

# ASAP

ASYLUM  
SUPPORT  
APPEALS  
PROJECT

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

*'Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) is a small national charity that uses its niche legal expertise, access to evidence and links to a large number of organisations and legal practitioners to reduce the destitution of asylum seekers across the UK, many of whom are left in limbo as they are unable to return home, denied work in the UK and prevented from accessing support and healthcare'*

[www.asaproject.org.uk](http://www.asaproject.org.uk)



## About ASAP

ASAP is a small national charity which aims to reduce destitution among asylum seekers by protecting their legal rights to food and shelter. We work with organisations around the UK which assist asylum seekers who are in need of support. We also work with people who have been forced to flee their home countries and are denied work in the UK and prevented from accessing support. Most come from conflict zones or countries with a well-documented record of human rights abuses, yet find themselves street homeless in the UK, surviving on charitable donations.

**ASAP**

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## OUR HISTORY

In 2000, the government removed asylum seekers' entitlement to mainstream benefits. Asylum seekers could apply for basic housing and welfare support and appeal decisions to stop or refuse them support, but they could not access legal representation at appeal hearings as there was no legal aid for this work. Concerned at the prospect of people with little English and no

legal knowledge having to make their own case for support, ASAP was set up in 2003 to ensure they had legal assistance at hearings.

Initially run by volunteers twice a week, ASAP has grown from strength to strength over the past 10 years and since 2009 has operated a daily duty scheme providing free legal representation. After securing funding ASAP then added a policy

remit to the work and expanded the advice and training provided to frontline organisations.

Since ASAP began the duty scheme more than 4,200 asylum seekers have been provided advice or representation, and the scheme has enjoyed success rates of over 60% annually. Being represented by ASAP increases appellants' chances of success by 30%.

## What we do

- *Provide free legal representation and advice to asylum seekers appealing against Home Office decisions to refuse or withdraw their asylum support, via a duty scheme at the Asylum Support (First-Tier) Tribunal in East London.*
- *Deliver training and run an advice line for frontline organisations, advice agencies and legal practitioners working with asylum seekers.*
- *Engage in policy, lobbying and litigation to improve policies and procedures on asylum support.*
- *Run a women's project to improve their access to support.*

## Our values

- We believe in human rights and the rights of all persons seeking asylum in the UK to have shelter, food and support and not to live in destitution.
- We believe in access to justice, holding the Home Office and Tribunal to account, and the importance of ensuring dignity and equality for the persons we serve.
- We believe in maintaining our independence.
- We believe in collaboration with other organisations and value openness and transparency.
- We value listening to the asylum seekers we work with, enabling them to explain their perspective in a complex and intimidating system of support.

## Our team: 2014/15

In 2014/15 ASAP employed 7 staff. About 45 barristers and solicitors from law firms and high-profile chambers provided pro bono services. The work is overseen by a management committee that combines expertise on legal advice, asylum support and charity management.



Above: Eiri Ohtani (left), interim director (January 2014–September 2014), covered Hazel Williams (middle), director (returned from maternity leave, September 2014); Anna Dixie, duty scheme coordinator  
Below (l to r): Alice Webb, women's legal adviser; Dianah Rouse, finance and operations officer; Deborah Gellner, solicitor  
Bottom: (l to r): Mark Rogers legal researcher and adviser (until September 2014), covered Marie-Anne Fishwick (middle); Kama Petruczenko, paid duty scheme intern and administration and operations officer, covered maternity leave  
Not pictured: office volunteers Rose Featherby, John Hillman, Jennifer Wilowski



## A hugely successful year



The year 2014/15 has been a hugely successful year for ASAP, despite the increasingly hostile political and funding climate. In July

2014 we moved to our new offices at Anchorage House in Docklands, in the ground floor of the building where the First-tier Tribunal (Asylum Support) is based. Being co-located in the same building as the Tribunal has brought several advantages to ASAP's work:

- It has enabled us to achieve a significant increase in the percentage of cases we are able to represent at the Tribunal because staff members can more easily step in to represent additional cases with minimal disruption to their ability to carry on with their other work. It has also provided us with additional interview rooms, so where there are a large number of listings, more than one volunteer can advise our clients in confidence. During 2014/15, we represented and advised 674 destitute asylum seekers, the highest number in our 12 year history, constituting 83% of the appeals in which we could have represented. About 65% of appeals resulted in the appellant gaining or retaining vital support (because their appeals were allowed or remitted to the Home Office to reconsider a discontinuation decision).

