



In 1984 BAFUNCS accepted a bequest to establish a fund to support its Object of Association (clauses 2 (iii)) “to extend welfare to its members. . . . and their spouses in need” The Fund has subsequently been registered as a Charity in 1987 and has received regular and one-off donations and bequests from individual members and groups of members. This has meant that the Benevolent Fund has been able to assist members in cases of need, hardship or distress through grants and interest-free loans. Other former UN civil servants provided they are resident in the United Kingdom could be considered for similar assistance.

The Declaration of Trust establishing the BAFUNCS Benevolent Fund allows the Trustees to offer financial assistance to meet a wide range of needs. The Trustees, as a guide to potential applicants, have listed a number of general categories of requests which will receive their careful and considerate attention. All requests are treated in utmost confidence.

The categories are as follows:-

- A. Remedial medical and surgical attention.
- B. Respite care to release a family carer; and convalescence, including short-term home help.
- C. Aids for the handicapped - *mobility aids such as special wheel chairs; stair lifts; bathing hoists; specialised vision & hearing aids.*
- D. Household aids for the aged – *“Bleep” warning systems; controlled entrance door locks; rising chairs and bed lifts; walk-in baths or showers.*
- E. Assistance towards transport costs for Hospital out-patient visits; or visits by family or a BAFUNCS member to a hospitalised patient.
- F. Convalescent visits to family and remedial holidays
- G. Loans or grants to meet short-term emergencies
- H Others, including general and compassionate grounds

For the present, the Trustees consider that the Fund can only support one-time claims for a grant. It cannot commit itself to recurrent claims such as regular annual payments or long-term hospitalisation and convalescence. In general, but in particular under A,B & C, it can only consider support if this is not available from other sources such as the National Health Service, Social Services or health insurance. Loans are made to the newly widowed while pension rights are being established, or in cases where a bridging loan is needed awaiting reimbursement of expenses from medical or other insurance.

What can we do? Please think about your fellow BAFUNCS members and any other former UN personnel resident in the UK, and should you feel that they could benefit from assistance from the Fund then please encourage them to apply using the forms which are available from the BBF Trustees; Regional Representatives and Welfare Support Officers; or from the BAFUNCS website (www.bafuncs.org)