia's Emergency Fund aims to help people buy the basic things they need.

The pandemic hit us hard, but it has hit some harder. During the lockdowns that happened in 2020/2021, public transport journeys have reduced dramatically, and taxi drivers have been some of the most affected. Despite not being considered key workers by the Government, **they have been essential** to keeping the city moving.

This was the case of an EU national driver who lives with his partner, a young child, and both parents. Before COVID-19, he had a formal job so **he did not expect to be in the situation which COVID-19 put him in:**

"My job as a taxi driver has taken a massive hit and now I am solely dependent on universal credit to get us all by". He had all the evidence required for applying, but it simply was not enough for a small family. *"I am living in poverty, with a stricken budget due to COVID-19."*

Europia knows many EU nationals struggle financially in a pandemic that has, so far, lasted for over a year. Many people have lost their job - or their income has reduced drastically. This has meant a significant increase in the use of **Europia's welfare advice services**, including Europia's Emergency Fund.

Since the launch of the Europia Emergency Fund in April 2020, Europia has distributed just over £5000 to approximately 100 individuals and families. Each applicant received **between £30-£60**, depending on their situation; they spent the money on the most basic needs for survival, that being **food**.

Sarah Duncan, Impact and Development Manager, said:

"Europia is thankful to be in a position to support vulnerable people. We would like to extend our gratitude to the following organisations that have contributed to our COVID-19 Emergency Fund, without which the fund could not operate: Bolton CVS; Salford CVS; Forever Manchester; Action Together – Oldham; Action Together – Rochdale; Action Together – Tameside; Lush Cosmetics; Neighbourly Community Fund; We Love Mcr Charity. Additionally, Europia has also raised funds through individual donations.

For more information about Europia Emergency Fund, how to apply (in EU languages) and how to donate, please visit www.europia.org.uk

Europia

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