

The *Equal Access* Pledge



National Union of Students (NUS) and Student Action for Refugees (STAR) are calling for equal access to education for students seeking refugee protection in Britain.

The Issue

Individuals who are waiting for a decision on their asylum application or who have been granted discretionary leave to remain (DLR) in the UK as a result of an asylum claim do not have equal access to university. They cannot access student loans and grants and must pay international fees. Most asylum seekers are denied the right to work and live on just £36 a week. They cannot afford up to £30,000 a year in university fees. Furthermore, someone who has fled their country of origin to avoid war, torture or persecution is not the same as an international student who has chosen to study in Britain.

82% of Brits believe that protecting the most vulnerable is a core British value and 67% are sympathetic to refugees coming to Britain (Refugee Council 2011). We should be proud to do all we can to welcome them into the respected academic institutions which help make our country what it is!

The Pledge

The *Equal Access* campaign is calling for individuals and organisations to sign up to two simple principles that will ensure equal access for students seeking protection. For:

- ★ All those seeking refugee protection to be able to study as home students;
- ★ Students seeking refugee protection to be recognised as having additional needs just like other vulnerable groups and to be given the same access to additional support, such as bursaries.

I pledge my support to the *Equal Access* campaign

_____ (name)

_____ (role)

_____ (institution)

This campaign is supported by a broad coalition including:

