

# Equal Access

*Refugee Students Welcome Here*



## Guide for STAR campaigners

### 12 Easy steps to build your very own Equal Access campaign!

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#### 1. Check if your university charges international student fees to people seeking asylum

Quick search on your university's website on admissions and fees should do the trick. If you can't find the information ring your admissions office and ask.

#### 2. Give Sara in the National STAR Office a quick ring to discuss campaign strategy

Call STAR's campaigns intern Sara Hall (see end of document) and she can help with and advise on your campaign. You can contact her at any stage during your campaign.

#### 3. Collect signatures on your petition to the Vice Chancellor

Customize the STAR petition to your uni (i.e. insert name of your uni and Vice-Chancellor). Print out enough copies. Make sure one of you is responsible for collecting the completed petitions. Hang on to them until you meet the Vice-Chancellor. Keep promoting the petition and get friends to circulate it in lectures, events and meetings. Make sure you don't lose the sheets!

#### 4. Get people to sign up to your e-mail list and/or Facebook group

If they signed the petition ask if they would like to join the STAR mailing list and/or Facebook group. You could either have a separate campaign list/group or use your general STAR mailing list/group for Equal Access campaign updates.

#### 5. Arrange a meeting with the Student Union to discuss on how to take the campaign forward

If your Student Union is affiliated with the NUS they have to support the campaign as the NUS passed a motion on this 2008. Arrange a meeting with your Student Union representative and discuss how you can campaign together. Contact Sara for a copy of the NUS briefing on the campaign.

#### 6. Write an article for your student paper and/or local paper about the campaign

Suggest to your student paper/local paper that they (or you) write about the Fair Access campaign at your university. Make sure you let them know about any events and actions you are planning and keep them up-to-date about new developments.

#### 7. Organize an awareness raising action or event on campus

Organize an event or action to highlight the Equal Access campaign and that your uni charges international fees to asylum seekers. Contact Sara for a list of speakers on the

campaign to invite, think of creative actions and photo stunts to promote your campaign. Always have the petition ready to be signed by more people.

#### **8. Write to your Vice-Chancellor and request a meeting to discuss the issue of Equal to your university for asylum seekers**

Contact Sara for a template letter to your Vice-Chancellor or get advice on the letter you have written requesting a meeting. Contact your Student Union about writing a joint letter. Follow-up with a phone call if you do not receive a response after two weeks.

#### **9. Plan your event for the STAR National Action Week in February**

Get together and plan an event or an action in STAR's National Action Week. It is a great opportunity to link up with other student campaigners across the UK. You can show your university that this is a national, not just a local issue.

#### **10. Prepare the meeting with the Vice-Chancellor well in advance**

Contact the STAR National Office for a template letter or discuss your own letter to send to your Vice-Chancellor requesting a meeting. Ask your Student Union about sending a joint letter. If you have not received a reply within two weeks follow up with a phone call. Prepare and photocopy the petition to hand over at the meeting.

#### **11. Make sure you follow up on the issues agreed in the meeting with the Vice-Chancellor**

End the meeting by agreeing future steps (this could be the Vice-Chancellor consulting others on the issue or him agreeing to all your demands), send a thank you e-mail after the meeting outlining what you have agreed.

#### **12. Celebrate and let everyone know about what you've achieved**

Let all your supporters and the STAR office now about the outcome of the meeting. Have a party! You deserve it!

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### **Further Information**

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