



The **Let Them Work** campaign is dedicated to highlighting the injustices experienced by thousands of asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers who are forced into poverty and isolation by being denied the right to work.

STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES IS CALLING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO LET ASYLUM SEEKERS WORK

“ To be banned from work is very difficult in any society and is a mental torture ... I feel I am losing my skills and talents in which I was an expert. I am living on £41 a week for everything, which is very limiting and at times feels less than human. As a mature professional, an independent person, this is emotionally and physically hard. ”

A primary school teacher from Ethiopia

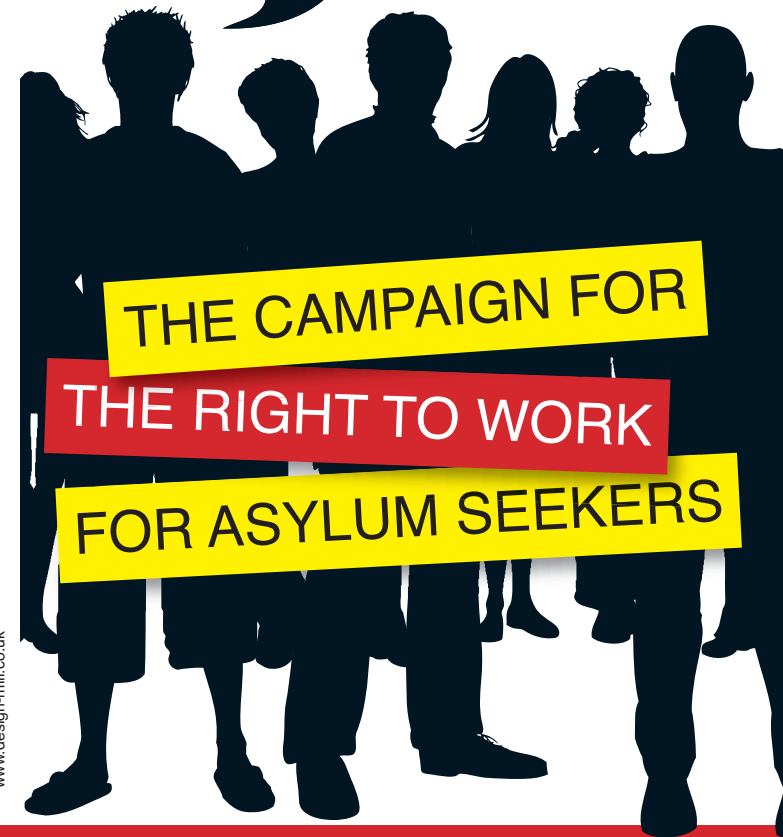
Thousands of people are stuck in the UK with no permission to work and no right to benefits.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you want to take action to end the plight of asylum seekers who are left in poverty and isolation:

- Write a letter to your MP expressing your support for the entitlement to work and urging them to raise your concern with the Immigration Minister, Phil Woolas MP.
- Sign the campaign pledge online: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/letthemwork and keep up to date with further campaign actions.
- Ask your MP and other students to sign sign up to the pledge.

The **Let Them Work** campaign is supported by: Student Action for Refugees (STAR), TUC, Refugee Council, Barnardo's and Brighter Futures



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**IN 2002 THE GOVERNMENT
MADE IT ILLEGAL FOR PEOPLE
CLAIMING ASYLUM TO WORK**

Refugees come to the UK looking for safety from war, torture and imminent death. The UK has promised the UN that we will protect and support them. But today in Britain thousands are again in danger, living in poverty having been denied sufficient support by the UK Government. The simple solution would be to **Let Them Work**.

**ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE NOT
ALLOWED TO WORK FOR A LIVING**

Refugees have to wait for the Home Office to decide if they will be allowed to stay here or be returned to their home country. While they are waiting they are forced to live on Government handouts and receive 30 per cent less than people on income support.

Many are told they cannot stay in the UK but these same people cannot be deported. This is because their countries are too dangerous for any transportation to enter, e.g. Zimbabwe, Iraq and Somalia, or their country will not allow them to enter without a passport, e.g. Algeria or Iran. These people do not get any government handouts and they are not allowed to work. So, thousands of people are stuck in the UK with no permission to work and no right to benefits. They are homeless, hungry and very vulnerable.

**THIS IS DEGRADING
AND HARMFUL**

The personal cost of not being allowed to work includes:

- poverty
- ill health
- exploitation
- loss of confidence
- loss of skills
- isolation

**WORKING IS GOOD
FOR EVERYONE**

Employment is one of the best ways for someone who has suffered traumatic upheaval to start the process of rebuilding their life. A paid job brings a sense of self respect and dignity; it is a way of meeting people and making new friends; and it gives a person some control over their life.

Employment also benefits wider society. First of all, it means people are able to support themselves instead of relying on the taxpayer. More generally it brings people together in shared enterprise.

IT IS TIME TO DEMAND A CHANGE

We have seen the suffering get worse for seven years. Skilled people who want to work should not be forced to live in poverty.

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is asking for your help to put maximum pressure on Home Office ministers over the next year to change the law and **Let Asylum Seekers Work**. This campaign has wide support from the trade union movement and charities such as Barnardo's, the Refugee Council and Shelter. There is also strong cross-party support in Parliament and an Early Day Motion is to be tabled in the Commons in early Spring.

|| Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. ||

Article 23 (1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights