

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees experiencing food insecurity

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Support
Service

The session today will cover:

- Introduction to the Scottish Refugee Council
- UK Asylum law
- Protection routes to the UK
- Rights and support for people seeking asylum
- How does this lead to food insecurity?
- Sources of support

About Scottish Refugee Council

What do we do?

- Refugee Support Service
 - Helpline
 - Family rights service
 - Refugee integration support
 - Destitution support
- Community development
- Policy advocacy
- Training and resource development

Asylum law in the UK

An asylum seeker is a person who has fled their country and is seeking protection from persecution in another country. They are waiting for a decision on their claim.

The right to claim asylum from persecution is a human right.

Where do people flee from?

75,658 asylum applications to the UK in the year ending June 2024 which related to **97,107** people.

Top source countries for asylum applications to the UK in the year ending June 2024:

- Afghanistan
- Iran
- Pakistan
- Vietnam
- Bangladesh
- India
- Eritrea
- Sudan
- Syria
- Turkey

Top host local authorities for asylum seekers (year ending June 2024):

- Glasgow (3,868)
- Aberdeen City (400)
- Aberdeenshire (193)
- Perth and Kinross (181)
- Inverclyde (136)
- Edinburgh (128)

Protection routes to the UK

- Asylum route
- Resettlement route
- Nationality based schemes (Afghan, Ukraine)

Rights of people seeking asylum

- No recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- Limited right to work (12-month ban, [Immigration salary list](#))
- Can access nursery, primary and secondary education
- Part-time further education, limited access to higher education
- Free ESOL classes
- Legal aid
- NHS

Home Office asylum support

Financial support and accommodation

- No choice dispersal accommodation
- Hotels or self-catered accommodation
- £49.18 (self-catered) or £8.86 (hotel) per person, per week

Food

- Three meals provided in hotels
- No choice and repetitive diet
- Lack of child-friendly options
- Unfamiliar food
- Limited budget for self-catering and accessing shops

Transition to refugee status

- 28-day move-on period
- End of section 95 support and asylum accommodation
- Access to mainstream benefits
- Mainstream homeless process and temporary accommodation (hotels)

Challenges:

- BRP card - delays and transition to eVisa
- Delays in receiving universal credit (5 weeks)
- Navigating the mainstream benefits system

What challenges do people face?

- Language barrier
- Isolation
- Psychological trauma
- Disruption to education and career
- Understanding a new culture and making connections
- Navigating the asylum system and transition to refugee status
- Digital access

How does this link to food insecurity?

- Ongoing food emergency
- Reliance on Home Office removes freedom of choice
- Refugee population encompasses a diverse range of cultures
- Feeling a lack of dignity during the asylum process and whilst accessing food support

Local support in Glasgow

- Refuweegee (clothes, food, warm space, social groups)
- Cranhill Development Trust (learning opportunities and advice)
- Glasgow City Mission (hot meals)
- Govan Law Centre (legal support)
- Govan Community Project (advocacy, food, women's groups, ESOL)
- Maryhill Integration Network (community groups, activities, ESOL)
- Maslow's Shop (clothes, household items)

Further training opportunities

- Introduction to Refugees Asylum and Resettlement
- Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children
- Introduction to Working with Interpreters
- Introduction to Supporting Refugee Integration

See our website for further information and pricing or get in touch with our training officer:

train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

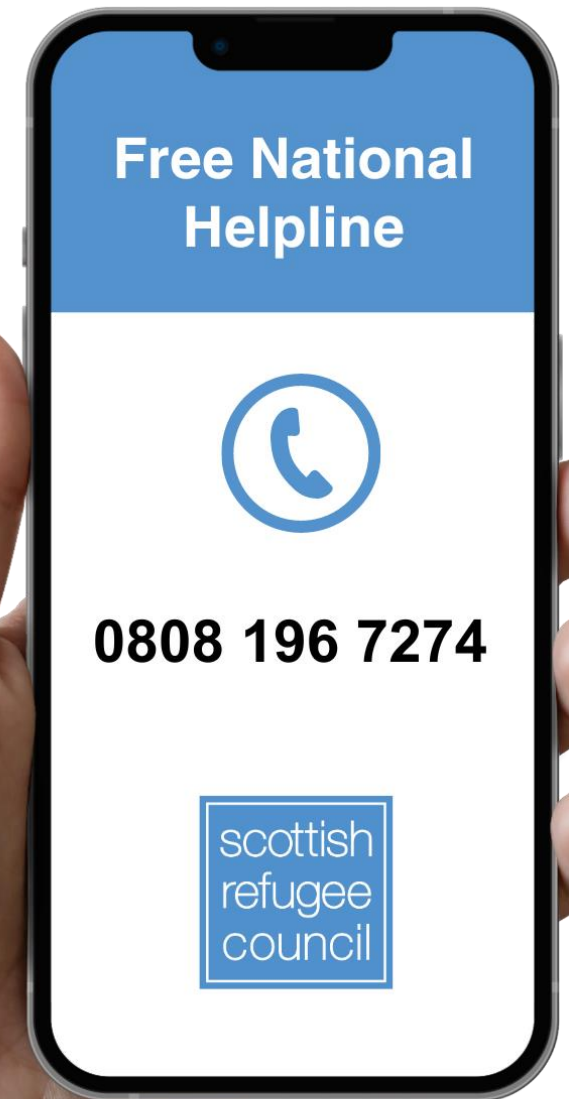
<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/working-for-change/t>



Call **0808 196 7274** for free and confidential information and advice on:

- Money
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Education
- Learning English
- Employment
- Accessing specialist support
- Making social connections
- Immigration information and advice

**Open 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday,
2pm-5pm Wednesday, and 9am-3pm Friday**



Questions?