

STAR Campaigning

May 2010



The Student Action for Refugees (STAR) network campaigns to improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Why Campaign for Refugees & Asylum Seekers?

Some UK laws and policies are very damaging to people who are seeking protection in this country. For example asylum seekers:

- ⊖ must pay overseas fees at most universities
- ⊖ can be detained for many months, including children and babies
- ⊖ are not allowed to work
- ⊖ are often denied all financial support and forced into destitution when their claim for asylum is denied

The STAR network believes this is wrong and works hard to challenge these policies and campaign for improvement.

STAR Groups Campaigning Together – Making our voice heard

STAR is made up of thousands of dedicated and creative student activists demanding a change to the policies and laws which damage the lives of refugees and asylum seekers.

Campaigning for change requires a clear message given in a clear voice. To ensure our voice is heard STAR members campaign together through the STAR network, co-ordinated and supported by the STAR national team.

We focus on a few important topics so that our message is heard clearly. STAR members decide which issues to campaign on through consultations convened by the STAR national team.

Campaigning Partnerships – Making our actions count

STAR is part of a wider movement of activists working to improve the lives of refugees in the UK. By working together we can make an even bigger difference, so STAR works closely with our friends including:

Refugee Council, Refugee Action, The Still Human Still Here Coalition, The Children's Society, Amnesty UK, Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), National Union of Students (NUS), Trade Union Congress (TUC), Brighter Futures

This means that STAR members become part of something even bigger and combine their skills with expert campaigners.

Campaigning Focus

Campaigning is STAR's highest profile activity. To be effective it is important to maintain clear and focused messages. As a charity STAR also has a legal responsibility to campaign only on those issues that are stated as our charitable objectives.

If your STAR group is planning a campaign not supported by the STAR network you must discuss this with the STAR national team first.

STAR's Current Campaigns

These are the campaigns which STAR is currently running. Much more detail about each campaign and how to get involved can be found on the website.

Equal Access to university

Asylum seekers 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 uniquely placed to correct this injustice.

STAR is leading a campaign to ensure that asylum seekers have Equal Access to higher education.

Child Detention

The OutCry! and End Child Detention Now campaigns demand an end to the detention of children seeking asylum.

STAR is supportive of all efforts to ensure the UK no longer locks up children who came for protection.

Still Human Still Here

The Still Human Still Here campaign highlights the plight of tens of thousands of refused asylum seekers who are being forced into abject poverty in an attempt to drive them out of the country.

STAR is working with organisations such as Amnesty and Refugee Action to end destitution.

Right to Work

STAR is working with Refugee Council, TUC and Brighter Futures to campaign for the right to work for asylum seekers to allow them to support themselves.

Anti-Deportation Campaigns

To ensure our members can receive maximum support when they need it the STAR network only campaigns against the deportation of its current members. Current members of STAR under imminent threat of deportation should contact the national team.

Contact

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