

Guidance for Practitioners on:

Immigration, Asylum and No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

The UK asylum and immigration system can seem very complicated, and it is important that practitioners feel confident supporting people affected by this legislation. This guide has been produced to help practitioners working with citizens who may be non-UK nationals. It provides an overview of the key Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 legislation and signposts practitioners to resources as well as groups and services that offer support in Trafford.

Key Points

To live in the UK, all non-UK nationals must successfully apply to enter or remain in the UK, unless they have the right of abode or are exempt from immigration control.

When a person is allowed to enter or remain in the UK for a limited period, the government sets certain conditions relating to employment and access to public funds. Different conditions apply depending on the type of leave that the person has been granted, for example 'limited leave to enter' or 'indefinite leave to remain'.

When **limited leave to enter** is granted to someone to visit, study, or work in the UK, they will have a condition of 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) imposed. This means they will not be able to claim mainstream welfare benefits or access local authority housing. When a person is granted **indefinite leave to remain** or settled status, they will not be subject to any restrictions relating to work or access to public funds

1. Understanding the different terms

Asylum

Asylum is the name given to the international protection granted to someone who has left their home country and made an application to get refugee status in another country. An individual applying for refugee status needs to meet specific requirements in order to have their asylum claim accepted.

Whilst someone is seeking asylum, they have a condition applied of 'No Recourse to Public Funds' which means they cannot access mainstream benefits and do not have a National Insurance Number. Asylum seekers may have an [Asylum Registration Card](#) that provides details of their name, age, nationality and any rights to work in the UK.

UK Immigration

Immigration is the process through which individuals move to live permanently or become a citizen of another country, such as the UK. The immigration status of a person who is not a British citizen (non-UK national) will determine whether they are able to work and access public funds.

Refugee Status

If someone is successful in their claim for asylum in the UK, the government will grant refugee status for a **period of 5 years**. Refugee status is a form of immigration status in the UK. Refugees are not (yet) citizens in the UK, but they do have access to a number of rights such as benefits, housing and employment.

Once someone has refugee status, they can apply for an **eVisa**, (replacing the former Biometric Residence Card) via the government website. The eVisa provides an online record of a person's immigration status and right to remain in the UK and can also be used as proof of their identity. By logging into the government website to access the eVisa, individuals can request a **Share Code** which is essential for those wanting to find housing, claim benefits or access employment opportunities .

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

ILR means that the person has been granted permanent right to live in the UK, rather than being on a temporary visa. This gives the person the right to live, work, and study in the UK without a time limit, and means they are allowed to apply for mainstream benefits such as Universal Credit and housing support as well as health services.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

NRPF is a condition placed on a visa which limits a person's ability to access mainstream benefits and other types of financial support. Most people seeking asylum or with temporary leave will have an NRPF condition on their visa. This includes people with limited leave to remain (LTR), people on the 10 year route to settlement, and EU citizens who arrived in the UK after 31 December 2020.

Many migrants in the UK have an NRPF condition on their visa. It can cause financial hardship for the people it affects and can make some people vulnerable to exploitation and homelessness. The NRPF condition also affects family members and children whose parents have a NRPF condition on their visa.

For people who have NRPF, this information will be held on their eVisa. More support, advice, and information about the legislation can be found by following the link to the [NRPF Network](#).

Health Care

NHS treatment is not classed as a public fund for immigration purposes and can be accessed by individuals regardless of their immigration status, including those who are subject to the NRPF condition.

This means individuals are able to register with a GP practice for Primary Care services. However, a person's immigration status will affect whether they are required to pay for some types of treatment.

Follow the link for more information [how to register](#) .

Family Asylum Claim and Homelessness

Where the asylum claim involves parent/s and their children they can be considered as part of a [Family Asylum Claims](#). This means that the family is assessed together and lead to a single collective decision.

Where a parent cannot access benefits or if they become homeless and have NRPF status, the local council may have a duty to provide accommodation and financial support if their child is assessed as being in need by social services. In these cases, Children's Social Care will conduct an assessment and, if eligible, provide accommodation and support.