- The new office now has a separate room which is used for our second-tier advice line, minimising disruption both for the person staffing the advice line and the rest of the office. Over the year, we increased calls to the advice line by 33%, receiving 655 calls from 159 agencies.

- We have also been able to improve our level of support to our volunteers because they are able to drop in to the office before and after their duty session at the Tribunal, to discuss their cases and any concerns with our legal team, and if necessary our staff can go upstairs to assist.

For the first time this year, ASAP intervened in a judicial review claim brought by an individual asylum seeker against the Home Office. The case concerned the availability of Section 4 support for a refused asylum seeker who had outstanding further representations on the grounds of his family life in the UK, under Article 8, ECHR. ASAP's intervention highlighted the inconsistent approach which was being taken by First-tier Tribunal judges.

The claim eventually settled with a consent order, reflecting acceptance by the Home Office that support was in principle available in Article 8 cases. The decision to intervene was not taken lightly by ASAP but I believe it was a positive step forward for our strategic objectives of securing asylum seekers' legal rights to food and shelter and that we made a positive impact on the outcome of the case.

I would like to especially thank our solicitor, Anne McMurdie of Public Law Solicitors, and counsel, Martin Westgate QC and Bryony Poyner, as well as the Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants which supported the intervention.

### Access to food and shelter

Another of ASAP's strategic objectives for 2014-2019 is to ensure that asylum seekers throughout the UK have access to quality advice and representation in relation to their legal rights to food and shelter. In February 2015 we held a very successful Action Against Asylum Homelessness conference in Leeds, which was attended by over 100 people. We also held

training sessions on asylum support law in Leeds, Glasgow, Durham, Leicester, London and Nottingham, which were very well received.

ASAP's greatest strength remains its dedicated and committed staff and volunteers. I cannot praise the staff team highly enough for its high quality hard work, and enthusiasm for the importance of what ASAP does. I would like to particularly thank Eiri Ohtani for holding the reins during Hazel Williams' maternity leave. Hazel returned to work in September 2014 and has continued to lead ASAP from strength to strength. We have also welcomed back Marie-Anne Fishwick to the role of legal researcher and said goodbye to Mark Rogers, whom I thank for his hard work, particularly on our forthcoming report on destitution.

Susanna Lo capably took over ASAP's financial administration during Dianah Rouse's maternity leave and Kama Petruczenko made a smooth transition from her role as intern to a staff position as administration and operations officer and duty scheme assistant. Her hard work has been instrumental in supporting the expansion of ASAP's duty scheme, particularly with the record number of referrals we received for representation this year (571).

We remain dependent on and grateful to our many volunteers, both the duty scheme volunteers and office volunteers, and the generous support of the law firms who give us their solicitors' time as well as supporting us in many other ways. The management committee has continued to be committed and dynamic, retaining a strategic overview of ASAP and ensuring its accountability. Finally I would like to thank all of our funders, without whose generosity and support ASAP could not achieve all that it does.

**Alison Pickup, ASAP chair**

### Client quotes

**'If you had not helped me I would have no house for sleeping.'**

**'I felt really secure and honoured that I had someone to represent me. The legal jargon and work can only be done by someone professional. Without this I wouldn't know what to do.'**

**'Your work is excellent and it helped me from being a homeless person at the same time I'm having kidney problems, so it's really a life saver. Thank you.'**

## A record breaking year for ASAP

### This year ASAP has had a succession of achievements:

- We represented and advised 674 destitute asylum seekers – the highest number in our 12 year history
- Our overall success rate (appeals won and remittals) at the Tribunal was 65%
- We received 571 referrals to our duty scheme service, another record in our history
- We represented 83% of appellants at the Asylum Support Tribunal that we were allowed to represent
- Calls to the advice line increased by 33% totalling 655 calls from 159 agencies

- We successfully intervened in a judicial review case which clarified the right to support for those with outstanding Article 8 (right to family life) applications
- Over 100 attendees came to our Action Against Asylum Homelessness conference
- We delivered 13 training sessions for 124 people from 63 organisations.

