



*Letter writing pack*

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## **Responding to the myths and stereotyping around asylum and immigration in the press**

Compiled by Jenny Kassman for the London Assembly Against Racism.

For further information, contact the National Assembly Against Racism on 020 7247 9907; [info@naar.org.uk](mailto:info@naar.org.uk); [www.naar.org.uk](http://www.naar.org.uk)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this pack is to assist people wishing to respond to articles in the press which continue to perpetuate myths and stereotypes demonizing different groups and minorities in the UK, in this case refugees and asylum seekers. With the increase in the intensity and the frequency of such articles in both the local and national press, the need for prompt and co-ordinated responses has become greater than ever if we are to counteract the damaging and often violent consequences caused by distorted and irresponsible reporting.

This pack contains two sections. The first deals with approaches to letter writing to newspapers and periodicals and includes help with starting letters and the presentation of arguments. It also includes sample letters which have been published. The second is a reference section consisting of 'myth-busting' facts relating to refugees and asylum seekers as well as the names and addresses of organizations, offices and agencies around the UK who may be able to provide local data, which will be needed when writing to local papers.

## **NOTES FOR GUIDANCE**

- > Type your letter if possible, to ensure it can be read easily. Even better, send it by e-mail which is much faster. A letter may take 1 or 2 days to arrive by which time the news coverage on the topic you are writing about may have moved on. The e-mail for correspondence is printed on the letters page in newspapers.
  
- > Address your letter to the editor.

- > When writing to the local press, look at the letters page to gauge that paper's policy on length of letters.
  
- > Where possible, try to keep your letters short and present your facts clearly and concisely. Try to avoid generalizations.
  
- > Be selective. Choose no more than a couple of points that you want to get across.
  
- > Think about the readership of the paper and the people who will be reading your letter. Use language that they will be able to relate to. The letters' page is always popular, and you need to familiarize yourself with the sort of letter which is likely to be printed.
  
- > It is advisable for you to check the newspaper's policy towards publishing letters if you do not want your name and address to be printed. In such cases you should indicate your wishes in your covering letter as well as on the letter itself. Most papers are willing for you to withhold your identity in print, although you will need to inform the paper of your details, including your phone number. Most papers are willing for you to withhold your identity in print. If this is not their policy, you should give the name of your organization.

- > If your letter is not printed you are entitled to phone the editor to ask (calmly!) why it did not appear. If, following your enquiry, you consider the explanation given to be unreasonable, you can contact the National Union of Journalists (head office: 020 72 78 79 16) who will give you the name of a local contact.
  
- > If you just want the editor to think about an issue and you don't want your letter to be published, write NOT FOR PUBLICATION across the top.
  
- > We should point out that the facts presented in this pack deal with national data which will be most appropriate for inclusion in letters to national papers which deal mostly with country-wide issues. However it is to local newspapers that we expect most letters will be directed and in such cases the facts quoted invariably will need to relate to local issues. For this reason we are including in this pack the names and addresses of local offices of different organizations who deal with refugees and asylum seekers and which should be able to provide the facts and figures required.
  
- > You may wish to send a copy of your letter to your local MP. Your town hall will give you the address of party headquarters. At the same time it may be worth considering doing the same to your local councillor responsible for refugees (often the same councillor who is responsible for Social Inclusion).

We are grateful for the information provided by the following organizations whose articles, documents and web-sites we have used:

Amnesty International  
Daily Mirror  
Guardian  
Home Office  
RAM (Refugees', Asylum Seekers & the Mass Media  
Refugee Action Project)  
The Refugee Council  
The Scottish Refugee Council  
The Welsh Refugee Council  
United Nations Association  
United Nations High Commission for Refugees

We should also point out that on many occasions we have used their phraseology when presenting points, which we hope will be acceptable to them.

We hope that you will find the information useful and would be very grateful for any comments/suggestions that you may wish to make.

