

# the seafarers' charity



## Rolling Updates: Q3/2022

The Seafarers' Charity has forged strong links with organisations and individuals who care and are working towards the same goal as us, improving the lives of seafarers. Here is an update on the charity's recent activity for our amazing network of advocates out there in their local communities supporting seafarers.

### September 2022

Merchant Navy Day is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Once again we are encouraging everyone to [Fly The Red Ensign](#) to remember, and honour, the contribution made by all merchant seafarers. This year there is also a social media toolkit which you can use on your profiles. More information:

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/merchant-navy-fund/merchant-navy-day>

There are still a few places available for the [London Marathon](#). The Seafarers' Charity has a cheering point along the route on HQS Wellington to host your supporters and a post-run reception to say thank you.

### August 2022

The Seafarers' Charity became the very first maritime welfare charity to be accepted on Maritime UK's [Diversity in Maritime Charter](#) programme. Signing the Diversity in Maritime Charter commits The Seafarers' Charity to take a proactive responsibility for closing the diversity and inclusion gaps within our workforce. The announcement follows the revision of our Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) action plan for 2020-25. The action plan reaffirms our commitment to increasing awareness of EEDI throughout the sector. Since 2019, we have been offering a £5K grant to support maritime welfare charities to fund external governance and diversity reviews.

The Seafarers' Charity has been part of a Seafarers International Relief Fund (SIRF) Research Working Group which has carried out a [survey](#) to identify the most pressing needs for seafarers and families impacted by the war in Ukraine. Following 100 responses, hardship grants, communication support, accommodation and mental health support have been identified as priorities. The results of the survey will be shared with the SIRF Stakeholder Group, chaired by Deborah Layde, to determine next steps.

### July 2022

**Maritime Safety Week** (4 – 8 July) saw The Seafarers' Charity launch a new 'Safety Drill Time' competition. The competition encouraged everyone working at sea to get involved by practising and improving their crew muster drill. Crews and skippers

entered the competition by posting a photo or video of their best time for their Muster Drill on social media accounts with the hashtag #SafetyDrillTime.

The competition was designed to encourage crew to practice their safety drill and improve their time – thereby potentially saving vital seconds in a real emergency at sea. The charity also benefited from reaching some new audiences on social media. And winners received a commemorative plaque and safety clothing donated by Guy Cotton Clothing and XtraTuf. We had some fantastic entries from fishing trawlers, tankers and even Border Force cutters. Have a look at the brilliant [photos and videos here](#).

The Seafarers' Charity is creating a list of **fishing memorials** around the UK with a view to launching a new event in 2023 (more details on this initiative soon). If you have a fishing memorial near you, we would be delighted to add it to our list. Please email [Julia.gosling@theseafarerscharity.org](mailto:Julia.gosling@theseafarerscharity.org) with the location and the name of memorial. If possible please include a photo of the memorial.

**Exploitation and Labour Abuse in UK Fishing:** Following the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab publication of their [report on exploitation](#) of migrant workers in the UK fishing fleet, The Seafarers' Charity has been continuing the work we initiated in March 2021 with the University of Nottingham and ITF on [Fairness in Fishing](#). We have been busy engaging with various stakeholders in the search for solutions to some of the issues raised. On 5<sup>th</sup> July Tina Barnes, Head of Impact, presented proposed solutions within our new report on Achieving Fairness in Fishing to a meeting of industry and retailers convened by Seafish. A meeting has also been held with industry representatives and a working group has been established to enable the charity and ITF to work with industry to improve the current welfare conditions for migrant workers in some parts of the UK fishing industry. This work is receiving significant attention from the industry. Subsequent media coverage included a second [article in The Guardian](#) and The Seafarers' Charity Trustee, Nus Ghani, MP published this influential and powerful article in Politics Home - <https://www.politicshome.com/thehouse/article/nusrat-ghnai-exploitation-uk-fishing-industry-foreign-fishermen-protections>