

# Equal Access

## Step by Step Guide for STAR Campaigners



### Building your own Equal Access campaign!

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#### 1. Find out about your university's policy

- ★ Check whether your university charges international student fees to people seeking asylum. A 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.

⇒ *Contact STAR national (see below for details) for advice on planning an 'Equal Access' campaign at your university*

#### 2. Get your Student Union's support

- ★ NUS policy is to support STAR's campaign so if your Student Union is affiliated with the NUS they should be able to provide support.
- ★ Arrange a meeting with your Student Union representative and discuss how you can campaign together.
- ★ Student Union officers have valuable knowledge of decision makers within the University. Ask for their advice on tactics for approaching your Vice-Chancellor.

⇒ *Contact STAR national for a copy of the NUS 'Briefing for Student Unions'*

#### 3. Raise awareness among other students!

*Action for Refugees Week: 22nd – 26th Feb 2010*

*Every year STAR members across the country campaign together and share ideas and resources. Remember, you're not campaigning on your own!*

- ★ Before you approach your Vice-Chancellor you need to show that there is wide student support to allow more asylum seekers to study at your university. So find a way to demonstrate student support!
- ★ Starting a petition is a simple and quick way to show lots of support.
- ★ Public events with photos and a news story can be very effective in reaching large numbers of people.

⇒ *Use the Petition (template)*

⇒ *Contact STAR national for the 'Ideas for Action' sheet for some exciting ideas to help raise the profile of your campaign!*

#### 4. Write to your Vice-Chancellor

- ★ In most cases it will be the Vice-Chancellor who has the power to decide whether to change the university's policy on access for asylum seekers.

- ★ Talk to STAR national about the best way to persuade your Vice-Chancellor.
- ★ Send a letter (adapted from STAR's template) to your Vice-Chancellor to outline the campaign and request a meeting to discuss the issue of *Equal Access* to your university for asylum seekers.
- ★ Follow-up if you do not receive a response after a few weeks.

⇒ *Contact STAR national for the 'Letter to Vice-Chancellor (Template)' and for a 'Guide to Lobbying your Vice-Chancellor'*

⇒ *Contact STAR national for the Brighter Futures 'Vice-Chancellor's Guide' to include with your letter and provide more background information*

## 5. Meet with your Vice Chancellor to agree policy change

- ★ This is your best chance to make your case for *Equal Access* to the university. It may also be your only chance, so fully prepare and make it count!
- ★ Read the advice and negotiation script in the 'Guide to Lobbying your Vice-Chancellor'.
- ★ Prepare and photocopy your petition and other evidence of support to hand over at the meeting.
- ★ 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.

⇒ *Contact STAR national for the 'Guide to Lobbying your Vice-Chancellor' including a negotiation script*

## Resources

To download from STAR website: [www.star-network.org.uk](http://www.star-network.org.uk)

- ★ STAR Campaign Briefing
- ★ STAR Information Sheet
- ★ Petition (Template)
- ★ Dealing with Difficult Questions
- ★ Student Union Motion (Template)

On request from STAR national: [campaigns@star-network.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@star-network.org.uk)

- ★ STAR Guide to Lobbying Your Vice-Chancellor (*coming soon*)
- ★ Letter to Vice-Chancellor (Template)
- ★ NUS Briefing for Student Unions
- ★ Brighter Futures Vice-Chancellor Guide (*coming soon*)

## Further Information

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