**In July 2014 we moved from Bethnal Green to new premises located in the same building as the Asylum Support Tribunal in East India Dock. This is a huge advantage as our proximity to the Tribunal enables us to represent and advise more clients.**

### Action Against Asylum Homelessness Conference – report



On 24 February 2015 over 100 people from small community organisations, local authorities, NHS services, mainstream advice services and others came together in Leeds to share ideas and experiences on tackling asylum homelessness. The day opened with a truly inspirational speech from Annette, an asylum seeker, who shared her experiences of being destitute in the UK and how she survived. The day also included 4 workshops, focusing on campaigning locally against destitution, looking at legal challenges to destitution, exploring practical responses to destitution and examining voluntary return and access to Section 4 support (the government support for refused asylum seekers). It ended with a panel discussion on what the future holds for tackling asylum homelessness in the UK today.

#### INTERVIEW FROM THE DAY

##### Tony Openshaw

Manager of ASHA (Asylum Support Housing Advice)

##### What is ASHA?

ASHA is a small charity based in Manchester that supports refused asylum seekers. We make applications for Section 4 support in the main, and we also help people with asylum support appeals.

##### Was the Action against Asylum Homelessness conference useful?

Yes – as well as getting a general update on changes in the law I have learnt specifically about the New Care Act coming in to replace the National Assistance Act; I'll be able to speak to my colleagues back in the office about this. It's also been interesting to meet other people who are committed to working in the same field to support destitute asylum seekers.

##### What are the biggest challenges you're facing in your work?

The numbers of people that we're seeing. Refugee Action (a large organisation in Manchester, about 50 staff) has reduced its services because of the Home Office advice contract going to Migrant Help. This means ASHA now sees about 90 people a week when we were seeing 50 before. This is a huge challenge. Keeping up to date and meeting the Home Office deadlines to provide further information on a support application, or the three days to submit an appeal, is a challenge at the moment because of the amount of people we are trying to help.

#### MP COMMENT

##### Fabian Hamilton – Labour MP for Leeds North East

I am pleased to see the huge number of people from all over the country from all sorts of charities and organisations for whom destitution is an overriding concern. This lifts my spirits a little, because sometimes you can sound like a lonely voice in parliament because this is not a popular subject.

I feel very strongly that we are far too harsh and nowhere near welcoming enough to people who come to Britain out of desperation. There will always be a small percentage who come for economic gain, because they want a better life, and there will always be one or two criminals. The vast majority are desperately seeking refuge, and we should offer them refuge. Unfortunately, this is not a politically popular thing to say.

# ASAP's duty scheme and Tribunal representation

**ASAP's duty scheme at the First-tier Tribunal (Asylum Support) offers free legal representation to asylum seekers appealing decisions by the Home Office to refuse or discontinue their asylum support.**

ASAP is based at the Tribunal in Tower Hamlets where our team of 45 solicitors and barristers give their time for free, working with our 4 legal advisors to provide advice and representation to destitute asylum seekers, offering them a chance of a roof over their head and food to eat.

When they enter the door of the Tribunal these are often people who are broken by the system. Many are suffering severe mental health problems. They may have survived torture and been sleeping on the streets for years. If the judge gives a positive decision on their appeal, they can be housed immediately with the prospect of starting to rebuild their lives.

Without us, each year over 650 destitute asylum seekers would have to navigate the court system completely on their own. They would have to explain their case to a judge, in most cases without understanding the law, culture and language. In addition mistreatment in their home

countries can make the idea of coming to court a terrifying prospect. Unfortunately, for many the outcome would be negative and they would remain destitute.

We are the only organisation in the UK offering this unique service that fills a significant gap.

Our volunteer duty scheme advocates are made up of experienced barristers and lawyers, who represent on a rota basis roughly every 6 weeks. The majority of our lawyers are from Herbert Smith Freehills and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, which have supported the scheme from its early days.

Our duty scheme coordinator works with agencies around the UK to assist destitute asylum seekers, to improve the quality of the appeals they submit as well as encouraging them to refer cases to us in advance of appeal hearings. Early referral enables volunteer advocates to prepare cases more thoroughly, rather than having very limited time on the day.

### Highlights for the duty scheme in 2014/15

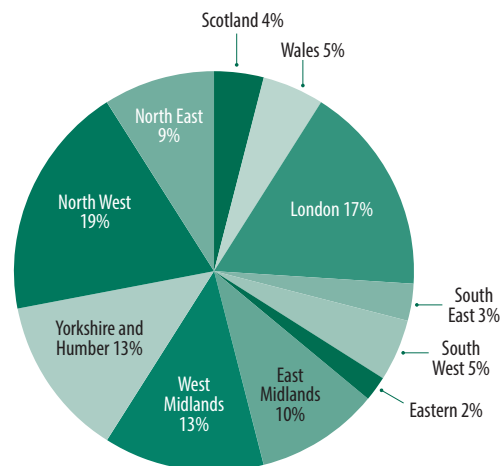
- There were on average 45 volunteers on the scheme, recruited and supported by our duty scheme coordinator.

- We represented and advised 674 asylum seekers, a significant increase from last year's 567
- We won a successful outcome for 65% of the clients we represented at the Tribunal.
- We received 571 referrals from organisations around the UK, a 42% increase from the previous year.

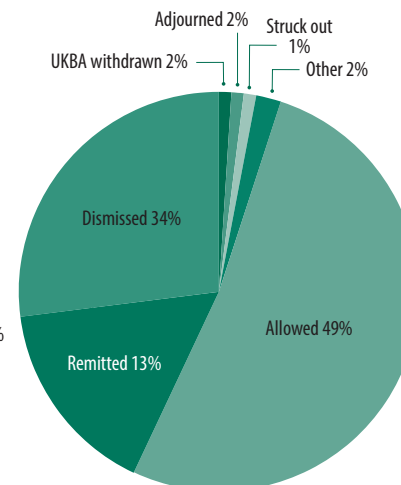
### ABOUT ASYLUM SUPPORT

**Asylum seekers are not allowed to work or access mainstream benefits. The Home Office provides basic accommodation and support for them while they have an ongoing asylum claim (Section 95), or if they have been refused asylum but are unable to leave the UK (Section 4). Asylum support for those who have had their initial asylum claim refused comprises shared accommodation and just over £5 food vouchers a day via the Azure Card, which can only be used in certain national and local retailers.**

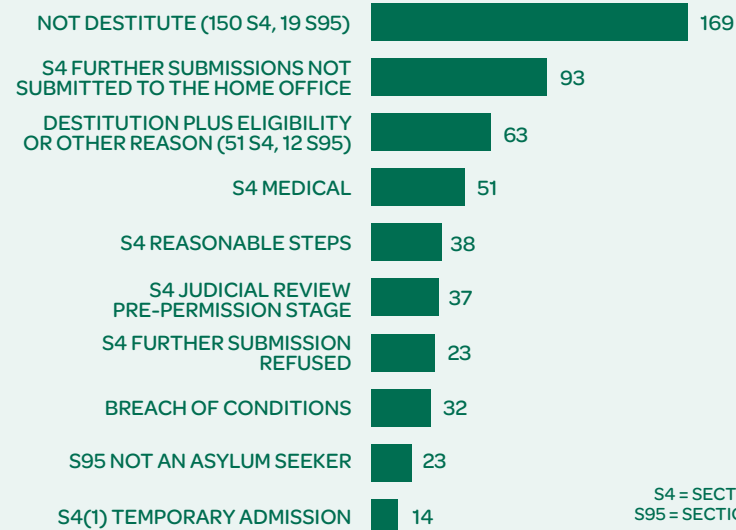
## REGIONAL REPRESENTATION



## HEARING OUTCOMES



## REASONS FOR SUPPORT REFUSAL



## Case studies of our work at the Tribunal



Anna Dixie, duty scheme coordinator, providing advice

### Ms A – chronic health problems

**A is an African woman in her late 60s. She has two children in the UK with refugee status. Her own claim for asylum was refused in 2005. She suffers from chronic mental health problems including psychotic depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. She is at risk of suicide and self-harm. She also has physical health problems that restrict mobility and cause pain. She receives frequent care from her GP and she is reviewed every few months by a psychiatrist.**

She has been on Section 4 support due to her medical condition since 2011. Her GP has consistently said she is unable to travel because of the impact this would have on her health. At various points the Home Office's own doctors have also agreed. Since 2011 her support has been subject to at least 8 reviews, all of which have resulted in her staying on support. Twice her support was reinstated following a successful appeal and on at least two other occasions the Home Office changed its mind and agreed to continue her support shortly before her appeal was going to be heard.