Where the request for asylum has been refused, an appeal can be made as part of the Family Asylum Claim. While the appeal is ongoing, the family will continue to have refugee status and continue to live in a Home Office Hotel.

Where the request for asylum has been refused for a couple without children or someone who is single, they can also appeal the decision, but they will not be allowed to continue living in a Home Office Hotel. In many cases people become homeless whilst appealing the decision, making them vulnerable to exploitation.

Changes in Legislation

Recently there have been some significant changes to the UK immigration and asylum legislation. One of these changes is the introduction of the Illegal Immigration Act 2023.

This sets out requirements to detain and remove people who have arrived in the UK by illegal means. This means that many immigrants who are victims of trafficking and modern slavery who arrive in the UK irregularly will not have access to support or have the right to appeal.

Homelessness Support from the Home Office

In the majority of cases, the Home Office will be responsible for providing support to people who have claimed asylum including those who are destitute, and in some cases, asylum seekers considered to be **“appeal rights exhausted”** (ARE). This means that their claim, and subsequent appeal, for asylum has been refused by the Home Office.

There are two types of support available: Section 95 covers asylum seekers deemed to be destitute and Section 4 covers asylum seekers classed as ARE. More detailed information can be found by using this link: [Section 95 asylum support | NRPF](#) .

There may be some instances when asylum seekers and those with ARE status may be provided with accommodation and financial support by social services instead of the Home Office.

Home Office support is also available to people who are subject to immigration bail and who are destitute, either on release from their detention or whilst they are living in the community.

2. Services and Support

Advice for practitioners on Immigration Status

When working with individuals and their families to access the right information and support, it may be necessary to determine their immigration status. Many people now have an eVisa which shows their identity and immigration status and the rights they are entitled to in the UK.

Professionals can also check someone's residency status in the UK by checking their details on the **Home Office Recourse to Public Funds (RTPF) Checker** or through their Universal Credit Account. You can also ask if they have a National Insurance Number.

Home Office Recourse to Public Funds:

To check someone's immigration status you will need the person's full name, date of birth and their 'share code'.

Using the following link [Check someone's immigration status](#), the service will show if they have the right to live in the UK, and any restrictions on their rights or access to benefits and services.

A 'share code' is issued by the government and expires after 90 days, after which a new share code can be requested from the UK government site: [get a share code to prove immigration status](#).

If you are enquiring about a family, separate checks are required for each member of the family unless they have submitted a Family Asylum Claim.

Special attention should be paid to the spelling of names as the system will not recognise misspellings and return a not known result which could be wrong.

3. Services offering help and support to refugees and asylum seekers

The following are included as useful contacts for services offering immigration and asylum support for people in Trafford.

Trafford Community Collective: Refugee Welcome Programme

The Refugee and Asylum Community Support service is provided by Trafford Community Collective and offers support for people seeking asylum and refugees who have been granted leave to remain, and who are living in Trafford. The programme can help with language skills, wellbeing and employment advice and operates across the five Community Hubs in Trafford: Altrincham, Sale, Stretford, Old Trafford and Partington.

Contact by Email : refugees@traffordcollective.org.uk

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit is a voluntary organisation set up to support people applying for asylum in the UK. They offer free legal advice, representation and support services to refugees, children, and vulnerable adults.

Opening Times: Telephone the advice line on 0161 740 7722 - Mondays AND Fridays from 9:30am to 1pm, and Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Website: [Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit](#)

Caritas support for homelessness and food

Caritas provides services across Greater Manchester including its Cornerstone Day Centre support designed to help people who are homeless and provides to a free lunchtime meal Monday to Friday every week. Caritas also provides support for mental health and wellbeing and helps people to access healthcare and other support services.

