

## **Asylum Seekers / New Entrants: Advice and Support Services**

### **What's New**

Refugees are arriving from Ukraine. Specific information can be found on Glasgow City Council's website:

[Support for Ukrainian Nationals arriving in Glasgow - Glasgow City Council](#)

"Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution" Universal declaration of human rights.

The 1951 UN Refugee Convention defines a refugee as a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it. ([www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk))

### **Definitions**

- **Asylum Seeker:** Someone who has made a formal application for asylum i.e. to be recognised as a refugee

If one requires housing, this is given on a no-choice basis in any 'dispersal area' of the UK of which Glasgow is the largest in Scotland (c.5000 asylum seekers). Asylum seekers receive basic cash support, just under £50/week, for food and other necessities. This is loaded onto a debit card each week.

- **Refugee:** Someone whose application has been successful

Around 44% of initial applications are granted. Those successful will be granted five years limited leave to remain and can apply for indefinite leave to remain after five years. There are no restrictions on employment, study or access to public funds.

- **Refused (failed) asylum seeker:** Someone whose application has been unsuccessful

These people have the option to leave the UK voluntarily or to continue pursuing claim for protection by fresh claim or further legal processes. They are consistently at risk of being detained or deported. This process

can take months or years, making these people vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and worsening of physical or mental health problems. They are required to report regularly to the home office but this causes anxiety due to risk of removal to danger in own country. With appropriate legal and practical support, however, many eventually receive refugee status or other right to remain.

- **Economic migrant:** Person voluntarily moving to another country to improve their quality of life through work or study.
- **Illegal immigrant:** Someone who has not made themselves known to the authorities or whose legal status has expired.

### **Humanitarian Protection**

Some asylum seekers are seeking humanitarian protection rather than refugee status. This may be due to fleeing situations such as forced marriage, honour-based violence, domestic violence, FGM or human trafficking. It can be very difficult to receive such protection and those who are refused face destitution and homelessness in the same way.

### **Primary Care Support**

Primary Care is free throughout the UK to any person who has applied for asylum, no matter whether their case is pending, successful or unsuccessful.

GPs are required to register asylum seekers and refugees as any other patient.

In Glasgow the Asylum Health Bridging Team assist those newly housed in the city to register with a GP and also seek to do a basic health check including BBV testing, as appropriate, prior to GP registration. They can also help those who have lost their accommodation and need to find a GP in a new area.

## **Secondary Care**

In Scotland this is also free as for primary care. Elsewhere in the UK secondary care is restricted for refused asylum seekers but throughout the UK they are entitled to A&E care, sexual health services including HIV, some other infectious diseases and maternity care.

However, maternal mortality is higher among asylum seekers which is likely to be related at least in part to poor access to care.

## **Antenatal care**

There is a link midwife for Asylum seekers and refugees and FGM (GG&C). Refer asylum seekers requiring antenatal care to the Specialist Needs in Pregnancy team (SNiPs). They can be emailed at: [snipsglasgow@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:snipsglasgow@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

## **Mental Health Care**

Referrals can be made to the local Community Mental Health Team including Crisis Team as for any patient.

**Glasgow Psychological Trauma Service**, The Anchor will accept referrals of those who have experienced complex trauma. They can be contacted on 0141 303 8968 or [GlasgowPsychological.TraumaService@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:GlasgowPsychological.TraumaService@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

**Freedom from Torture** also provide mental health support for those who survived torture. They can be contacted on 0141 420 3161, [www.freedomfromtorture.org](http://www.freedomfromtorture.org) [accessed August 2023]

**TARA** provide support to women who have been trafficked and exploited. For professional advice call 0141 276 7724.

**Migrant Help** supports those who have been affected by displacement and exploitation. Contact them on 0141 884 7900.

**Saheliya** is a specialist mental health and well-being support organisation for black, minority ethnic, asylum seeker, refugee and migrant women and girls (12+) in the Edinburgh and Glasgow area. Contact them on: 0141 552 6540.

## **Support within Sandyford**

**Contact the Sandyford Inclusion and Outreach Team** via internal referral on NaSH for further advice and input if individual clients have extra needs or if information needs shared with other teams and partners.

### External Services that can help/provide information

- **Scottish Refugee Council:** Provide advice for new asylum seekers, including help to access a GP. Contact on 0808 196 7274.
- **Legal Services Agency:** provide legal services for those who may otherwise find it difficult to access. Contact them on 0141 353 3354 / <http://lsa.org.uk/lsa.php?id=38&n=2> [Accessed August 2023]
- **Women's Aid: Hemat Gryffe:** Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Aid 0141 353 0859, <https://www.hematgryffe.org.uk/> [Accessed August 2023]  
Provide refugee accommodation to women, families and young women, can occasionally assist when a client has no recourse to public funds and is homeless.

### Destitute Domestic Violence Concession

The UK Government has a Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession scheme.

The concession will provide people who are eligible to make an application to stay permanently in the UK - under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV) - with 3 months limited leave to remain in the UK and will enable them to apply for public funds.

If staff come across an individual who they believe may be eligible to make an application to benefit from the concession, they should refer women to Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (details above) and men to the Men's Advice Line at: <https://mensadvice.org.uk/> [Accessed August 2023]

### Further Guidance:

- Guidance on Trafficking can be found within Greater Glasgow & Clyde's guidance document on Human Trafficking, available via Staff Net.
- Scottish Governance Guidance for Health Workers <https://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-exploitation-health-workers-need-know/> [Accessed August 2023]
- Guidance for Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been trafficked <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/11/3285> [Accessed August 2023]
- Guidance on forced marriage <https://www.mygov.scot/forced-marriage> [Accessed August 2023]