In the latest and third appeal, the Home Office's doctor expressed concern that continually reviewing

her case was not in her best interest and urged that the question of her presence in the UK should be resolved. ASAP advised and represented her at the Tribunal and the judge decided she was unable to travel and moreover that her mental health was too poor for her to make a decision about voluntarily returning. She continues to be eligible for support on health and human rights grounds.

### Ms D – pregnant and destitute

**At D's asylum support appeal hearing she was very worried. She was due to give birth in two days time and the man she had been staying with for the last week said she would not be allowed back once she had her baby. D suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the torture and rape she experienced in her home country.**

D is a long-term patient of the Helen Bamber Foundation, a charity that provide therapeutic and practical support to survivors of human rights violations. She claimed political asylum in the UK to escape persecution for her work for a human rights agency. The Home Office accepted that she met the criteria for asylum support but refused her application on the basis that she had not proved she was genuinely destitute.

D had spent over a year sleeping rough in London parks, at a mosque and sofa-surfing with strangers she met on the street or at the mosque. She became pregnant, but the father of the child did not stay.

In support of her appeal D had provided written statements from the Red Cross, the Helen Bamber Foundation and Hackney Migrants Centre confirming that they had assessed her as being destitute and had provided her with food, hygiene items and occasional hardship payments. The Red Cross wrote that it was unable to offer any further support because of

limited resources. D's own witness statement described her insecure lifestyle. A letter from her psychotherapist at the Helen Bamber Foundation reported that she was cutting herself and had thoughts of drowning herself.

In spite of this evidence the Home Office maintained that she was not destitute. It believed that she had adequate accommodation available to her and the means to meet essential living needs. The Home Office had requested a complete address history with documentary evidence from everyone she had stayed with detailing the period she resided with them and giving an explanation as to why she was no longer able to. D had not known all of the addresses she had stayed at and any she had known she could not remember. She had tried instead to give details of the area where they lived and explained why they had made her leave. Those who had let her sleep in their living room in exchange for work were unwilling to put this in writing.

At her appeal hearing D was represented by a volunteer lawyer from ASAP and was accompanied by her support worker from the Helen Bamber Foundation who acted as a witness. Her ASAP advocate took extensive oral evidence, asking her to describe how she met each of the people she stayed with, where she slept in their home and whether she had access during the day and where she slept outside on the common occasions she could not find a bed for the night. He took evidence from her witness to corroborate D's account.

D was cross-examined by a Home Office presenting officer. The judge found her oral testimony to be consistent, credible and compelling and she allowed the appeal. Emergency accommodation was provided on the night of the appeal, 2 days before she was due to give birth.

## Policy and strategic litigation work

### Article 8 Intervention

The Home Office has consistently taken the view that the Section 4 provision which extends support to refused asylum seekers who make fresh representations (because denying them support would breach their human rights) only applies where the representations are based on asylum or Article 3 of the ECHR (protection from torture and degrading treatment). ASAP challenged this interpretation by intervening in a judicial review where a client had made fresh representations based on Article 8 (right to family and private life). The resulting consent order issued in the Mulumba case\* makes clear that an outstanding Article 8 claim can also provide a basis for support on human rights grounds. This is an important and welcome concession by the Home Office, which should result in more destitute asylum seekers accessing support.

\* *R (Mulumba) v First-Tier Tribunal (Asylum Support)* and *SSHD (Asylum Support Appeals Project Intervener)*

### Sharing our expertise

We provided evidence in support of two judicial review proceedings:

- Drawing on our recent appeals work, our legal researcher helped draft a witness statement for use in a case concerning the lack of interim accommodation for refused asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their application for Section 4 support. The case was eventually settled and the client accessed accommodation and support.
- Our solicitor and legal researcher prepared a witness statement in a case challenging the lack of access to free healthcare for migrants (including refused asylum seekers) receiving local authority support. The successful outcome led to a change in the law so that those supported by the local

authority as well as those receiving centrally funded asylum support are entitled to free healthcare.\*

\* *R (Cushnie) v Secretary of State for Health [2014] EWHC 3626 (Admin)*

**For more information on the Mulumba case, visit our website: [asaproject.org.uk](http://asaproject.org.uk)**



Marie-Anne Fishwick running a workshop on our research into 'reasonable steps'

### ASYLUM SUPPORT ADVICE NETWORK AND LONDON DESTITUTION ADVICE NETWORK

**We carry out a number of activities which are designed to share information about asylum support law as well as promoting our organisation. We facilitate two information sharing networks: the London Destitution Advice Network (LDAN) currently made up of 81 London-based agencies and 221 advisers; and the Asylum Support Advice Network (ASAN) which represents 144 agencies and 274 advisers outside London.**

## ASAP publishes 'The Next Reasonable Step'

In September 2014 ASAP published *The Next Reasonable Step*, a report written by Mark Rogers and researched by Mark and Marie-Anne Fishwick, which examined how the Home Office has applied the 'all reasonable steps' criterion for Section 4 support. The alleged failure of a support recipient to take all reasonable steps to leave the UK is frequently cited by the Home Office as a reason to discontinue support and becomes a contested issue in appeals brought before the Tribunal.