Contact: Enquiries can be made by phone on 0161 817 2250 or via email info@caritassalford.org.uk

Address: Caritas Salford, Nobby Stiles Drive, Collyhurst, Manchester, M4 4FA

Website: [Come along to our free health and homelessness fair | Caritas Salford](#)

Boaz Trust - Refused asylum seeker and homeless refugee support

The Trust is a Manchester based charity supporting people who have become homeless after claiming asylum. It provides safe accommodation, holistic support to support people into homes. More information is available on their website [Boaz Trust](#)

Contact: The Trust is open Monday to Friday 10.00 to 4.00 pm and can be contacted by telephone on 0161 202 1056 or e-mail info@boaztrust.org.uk

Address: Kath Locke Centre, 123 Moss Lane East, Greater Manchester, M15 5DD

Website: [Boaz Trust | Home](#)

Revive Manchester

Revive is an independent community project based in Greater Manchester. It offers a wide range of specialist advocacy, advice and support services for refugees and people seeking asylum, including those with complex lives and multiple needs. It also provides a regular drop-in service.

Contact: Enquiries can be made by phone on 0161 223 5668 or via the referral form on the website

Address: 183 Grey Mare Lane, Manchester, M11 3DR

Website: [Revive UKImmigration Advice - Revive UK](#)

Refugee Action

Refugee Action is a UK-based charity which offers help and advice services for asylum seekers, refugee resettlement projects, and employability support. The charities 'Greater Manchester Asylum Crisis Project' supports individuals and families who are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim as well as those who have had their first asylum claim rejected but are unable to return to their home country.

Contact: Their opening hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 9:45am-1pm and enquiries can be made by phone on 0161 515 3149 or via the contact form on their website or by email: ACM@refugee-action.org.uk

Address: 179 Royce Road, Hulme, Manchester M15 5TJ

Website: [Greater Manchester Asylum Crisis Project - Refugee Action](#)

Safety4Sisters North West

Safety4Sisters is a Manchester based charity offering refuge, advocacy and group support to Black and minoritised women with NRPF. It offers a specialist refuge short-term accommodation, advocacy support to any migrant women facing gender-based violence and holistic group work which provides a safe space for migrant women.

Contact: They can be contacted by phone on 0161 464 9505 or by email: info@safety4sisters.org

Address: Zion Community Resource Centre, 339 Stretford Road, Manchester, M15 4ZY

Website: [Safety4Sisters North West | Fighting for migrant womens' rights](#)

Southall Black Sisters

Southall Black Sisters is a London-based charity which specialises in providing free advice, advocacy, and support to women and girls experiencing violence. Although some of their services are restricted to London, they do offer a No Recourse Fund (NRF) which provides a vital safety net for victims with NRPF to access refuge or safe accommodation in order to escape domestic and sexual abuse, prostitution and trafficking and harmful practices. The NRF is available across the UK.

Contact: They can be contacted by phone on 020 8571 0900 or by email: info@southallblacksisters.co.uk

Website: [Home - Southall Black Sisters](#)

Freedom From Torture

Freedom From Torture supports people who have survived torture to heal, feel safe and strong again. This organisation offers therapy and support services to asylum seekers and refugees who have survived torture, including one-to-one therapy, group activities and other support including for physical pain.

Contact: They can be contacted by phone on 0161 236 5744 or via a referral on their website: [Make a referral | Freedom from Torture](#)

Email: northwest@freedomfromtorture.org

Website: [Support survivors of torture to rebuild their lives](#)

LGBT Foundation

The LGBT Foundation is a national charity which focuses on LGBTQ+ health and wellbeing, providing services and activities that give a lifeline to those in need. Although the foundation is unable to provide practical support for refugees and asylum seekers, the Community Safety team have created a factsheet of useful information and sources to help LGBT+ asylum seekers: [LGBT-Foundation-x-Asylum.pdf](#)

Rainbow Migration

Rainbow Migration helps to support LGBTQI+ people through the asylum and immigration system. Its services include practical and social support to improve self-esteem, reduce isolation, and help access health services and housing. It also offers specialist legal information and advice to LGBTQI+ people who are seeking asylum or making partnership applications to live in the UK with their partners, and it has partnerships with several law firms to help secure legal representation.

Contact: They can be contacted by phone on 0203 752 5801 or by email: hello@rainbowmigration.org.uk

Website: [Contact us - Rainbow Migration](#)