

# Equal Access

*Refugee Students Welcome Here*

## STAR CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

February 2010

**People seeking asylum do not have the same right to university education as their British born peers. As a student network STAR believes that this is wrong and that we are in a unique position to challenge this injustice.**

**STAR is campaigning to ensure that asylum seekers have equal access to higher education and can join us at university as equals.**

### Barriers to Higher Education

#### Fees & living costs

Asylum seekers and some refugees are classed as overseas students and must pay fees of up to £20,000 per year instead of the current "home fee" rate of £3,225.

Asylum seekers cannot afford these fees or living costs because they are:

- ★ Denied permission to work in the UK
- ★ Not allowed to apply for student loans
- ★ Not allowed to apply for grants and most bursaries

#### Campaign Aim

STAR is calling on the Vice-Chancellors of universities in England and Wales to:

- ★ Accept asylum seekers as home students for fee purposes or offer to remit fees in full
- ★ Provide bursaries and grants each year to asylum seeking students

#### What your STAR group can do

1. Find out about your university's policy
2. Get your Student Union's support
3. Raise awareness among other students during 'Action for Refugees Week'
4. Write to your Vice-Chancellor
5. Meet with your Vice-Chancellor to agree policy change

⇒ *Read STAR's 'Step by Step Guide for STAR Campaigners' for more details on how to build your own Equal Access campaign.*

**Email:** [campaigns@star-network.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@star-network.org.uk)

**Phone:** 020 7729 8880 ext. 207



*"Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all..."*

- Article 26 (1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**[www.star-network.org.uk](http://www.star-network.org.uk)**