Analysing a selection of appeals based on the issue of 'all reasonable steps' where ASAP represented the appellant, the report highlighted:

- The large number (75%) of appeals where the Home Office decision to cut off support was overturned or reconsidered
- The failure to give specific guidance on what 'reasonable' steps the Home Office expects support recipients to take to leave the UK, especially as returning to countries such as Iran and Palestine is particularly difficult
- The inconsistent frequency and quality of case reviews, and factual errors, by the Home Office.

Our key recommendations to the Home Office are that it:

- Provides applicants with detailed, tailored guidance about the steps they should be taking to leave the UK
- Informs applicants about all potential resources available to them (in particular, additional Section 4 payments)
- Offers applicants greater practical assistance in difficult cases
- Ensures that adequate case reviews are performed prior to any discontinuation of support
- Adopts a more fact-specific approach to decision-making.

We have used the report in workshops with advice agencies and to lobby the Home Office to review its procedures. We are pleased that one of our key recommendations – greater clarity on what steps support recipients are expected to take to leave the UK – has now been incorporated into Home Office policy.

*The full report, which contains 11 recommendations in total, explanation of legal matters, case studies and detailed findings from our case files, and information on the situation in several countries, is at: <http://bit.ly/1RluEAN>*



## ASAP's specialist training

**ASAP has continued to provide specialist training on various topics relating to asylum support. We offer a variety of different training models for agencies providing advice and support to asylum seekers, from a basic introduction to asylum support to tailor-made in-house training or more specialised technical legal training.**

We ran 13 training sessions for 124 people from 63 organisations in Leeds, Glasgow, Leicester, London, Nottingham and Durham.

Here is an example of how our work in training, advice and representation come together to achieve positive results:

- Our duty scheme coordinator gave training to Red Cross Glasgow in summer 2014
- She added all training participants to our Asylum Support Advice Network so they receive regular updates on asylum support

- An adviser who attended that training called our advice line to ask about a client who had been refused Section 4 support because his Article 8 application was not 'protection based'. Our duty scheme coordinator explained why he was eligible, advised her to appeal and sent her a recent Tribunal decision on Article 8, in which our solicitor had represented, and which arguably came about as a result of our strategic litigation
- The advice worker appealed, attaching the Tribunal decision and referred the case to ASAP for representation
- The Home Office withdrew its decision to refuse support and granted Section 4 support, which meant that the client avoided an unnecessary appeal hearing and was provided with accommodation.

Workshop at ASAP's conference February 2015



## Our advice line

**ASAP's free second tier advice line runs three days a week. It is operated by our expert legal team, who are available to answer queries relating to asylum support.**

- We received 655 calls to our advice line, up 33% from last year.
- These calls came from 159 organisations, mainly advice agencies but also solicitors and community organisations.
- We receive proportionally more calls relating to women on the advice line than appeals we represented (36% over the last two years).
- 43% of calls related to Section 4 support.
- 23% of calls related to Section 95 support.
- Top callers were Red Cross (119 calls from all offices), Refugee Action (50 calls from all offices), RAMFEL (20 calls), Praxis (15 calls).



Alice Webb, women's legal adviser, running our advice line

**'Excellent information will assist our work with beneficiaries a great deal' Red Cross training participant**

**'I wanted to thank you and your team very much for sending clients our way and for sharing your fantastic expertise- I have certainly learnt a lot this year and have very much relied on the ASAP advice line!' Refugee Action, March 2015**

**'Their work (ASAP's) in support of the voluntary sector front-line services is just as vital and vibrant. I have attended their 'Destitution' events where they communicate complex legal issues in understandable language. They are a key support to an embattled sector' Paul Birtill, director, Metropolitan Migration Foundation**



# Continuing to improve women's access to support

**We remain committed to supporting vulnerable women at the asylum support tribunal and in the wider community. We know that the problems that led us to set up the project six years ago have not gone away. We want to continue to make a difference in the lives of women who need our expert advice and representation on asylum support.**

But asylum-seeking women are facing challenges that mean we have to renew and adapt the way that we have been delivering our women's service. The challenges include:

- Nationwide changes to advice services have reduced the availability of asylum support advice, particularly in the area of appeal rights
- Legal aid changes have reduced access to immigration advice and representation.

