

Equal Access

Refugee Students Welcome Here

STAR CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

October 2009

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 not allowed to:

- ★ Apply for student loans
- ★ Apply for grants and most bursaries
- ★ Work in the UK

Campaign Aims

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

- ★ Allow asylum seekers to pay home fees
- ★ Pledge support for a national policy change

What your STAR group can do

- ★ Raise awareness by organising speaker events, campaign stalls, publicity stunts
- ★ Build support for the campaign by contacting other student societies, your student union, academic staff, trade unions and local refugee organisations
- ★ Sign the STAR petition to your Vice-Chancellor asking them to allow asylum seekers to pay home fees and support national policy change
- ★ Contact the STAR national team for advice on how to lobby your Vice-Chancellor

Email: 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