

STAR Group Guide 2010-11

Part Three



3.9 Information

Quick Facts

STAR 'Facts and Figures':

http://www.star-network.org.uk/index.php/refugees/facts_figures

Refugee Council 'The Truth About Asylum':

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/basics/truth.htm>

Information and Materials

Refugee Awareness Project, Refugee Action

<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/RAP/>

Refugee Week

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/>

Simple Acts Campaign

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/>

Online Resources

UNHCR 'Against All Odds':

A game which lets you experience what its like to be a refugee

<http://www.playagainstallodds.com/>

Recent Reports

Refugee Council

'Detention of Children' July 2010 (6 pages)

This is the Refugee Council's response to the UK Border Agency review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes, with some alternative suggestions on how protection of children and families could be implemented more clearly and humanely than it is now.

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/policy_responses/Detention%20review%20final%20submission%20RC%201%20July%202010.pdf

'Rape and Sexual Violence: The Experiences of Refugee Women in the UK' March 2010 (10 pages)

The Refugee Council outline their concerns on the situation of raped and sexually abused female asylum seekers, their legal treatment and availability of support. They suggest five key priorities for policy change to improve their situation.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/Refugee%20women%20briefing%20March%202010.pdf%20>

'Chance or choice? Understanding why Asylum Seekers come to the UK' January 2010 (60 pages)

This research investigates the decisions made by asylum seekers who come to the UK, explores the extent to which the decision to come to Britain specifically are a reflection of chance or choice, and ultimately debates the degree to which asylum seekers have power over their lives.

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2010/13012010_x

'Remote Controls: how UK border controls are endangering the lives of refugees' December 2010 (88 pages)

This report presents the findings of a one-year Refugee Council project that examined the impact of the UK's border control on refugees' ability to escape persecution and find protection. It assesses the moral obligations of border control, and details the many obstacles that asylum seekers must overcome including lack of documentation, use of biometric technology, lack of fixed procedure, and many others.

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2008/remotecocontrols/remotecocontrols_report

"'I hate being idle" Wasted skills and enforced dependence among Zimbabwean asylum seekers in the UK' July 2009 (43 pages)

This report analyses how current government policy leaves skilled and educated people in a state of dependence despite being from professions where there are shortages in the UK, including health care and teaching. It calls for asylum seekers to have the right to work if they have waited longer than six months for their case to be resolved, or if they cannot return home.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/researchreports/l%20hate%20being%20idle.pdf>

Amnesty International

'Down and out in London: The road to destitution for rejected asylum seekers' November 2006

In this report Amnesty International succinctly outlines how easy it is for asylum seekers to become destitute. It criticises UK government policy on rejected asylum seekers that they say is forcing thousands into abject poverty. Amnesty believes that rejected asylum seekers are made destitute to force them to go home.

36 pages.

http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_17382.pdf

Joseph Rowntree

'Still Destitute' June 2009 (32 pages)

Joseph Rowntree's third report on the destitution of asylum seekers, carried out in Leeds, shows that it is a long term situation for many, and that the number of people being made destitute is increasing.. It looks at the physical and mental health of destitute asylum seekers, and the strain on local voluntary and statutory health agencies. It details suggestions to stop people ending up in these dire situations including giving them the right to work and improving their legal representation.

<http://www.jrct.org.uk/text.asp?section=0001000200030006>

The Children's Society

'Destitution amongst asylum-seeking and refugee children' May 2010 (8 pages)

The Children's Society have written in this report of how the amount of families being forced in to destitution is increasing, and attacks 'Britain's chaotic asylum system' as inhumane. It contains some shocking stories on the squalor that families, children and pregnant women live in, and has a very clear page on 'Understanding the Support System' that includes the laws and articles that destitute asylum seekers can use to claim support.

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Project/pro_dest/20842_full.pdf

'Living on the Edge of Despair: Destitution Amongst Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children' February 2008 (24 pages)

The Children's Society commissioned this report after becoming concerned by reports from the British Red Cross destitution clinic in the West Midlands and others in the region that they were seeing an increasing amount of homeless children seeking asylum. It looks at the role of Children's Services and law in protecting families from becoming destitute, and has paragraphs on pregnancy, education eligibility, and emotional wellbeing of children.

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/Living_on_the_edge_of_despair_destitution_amongst_asylum_seeking_and_refugee_children_6115_full.pdf

'Children in the Asylum Process: Going it Alone' 2007 (8 pages)

3,000 children claim asylum in the UK yearly, but the Home Office will judge only 6% as 'genuine'. This report assesses how effective and sensitive the support children receive from social workers, interpreters and legal advisers, which help them through the difficult interview, adjustment and detention processes, and is a truly shocking read.

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Policy/Going_it_Alone_Children_in_the_asylum_process_2613_full.pdf

Mind

'A civilised society: Mental health provision for refugees and asylum-seekers in England and Wales' 2009 (32 pages)

This report highlights current government policy towards asylum seekers as restrictive and contradictory, and shows how it can cause great mental distress, for which they struggle to access help for, because of many reasons including language barriers, cultural difference, healthcare entitlements and lack of mental health services in detention centres. The report makes a large number of recommendations to different agencies.

http://www.mind.org.uk/assets/0000/5695/refugee_report_2.pdf

British Red Cross

'Not Gone But Forgotten' June 2010 (14 pages)

This report suggests policy recommendations that would make the British asylum system more humane and stop failed asylum seekers becoming destitute. It clearly outlines where asylum claimants can fall in to destitution and details poignant case studies.

<http://stillhumanstillhere.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/not-gone-but-forgotten-june-2010.pdf>

'21 Days Later, Destitution and the Asylum System' January 2009 (21 pages)

This report was written in response to the increasing number of destitute people requesting support in Scotland from the two charities over the past five years. It identifies steps that should be taken to prevent future destitution including improving UK Border Agency, changes to the Emergency Support Tokens scheme, and paying special support to single asylum seekers.

http://stillhumanstillhere.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/21_days_later_jan_2009.pdf

Bernardo's

'Like Any Other Child? Children and Families in the Asylum Process' (61 pages)

Bernardo's recommends changes that should be made to the ways in which immigration services handle cases of children and families. These include giving asylum seekers the right to work if they have waited more than six months for their application to be determined, giving them cash instead of vouchers, to allow them to pick which region they live in, and to not move families repeatedly.

<http://stillhumanstillhere.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/barnados>

Still Human Still Here

'At the end of the line – Restoring the integrity of the UK's asylum system' 2010 (88 pages)

This report states that the number of asylum seekers becoming destitute is increasing. It outlines the human and financial failures of the current system and how some of the most vulnerable people in the world are being failed. It gives policy recommendations on how to make the British asylum system a more 'humane, efficient and effective' one.

<http://stillhumanstillhere.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/at-the-end-of-the-line-2010.pdf>

Bail for Immigration Detainees

'Out of sight, out of mind: experiences of immigration detention in the UK' July 2009 (52 pages)

A powerful report on detention centres that challenges the British system's use of imprisonment without trial, the long time limits that people are detained for, and the detainment of families and children.

<http://www.biduk.org/library/BID%20-%20%27Out%20of%20sight,%20out%20of%20mind%27.pdf>