## STARTING LETTERS

Here are some suggestions for starting off letters:

- X wrote about ....as though.....
- X, in his/her article about...., completely misrepresents.....
- X says "...." . This is not so. Most.....
- X (March 4) neglects to mention that.....
- X misrepresents .... in stating that.....
- X's argument ..... is a strange one.
- X (March 4) asks why.....
- I was surprised to read in X's article that.....
- I should like to take X up on his assertion that.....
- It is not true, as X claims, that.....
- In claiming that ".....", X (Opinion, March 4) is selective in his  
statistics. -
- In his article on.... X fails to mention that.....
- In writing that....., X overlooks a crucial detail.
- Last (week's) (front-page) article on.... was misleading.  
X's article on....
- I can assure X that..... In fact.....
- In response to X's article ".....", I would like to point out that.....
- I was shocked by the comments made (in your editorial) that.....  
surprised by.....
- So X's latest justification for....is that.....
- I think X has a rather (narrow) view of.....
- What X (Analysis, March 4) fails to see is that.....
- I found your/X's report on..... quite extraordinary.
- X and Y claim that..... In fact (it is well known that).....  
so it is incorrect to assume that.....
- If X really wants to..... then he has got its facts wrong.

- Your rush to publish has ignored.....
- You report (March 4) that.....
- The double standard between.....and..... (clearly lives on).
- The distorting mirror of....is held up with irritating regularity.  
Turn it round.
- It really is time to lay the myth to rest that.....  
I have seen/experienced..../am conscious that..../know.....
- We are..... On the basis of....there is no justification for.....
- If the (government) succeeds in its endeavour to..... If not.....
- The legislation introduced by the government to..... is..../shows.....
- I do not feel threatened by.....
- In the arguments about ..... one factor is almost completely  
ignored.
- Why.....?
- The hysterical response to..... has further alienated.....
- Far from (being a drain on the economy), (refugees have contributed....)



## SAMPLE LETTERS

Editor  
Evening Standard

Dear Sir

*Letter for publication*

In a recent report in the Standard (24 September 2003) a refugee family were described as 'illegal asylum seekers' who later gained 'legal asylum'. An error regularly repeated in other media. The inaccurate use in the press of expressions of this kind only serves to exacerbate the immense confusion that exists among the wider public in regard to the terms 'asylum seekers' and 'refugees'.

All asylum seekers are given *legal* admission to the UK while their claims are assessed. To guarantee that no one is returned to face torture or persecution the United Nations Refugee Convention ensures that all asylum claims are considered and no one is penalized for entering a country clandestinely. There is, therefore, no such thing as an 'illegal asylum seeker'.

Once offered protection as refugees in this country, as was the case with the family referred to in your report, refugees enjoy the same rights as other British citizens. They can work here and have permanent residency.

The Refugee Council fully expects these important issues to be reported – and debated – in the media. We want to continue to work with the media to ensure that the public have access to a fair and unprejudiced portrayal of asylum seekers and refugees and the issues that surround them.

Yours faithfully,

Fazil Kawani  
Director of Communications  
Refugee Council  
3 Bondway  
London SW8 1SJ

Dear Editor,

This week has seen bitter winter weather return to a North East England blanketed with snow and with temperatures below freezing at night, and for much of the day also.

This week also sees the government introducing a new policy, made law in the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, which will leave potentially thousands of destitute asylum seekers throughout Britain including NE England, without access to any state support whatsoever.

These measures will affect the majority of asylum seekers. According to 2001 figures, 65% of asylum applicants (46,387 people) applied in-country. In the same year, 65% of decisions concerning in-country applicants were positive and resulted in protection granted by the Home Office, which is now threatening to withdraw support from this group of people. Asylum seekers will have no right of appeal on the Home Office's decision to deny them support.

People without any food or shelter could include, pregnant women may not be entitled to support until after their babies are born, people with disabilities or special needs will have to wait for an assessment from their local authority, which can take at least six weeks before support is granted. Others who may be destitute also include families with children who could be without shelter overnight, or longer while the Home Office consider their case for support, and teenage children who arrive without parents and claim they are 18 but are not believed by the Home Office and could also be denied support.

