

## Let Them Work campaign pledge

[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/letthemwork](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/letthemwork)



### **“LET ASYLUM SEEKERS WORK**

Since 2002 the government has made it illegal for almost everyone claiming asylum to work.

Refugees come to the UK seeking sanctuary from persecution. Some wait years for their claim to be finally resolved. They want to take responsibility for looking after their families and escape from destitution when they cannot access government support. Yet long periods of unemployment during their asylum claim means that when allowed to stay, they often end up in jobs far beneath their qualifications and skills. And if they have their claim refused, they end up returning home with fewer skills than when they left and find it hard to start again.

Our society is losing too. The UK taxpayer foots the bill for a policy which prevents people from contributing to our economy. The great injustice is that people seeking asylum find themselves scapegoated as scroungers, when they would welcome the opportunity to work while they are here.

We call on the government to allow people seeking asylum to work.

They can work – they want to work – let them work”