



still human still here

The campaign to end destitution of refused asylum seekers

Action Week, 20-26 February 2012

Take Action against Poverty and Destitution!

24th January 2012

Calling all STARs!

Thousands of asylum seekers are living in extreme poverty or destitute in Britain. Some are supported by the government, but simply do not receive enough to meet their basic needs, and others have been refused asylum and receive no support at all.

In April 2012, a decision will be taken on whether to increase asylum support rates in line with inflation. We need to make sure that the issue is high up the agenda so that they make the support system fairer for refugees!

This is why STAR is teaming up with Still Human Still Here once again for Action Week 2012 and asking the Government to:

- Ensure that all asylum seekers are **adequately supported** until they are either given protection in the UK or returned to their country of origin.
- Make sure that when they introduce annual increases to Income Support in line **with inflation**, they do the same for asylum support rates too!
- Provide asylum seekers with support rates equivalent to *at least 70% of Income Support*¹, **paid in cash**², and increase the support rate for lone parents to 70% of Income Support *immediately*.
- Grant asylum seekers **permission to work** if their cases have not been resolved in 6 months or they have been refused but cannot be removed through no fault of their own.

This is a chance for the whole network to take action together! Read this pack and find out how to **quiz the public**, **live on £5 a day**, **sleep out on the streets** for a night, and show the Government that we want all asylum seekers to be able to support themselves or given enough to live on while they are in the UK.

Your Action Pack contains the following:

Action Pack Contents

- 1. Background Information**
- 2. Top Tips for an Awesome Action Week**
- 3. Campaign Action 1: Quiz the public!**
 - (i) STAR Action Week Quiz**
 - (ii) 5 Minute Briefing**
- 4. Campaign Action 2: Live on £5 a day**
- 5. Campaign Action 3: Sleepout to end destitution**

¹ Income Support is a means-tested benefit designed to cover essential living costs for people that are not in full-time work in the UK.

² Refused asylum seekers who are on 'Section 4' support do not receive cash, but must use a prepaid cash card (see Background Information).

Two weeks before Action Week you will also receive a:

6. Media Pack*

Please appoint a Media Coordinator and give their contact details to STAR national so that we can send it in time.

Important Information

1. Training sessions to lobby your MP post Action Week

STAR national has organised two training sessions with Mike Kaye from Still Human Still Here on 'How to Lobby MPs, How to Influence Change' which will take place on **Saturday 10th March** in London and **Saturday 17th March** in Leeds.

This is a great opportunity for you to try to get your MP to support Still Human Still Here and feedback on your Action Week achievements.

If your group wants to meet with your MP as part of STAR then you **must** attend one of these training sessions. This is to ensure that STAR presents a coherent message, which will help us to achieve the changes we want to see.

Get in touch with STAR national to book your place now! The deadline for bookings is: **13th February**.

NB: STAR national is aware that some of your groups already have established relationships with your MPs and may want to invite them to take part in your Action Week events. If you are planning to get in touch with your MP before the training please let STAR national know in advance. We can brief you to make sure you make the most of it!

2. Keeping in touch with STAR

Please keep in touch with STAR national in the run up to and during Action Week, and let us know your plans are for Action Week as soon as possible.

This is important so that we can send you updated information and promote your events to a national audience.

- ★ **Phone** STAR national: **020 7729 8880**
- ★ **Email** campaigns@star-network.org.uk
- ★ **'Like' the STAR Action Week 2012 Facebook page** to share creative ideas and help each other solve problems! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/STAR-Action-Week-2012/142956682487859?sk=wall>

3. Resources

Please contact STAR national to order the following:

- ★ Still Human Still Here stickers
- ★ STAR balloons