It seems appalling to me that in the present sub-zero temperatures which we are experiencing at present, some of the most vulnerable members of society are to be left cold and hungry on the streets. It does make me question just what kind of 'civilised' society we are living in, in this country.

Yours sincerely,

The Editor  
The Observer  
119 Farringdon Road  
London EC1R 3ER

25 July 2002

Dear Editor,

We are writing to express our disappointment at the Government's abrupt announcement to end the concession that allows asylum seekers to work after six months. There has been no consultation with any refugee organisations about the major repercussions that this move will have both on asylum seekers themselves and on the many organisations that are funded to provide advice, guidance and training to those whose cases have been outstanding for more than six months.

Sadly Government policy is designed to sound tough, not act smart. Mr Sarkozy, the French Interior Minister, who believes that allowing asylum seekers to work will draw them here, seems to have more influence on Britain's asylum policy than both the electorate and evidence from the Home Office's own research. A recent survey carried out by MORI highlighted public support for asylum seekers' right to work and Home Office research published this week shows that that this type of restrictive policy has no discernable effect on the numbers claiming asylum.

At a time when there are dire shortages in the labour market it is the height of folly to restrict the ability of asylum seekers (many of whom are professional people) whilst they await the outcome of their cases. The consequences for those allowed to stay in Britain will be additional difficulties re-entering the labour market and regaining the skills they have lost in the wait.

Yours faithfully,

Nick Hardwick — Chief Executive, The Refugee Council  
Andy Gregg -- Director, Refugee Education and Training Advisory Service  
Sarah Hayward -- Employability Forum  
Azar Sheibani — Refugee Assessment and Guidance Unit, University of North London

## MYTH-BUSTING FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

### MYTH: "Bogus asylum seekers abusing the system"

- > Government's own statistics suggest that well over 50% of asylum seekers are genuine refugees. Discrepancy arises from the fact that the most frequently quoted statistics cover only initial decisions (about 75% of which are refusals) and do not include those who are recognized as genuine refugees on appeal or after the initial refusal has been reviewed by the Home Office. The fact that so many asylum seekers who are initially refused status as refugees go on to win their appeals reflects the poor quality of decision making at the Home Office.
  
- > The main countries of origin from where people who claim asylum have fled are those with harsh and repressive regimes where grave and widespread violations of human rights have been documented, such as Afghanistan (12%), Iraq (15%), Somalia (7%), Sri Lanka(6%), and Zimbabwe (8%) (2002 figures). It is unfortunate that the same government which has been so keen to invade Iraq, citing its oppressive political regime as a good cause, at the same time fails to recognize the reasons why people flee such regimes. In 2002 nearly 3,000 Iraqis were refused refugee status or 'exceptional leave to remain'. Of these 60% - 70% were again rejected on appeal. As they could not return home, they are now destitute. One set of figures from the Home Office shows that between July and September 2002 more than 700 Iraqis had no form of support at all. (Guardian Saturday Supplement, 22 March 2003)
  
- > For many, a false document is the only means of escape. This makes them appear as 'bogus'. Often governments refuse to issue passports to known political dissidents, or imprison them if they apply. In such cases refugees have no choice but to resort to illegal means of escape, such as using false travel documents.
  
- > The UK already has restrictive measures in place to deter refugees from coming here. The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 extends 'carrier's liability' legislation to cover all road vehicles, air transport, shipping and international railway services whereby carriers are fined £2000 for each passenger brought to the UK without valid travel documentation.

**MYTH: "Most asylum seekers actually come from safe countries."**

- Most refugees in recent years have been from Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Colombia and the former Yugoslavia - countries where there has been serious conflict or grave human rights abuses.

**MYTH: "Many asylum seekers are 'illegal'."**

- The UK has signed the 1951 Convention on Refugees, which means that by law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in the UK and remain until a final decision on their application has been made. Therefore, by definition there is no such thing as an illegal asylum seeker.
- The fact that an asylum seeker may have entered the country illegally does not mean his or her case lacks credibility. It is virtually impossible for people fleeing persecution to reach the UK without resorting to the use of false documents.

**MYTH: "The UK is a soft touch for asylum seekers."**

- The idea that the UK or any other European country is a 'soft touch' is simply not true. As European countries introduce increasingly tougher immigration controls, it is extremely difficult to gain entry to Europe at all. The sealing of the Channel Tunnel and the closure of Sangatte have affected numbers entering this country.
- In 2001 Canada granted protection to 97% of Afghan asylum applicants, where the UK granted only 19%. Somali applicants had a 92% success rate in Canada, whereas in the UK it was only 34%. 85% of Colombian applicants in Canada were granted protection against 3% in the UK.
- In 2002, 8,100 (10%) people were granted asylum (before appeal), 19,965 (24%) were granted exceptional leave to remain and 54,650 (66%) were refused asylum.
- 13,335 failed asylum seekers were removed in 2002 - a record annual figure. (Home Office web site)

- > Welfare provision for asylum seekers in the UK is far from generous. They receive payment which is one third less than basic income support. This amounts to less than £37.77 per week - 30% below the poverty line. They are not allowed to work, even though they are very keen to seek employment. Washing machines, TVs, videos are not provided.
- > Asylum seekers are given "hard-to-let" properties that no-one wants in the least popular estates in areas of multiple social problems, or are farmed out to privately-rented flats which often are in sub-standard condition.
- > Many asylum seekers prefer to come to the UK because of family ties, the existence of established communities of their own nationality or ethnic origin or because they have a knowledge of English. These are quite legitimate reasons for wanting to claim asylum in this country.
- > The present government has overhauled immigration security. Ferry firms and hauliers who bring over stowaways are fined and extra staff have heartbeat and breathing detectors.
- > From 8 January 2003 the government has withheld support from the majority of people who apply for asylum once inside the UK, rather than at a port (Section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act). This has led to chronic destitution and homelessness. An appeal has been lodged opposing a court ruling against this legislation despite the fact that the Home Office's own figures show that around 65% of positive decisions are given to applications made from within the UK
- > A joint study by Oxfam and the Refugee Council shows that the asylum system in the UK, far from being a 'soft touch', institutionalizes poverty. A report was produced on the basis of studying 40 organisations working with asylum seekers and refugees, which revealed that of those with whom they have contact, 85% experience hunger, 95% cannot afford to buy clothes or shoes and 80% are not able to maintain good health.
- > The recent increase in the number of asylum seekers shows that the draconian measures brought in by the UK government do not prevent people from seeking asylum in the UK. They do not come to the UK for the benefits.

- › On their arrival, asylum seekers have to fill in a 19-page legal document in English (the Statement of Evidence Form) and send it to the Home Office in time (often within 10 days), together with supporting documents. A large number of refugees' applications are rejected on the grounds of 'non compliance', 26,630 in 2000.
- › The granting of 'exceptional leave to remain', which guaranteed four years' asylum is being replaced by a new category, 'humanitarian protection' which allows only 6 months' stay.

**MYTH: "The UK is in danger of being 'swamped' by huge numbers of refugees and asylum seekers."**

- › It has been calculated that the UK hosts only 1-2% of the world's refugees and asylum seekers.
- › There are about 12 million refugees around the world, the majority of whom are living in less developed countries. During 1992-2001, the developing countries provided asylum to 72% of the global refugee population, leaving the wealthier countries to help just 28%.
- › At the end of 2001, Asia hosted the largest refugee population (48.3%). Africa hosted 27.5%, Europe hosted 18.3%, North America 5%, Oceania 0.6% and Latin America and the Caribbean 0.3%.
- › At the present time the main host countries are Pakistan, sheltering 2.2 million persons and Iran, 1.9 million. Nearly all refugees have fled to other parts of their own countries, or to neighbouring countries - only a small fraction reaches Europe, let alone the UK.
- › The UK ranks only 10<sup>th</sup> among countries of the European Union when comparing the numbers of of asylum seekers to the population of the host country. Belgium has 4.2 in every 1000 people compared to Britain's 1.7.
- › The UK with its average GDP per capita of £22,550, hosts about 2 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants while Kenya hosts over 7 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants and has an average GDP per capita of £595. Armenia hosts 70 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants, the Congo hosts 40 per 1000, Yugoslavia 38 per 1,000, Djibouti 37 per 1,000 and Zambia 27 per 1,000.

