

West-Midlands one-stop service, based in Birmingham, covers Shropshire. Advice 0121 420 1515.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Your local **Citizens' Advice Bureau** should be able to offer help and advice

Cheshire/Halton/Warrington

Local authority websites provide little or no information. *Advice Now* (see above) might be helpful.

Shropshire/Telford & Wrekin

Shropshire County Council –

www.shropshire.gov.uk

Advises initial contact with local Citizen's Advice Bureau, advice centre or law centre before approaching the council.

Telford www.telford.gov.uk/advice+benefits/asylum+immigration/

Manchester/Stockport/Tameside/Trafford/Wythenshawe

Manchester City Council –

www.manchester.gov.uk/ssd/adults/marim/contacts.htm has list of key contacts with information.

Marim the multi-agency for Refugee Integration in Manchester. 0161-835-3393.

Revive (a joint project of the Holy Ghost Fathers and the RC Diocese of Salford) 0161-792-0282 e: revive01uk@yahoo.co.uk www.spiritans.co.uk . Provides long-term support and advocacy services for asylum seekers and refugees who have been dispersed to Salford and its surrounding areas.

Routes (a project financed by the Children's Fund and managed by the Black Health Agency) 0161-835-3393 The Routes project provides initial support to asylum-seeking and refugee families newly arrived in Manchester with children aged 5-13.

Stockport Refugee Support Group A local voluntary group which exists to befriend and welcome refugees and asylum seekers to Stockport. It holds a weekly drop-in session. srsq@hotmail.co.uk .

Stockport Law Centre, 0161 476 6336. samara.tasselli@stockport.gov.uk

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council www.stockport.gov.uk/atozindex/asylumseekerssupport?a=5541

Asylum Seekers Team 0161 474 3651/2.

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

www.trafford.gov.uk Asylum Support Team 0161 912 1339.

Margaret.Stephens@trafford.gov.uk

Wythenshawe Law Centre

0161-498-0905/0906.

Wirral

Asylum Link, Liverpool 0151 709 1713.

General advice, befriending, drop-in, clothing etc.

British Red Cross (Liverpool) 0151-709-7799

Message and tracing service.

Refugee Action (Liverpool) 0151-702-6313

exists to enable refugees to build new lives, through providing advice and information, developing communities, enhancing opportunity, and campaigning for refugee rights.

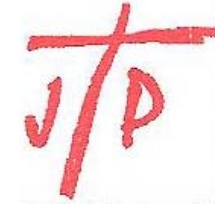
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

www.wirral.gov.uk/ - type 'asylum seekers' into

This leaflet has been produced by the J&P Commission to assist those parishes and schools who at some point may need to access help or information on asylum and refugee issues. Every effort has been made to ensure the information is reliable. We would be glad to be made aware of corrections and new resources.

Please contact the J&P Coordinator 01270620584 joansharples620@btinternet.com . 5/07

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission



Welcoming the Stranger

Resources for Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrant Workers

Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Chairman of the Office for Refugee Policy, Department for International Affairs:

"Given the magnitude and the complexity of the refugee problem, it is sometimes easy to forget that refugees and migrants are first and foremost individual human beings, not an abstract problem.

This is also my starting point for engagement with refugees and migrants, informed by my faith in the wonderful mystery of God's love for his creation and for ourselves.

Humanity is God's own creation and God is within each one of us; that includes those forced to migrate or flee persecution as individuals as well as collectively.

So in the end, God's justice, love and mercy among his creatures makes the balance."

INTRODUCTION

Increasingly parish priests, and schools are presented with individuals or families who are in this country as asylum seekers or refugees. Each case presents different problems and the legislation is becoming more complex and changes frequently. This leaflet aims to provide pointers to where parish priests and head teachers and others may go for help and advice.

WHO'S WHO

ASYLUM SEEKER

Someone who is fleeing persecution in their homeland, has arrived in another country, made themselves known to the authorities and exercised the legal right to apply for asylum.

REFUGEE

Someone whose asylum application has been successful and who is allowed to stay in another country having proved they would face persecution back home.

REJECTED ASYLUM SEEKER

Someone whose asylum application has been turned down and is awaiting return to their own country. If it is not safe for refused asylum seekers to return, they may have to stay for the time being. Failed asylum-seekers receive no benefits or housing unless they sign a declaration that they are willing to return home.

IMMIGRANT WITH IRREGULAR STATUS

(‘illegal immigrant’)
Someone who has arrived in another country, intentionally not made themselves known to the authorities and has no legal basis for being there.

MIGRANT WORKER

Someone who has legally moved to another country to work.

WHY?

As Christians we must never forget that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were asylum seekers. Mt 2: 5-23. Would their “story” be given credit today at our borders, or would they be deported back from where they had come? More theological background can be obtained from the website of Catholic Church in England & Wales www.catholicchurch.org.uk particularly *The Dispossessed* (2004). *Asylum Principles* and *Asylum Reflections* (2006) are available from Churches Together in Britain & Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk.

WHERE CAN I FIND HELP ...SUPPORT... ...INFORMATION?

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Advice Now [www.advicenow.org.uk/go/infoindex/infoaset_35.html?](http://www.advicenow.org.uk/go/infoindex/infoaset_35.html?term_text=asylum+seekers+refugees)

[term_text=asylum+seekers+refugees](http://www.advicenow.org.uk/go/infoindex/infoaset_35.html?term_text=asylum+seekers+refugees) – simply enter a postcode and the site will supply list of advice services in your area who specialise in these areas.

Asylum Aid www.asylumaid.org.uk Advice Line 020 7247 8741

Asylum Law www.asylumlaw.org – lists solicitor & barrister experts in asylum/refugee law by Locality, giving addresses, telephone numbers and languages spoken.

Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales
Refugee Advisor: John Joseet 020 790 4862
john.joseet@cbcew.org.uk

Church Action on Poverty *Living Ghosts Campaign*

Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JT 0161 236 9321 www.church-poverty.org.uk

Campaigning for an end to the destitution of failed asylum seekers.

Enabling Christians in Serving Refugees

www.ecsr.org.uk Information on projects, liturgical material, advice on housing, benefits, health etc.

Immigration Advisory Service 020 7378 9191

www.iasuk.org Charity providing representation and advice in immigration and asylum law. Advice sessions in Birmingham, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester and Warrington. Twenty-four service for people who have been refused asylum or who have immigration problems.

Jesuit Refugee Service UK 020 7357 0974

uk@jrs.net www.jrsuknet

JRS, an international Catholic organisation, works in over 50 countries, with a mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. In the UK it works with asylum seekers in detention through visits, phone calls and letters. Produces news sheets to keep them in touch with events in their country. Undertakes advocacy work and Campaigning.

NASS (National Asylum Support Service)

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/asylumsupport/aboutus/ Set up in 2000 to take over responsibility for supporting and accommodating asylum seekers from local authorities and the Department of Work and Pensions. Main office in Croydon plus eleven regional offices.

National Catholic Refugee Forum

07871 646 224 www.ncrf.fsnet.co.uk
A network of people concerned for asylum seekers and refugees.

Refugee Council

020 7820 3085 www.refugeecouncil.org.uk An independent charity working with asylum seekers and refugees - gives direct help and support. An easy-to-use site with a wealth of information.