- Approximately 923,000 people applied for asylum worldwide in 2001.  
The number of applications in the European Union fell 2% from 391,460 to 384,530 in 2001.

**MYTH: "Refugees are a threat to the British way of life and to our national identity."**

- 17 Nobel Laureates, 71 Fellows or Foreign Members of the Royal Society and 50 Fellows or corresponding Fellows of the British Academy are refugees.
- Refugees and immigrants enrich British culture:

- Fish and chips was brought to the UK by 17th-century Jews expelled from Portugal.
- Alec Issigonis, who fled the war between Turkey and Greece, was the brain behind the Mini and the Morris Minor.

Other famous refugees and immigrants to Britain include:

John Barnes - footballer

Yasmin Alibhai Brown - journalist and editor

Lord Meghnad Desai - economist

Sigmund Freud - psychiatrist

Lew Grade - impresario & life peer. Head of Associated Television

Bernie Grant - MP

Paul Hamlyn - publisher

Darcus Howe - writer and broadcaster

Sousa Jamba - writer

Arthur Koestler - author and journalist

Trevor McDonald - news broadcaster

Bill Morris - trade union leader

Ben Okri - writer

Sir Karl Popper - philosopher

Joseph Rotblat - physicist

Sir George Solti - conductor

**MYTH: "Asylum seekers are costing the taxpayer a fortune".**

- > Refugees bring a wealth of skills and experience to this country. They include doctors, teachers and IT specialists. A Home Office study shows that in 1999-2000 they made a net fiscal contribution of approximately £2.5 billion.
- > Home Office research has shown that asylum seekers would by far prefer to support themselves than be supported by the Government.
- > The Home Office's own research study no. 141 confirms that refugees' talents are under-utilised in Britain.
- > Some of Britain's most successful entrepreneurs are refugees - Paul Hamlyn, publisher, Rolf Schild of Huntleigh Engineering.
- > When you rank countries on the basis of comparing their national wealth to the number of asylum seekers they support, the UK comes 78<sup>th</sup> in the world and 6<sup>th</sup> in Europe. That means there are 77 countries, among whom are some of the poorest in the world, who spend proportionately more of their national wealth on supporting asylum seekers than we do in the UK. These include Kenya and the Congo.
- > Given we earn billions of pounds exporting arms, it isn't unreasonable to spend a tiny fraction of that income in protecting the victims of the human rights abuses that result.

**MYTH: "Asylum seekers don't want to work."**

- > Many seekers have left behind businesses or skilled jobs in their home country and are keen to start work and earn. Applicants are legally banned from working in the UK until they are granted refugee status or exceptional leave to remain.

**MYTH: "Refugees increase unemployment and take jobs away from 'real' British citizens'.**

- The UK's working population is declining, while its population's aspirations to do only clean, sedentary, well-paid jobs are rising. Often it is foreigners who perform the arduous and low-paid jobs in cleaning or catering, who work as care assistants, do casual work on their farms, drive mini-cabs, or deliver pizzas.
- The UK's low birth-rate, 1.64 - the lowest since records began in 1924 - means that this country will need to import migrants simply to keep its working-age population stable between now and 2050 and to ensure the increasing number of pensions can be financed for our aging population.

**MYTH: "Asylum seekers are linked to criminal gangs."**

- Statistics show there has been no refugee crime wave and that there is no established connection between asylum and increased crime rates. They are less likely to commit major crimes than UK citizens are because it would affect their asylum application.
- According to a report published by the Association of Chief Police Officers, refugees are more likely to become victims of crime. There has been a marked increase in racist attacks as a result of the hostile publicity around asylum seekers. When they are victims of physical or verbal abuse it is rarely reported in the press.

**MYTH: "Once asylum seekers enter the UK they never want to go back to their country of origin."**

- They do want to go home. Refugees go back to their country once the reasons which forced them to flee no longer exist. For example, most South Africans and Chileans who fled to Britain returned when it was safe for them to do so. The vast majority of Kosovo Albanians have also returned, despite the fragile situation in Kosovo.

**MYTH: "Refugees are able to apply for asylum in the UK from abroad."**

- > Refugees are people who have been forced to flee their homes by human rights abuses. It is impossible for them to apply to another country for asylum while in their home countries for fear of reprisals, leaving them no choice as to where they claim.
  
- > Many asylum seekers who overcome the odds to reach this country have suffered extensive physical and mental trauma in their own countries. They are prepared to give their life savings to agents and to suffer dreadful and often dangerous conditions on the journey in order to escape persecution or death in their own countries. Why would they not deserve the UK's assistance?

**MYTH: "Refugees are going to be 'flooding' into rural Britain as a result of dispersal."**

- > The number of asylum seekers dispersed proportionate to the number of local population is tiny in terms of numbers of asylum seekers being dispersed per capita in the region.

On the following page is a list published by the Home Office of the numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support from NASS in various cities and local authorities around the UK at the end of December 2002.

**Table 8: Asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support from NASS<sup>(1)(2)</sup>, by Local Authority and UK Government Office Region as at the end of December 2002**

Region	Local authority <sup>(3)</sup>	%	Region	Local authority <sup>(3)</sup>	%	
<b>ENGLAND</b>			<b>ENGLAND (continued)</b>			
North East	Gateshead	25	London (continued)	Hammersmith and Fulham	475	
	Middlesbrough	50		Haringey	2,575	
	Newcastle upon Tyne	60		Harrow	790	
	Sunderland	20		Havering	60	
	Other	55		Hillingdon	625	
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	1%		Hounslow	750	
North west	Bolton	35		Islington	810	
	Liverpool	100		Kensington and Chelsea	260	
	Manchester	445		Kingston upon Thames	170	
	Oldham	20		Lambeth	1,240	
	Salford	60		Lewisham	1,060	
	Sefton	30		Merton	715	
	Tameside	20		Newham	2,660	
	Trafford	40		Redbridge	755	
	Other	170		Richmond upon Thames	60	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>925</b>		2%	Southwark	1,170
Yorkshire & Humberside	Bradford	125		Sutton	150	
	Doncaster	25		Tower Hamlets	380	
	Kingston upon Hull, City of	35		Waltham Forest	1,395	
	Kirklees	45		Wandsworth	855	
	Leeds	260		Westminster	515	
	Sheffield	205		Other	5	
	York	20		<b>Total</b>	<b>28,555</b>	
	Other	85			76%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	2%		South East	Ashford	30
East Midlands	Charnwood	25			Brighton and Hove	125
	Derby	55			Canterbury	25
	Kettering	20			Crawley	135
	Leicester	590			Dartford	20
	Northampton	230			Dover	40
	Nottingham	110			Eastbourne	45
	Other	140			Gravesham	65
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,170</b>			3%	Hastings
West Midlands	Birmingham	600			Maidstone	25
	Coventry	190			Medway	90
	Dudley	25	Milton Keynes		165	
	Sandwell	105	Oxford		145	
	Stoke-on-Trent	25	Portsmouth		35	
	Walsall	50	Reading		235	
	Wolverhampton	105	Rushmoor	75		
	Other	85	Shepway	45		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,185</b>	3%	Slough	425	
East of England	Basildon	20	Southampton	175		
	Bedford	140	Thanet	85		
	Cambridge	20	Windsor and Maidenhead	30		
	Great Yarmouth	30	Woking	35		
	Hertsmere	25	Worthing	30		
	Ipswich	45	Wycombe	25		
	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	50	Other	280		
	Luton	285	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,445</b>		
	Norwich	35		6%		
	Peterborough	225	South West	Bournemouth	65	
	South Cambridgeshire	40		Bristol, City of	230	
	Southend-on-Sea	155		Gloucester	75	
	Thurrock	40		Plymouth	20	
	Watford	75		Swindon	90	
Welwyn Hatfield	25	Other		110		
Other	190	<b>Total</b>		<b>590</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,405</b>	4%		2%		
London	Barking and Dagenham	475	Total (England)	<b>37,285</b>	99%	
	Barnet	805	Wales	Cardiff	70	
	Bexley	105		Newport	25	
	Brent	2,245		Other	85	
	Bromley	155	<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	0%	
	Camden	605	Scotland	Edinburgh, City of	120	
	Croydon	1,120		Glasgow City	140	
	Ealing	1,900		Other	75	
	Enfield	1,430		<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	
	Greenwich	685		1%		
	Hackney	1,570	Northern Ireland	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	0%
		<b>Total (United Kingdom)</b>	<b>37,810</b>			

(1) Figures are provisional and rounded to the nearest 5 (except percentages).

(2) Excludes cases where support has been ceased by the National Asylum Support Service

(3) Local Authorities with fewer than 20 cases are grouped by region as 'other'

## **REFUGEE COUNCIL**

### **Head Office**

3 Bondway  
London SW8 1SJ

Tel: 020 78 20 30 00  
Information Line open Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays & Fridays, 10.00am to 1.00pm  
e-mail: [info@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **West Midlands Office**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Smithfield House  
Digbeth  
Birmingham B5 6BS

Tel: 0121 242 22 00

### **Eastern Region Office**

Unit 1  
4-8 Museum Street  
Ipswich  
IP1 1HT

Tel: 01473 221 560

### **Yorkshire and Humberside Office**

Ground Floor  
Hurley House  
1 Dewsbury Road  
Leeds LS11 5DQ

Tel: 0113 244 9404

## **SCOTTISH REFUGEE COUNCIL**

### **Edinburgh Office**

1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Wellgate House  
200 Cowgate  
Edinburgh EH1 1NQ

Tel: 0131 225 99 94  
Fax: 0131 225 99 97

### **Glasgow Office**

5 Cadogan Square  
Cadogan Street  
Glasgow G2 7PH

Tel: 0141 248 97 99



- Leeds:** Tel: 0113 244 53 45 Centenary House,  
59 North Street,  
Leeds LS2 8JS
- Leicester:** Tel: 0116 261 4830 Muslim Community Resource Centre,  
Melbourne Centre,  
Melbourne Road,  
Leicester LE2 0GU
- Liverpool:** Tel: 0151 702 6300 34 Princes Road,  
Liverpool L8 1TH
- Manchester:** Tel: 0161 233 1200/1215 (agency line) 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Dale House,  
35 Dale Street,  
Manchester M1 2HF
- Nottingham:** Tel: 0115 941 8552 Albion House,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
5-13 Canal Street,  
Nottingham NG1 7EG
- Plymouth:** Tel: 01752 519 860 Virginia House,  
40 Cooe Street,  
Plymouth PL4 0EB
- Southampton:** Tel: 023 8024 8130 50 Oxford Street,  
Southampton SO14 3DP

**Northern Refugee Centre** (information on asylum and refugee issues)

Carver House

2 Carver Street

Sheffield Tel: 0114 725 3114

**Home Office: Research and Development**

**This department can provide statistics relating to refugees & asylum seekers.**

Enquiries: 020 87 60 82 8055

Web site produced by the Home Office which gives comprehensive facts relating to

asylum seekers : <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/asylumq402.pdf>

### **The PressWise Trust**

38 Easton Business Centre

Felix Road

Bristol BS5 0HE

Tel: 0117 941 58 89

e-mail: [pw@presswise.org.uk](mailto:pw@presswise.org.uk)

(PressWise is a charity run by journalists to promote media ethics. It assists those groups harmed by unfair or inaccurate coverage to obtain redress. The charity provides advice, information, research and training for media professionals, members of the public and non-governmental organizations.)

### **The RAM Project**

e-mail address: [ram@presswise.org.uk](mailto:ram@presswise.org.uk)

web site: [www.ramproject.org.uk](http://www.ramproject.org.uk)

(The Project's aim is to develop strategies that will assist refugees, asylum-seekers and organizations working with them to obtain fair and accurate representation in the mass media.)