We need to increase our efforts to reach women in order to counteract these negative developments. We will do this by:

- Establishing supportive relationships with organisations that we do not already work with, helping them to develop and increase their capacity to advise female asylum seekers
- Trialling the use of webinars and podcasts on asylum support issues so that advice workers can access our expertise more easily.

At the Tribunal, we will develop and improve our service for women by providing more in-depth training on gender issues for our volunteer advocates so that they are better able to support women attending appeal hearings.

On policy issues, we will work with our partners to improve asylum support policies for women, particularly in relation to how the Home Office responds to reports of domestic violence from women who need safe accommodation.

## Achievements over six years

■ We represented or advised 733 women at the tribunal

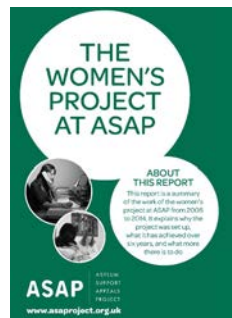
■ On average, 60% of the women that we represented at the tribunal over the 6 years of the project avoided destitution

■ We provided asylum support advice on the cases of 689 women through our advice line

■ We provided expert training on asylum support law to 366 individuals from 195 organisations We produced eight factsheets and five briefing papers on the legal rights of asylum seekers, putting them on our website and emailing them to over 200 agencies supporting asylum seekers

*'Providing support to people who attend the tribunal from different parts of the UK is really valuable. Knowing that there will be someone from ASAP there at the other end to support a vulnerable woman who has travelled down from Scotland is really important'*

Scottish Refugee Council



**We produced a report detailing six years of our women's project. It includes quotes from service users on the various aspects of the project, including support and training. It can be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/1OzAudV>**

## WOMEN'S PROJECT CASE STUDY

**In December 2014, we represented a woman who was 8 months pregnant and facing imminent homelessness. She had been reliant on the support of friends for years but their circumstances had changed and they were unable to keep supporting her.**

The father of her child had been violent towards her and was unwilling to provide any financial support or accommodation. She had been served with an eviction notice by her landlord. The Home Office refused her application for support, maintaining that she was not destitute despite a significant amount of evidence to the contrary. It also said that her advanced pregnancy did not entitle her to support because there were no 'complications' in the pregnancy.

At her hearing, our women's legal adviser successfully argued that she was destitute and her pregnancy should be viewed as high risk due to the history of domestic violence and the impact on the pregnancy of her precarious housing and support situation. Our adviser used an expert report on social risk factors in pregnancy, commissioned by ASAP, to bolster the arguments in the hearing.

As a result, this woman received safe accommodation for her and her baby, and voucher support.

## Financial information

**As of 31 March 2015 ASAP's net assets were £151,183 all of which were unrestricted funds.**

The financial statements shown are a summarised version of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015. The full statutory report can be obtained by contacting ASAP at Ground Floor, Anchorage House, 2 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BE.

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2015	Total funds 2014
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income	£119,733	£147,742	<b>£267,475</b>	£276,989
Investment income	£364	–	<b>£364</b>	£146
<b>Other incoming resources</b>	£8,849	–	<b>£8,849</b>	£931
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	£128,946	£147,742	<b>£276,688</b>	£277,975
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Charitable activities	£134,459	£147,742	<b>£282,201</b>	£262,732
Governance costs	£2,596	–	<b>£2,596</b>	£5,927
<b>Total resources expended</b>	£137,055	£147,742	<b>£284,797</b>	£268,659
Total funds at start of year	£159,922	–	<b>£159,922</b>	£150,606
<b>Total funds at end of year</b>	£151,813	nil	<b>£151,813</b>	£159,922

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our funders, members and the many others who have supported ASAP during 2014/15



2014 LEGAL SPONSORED WALK Pictured are ASAP staff, trustees and supporters who completed the London Legal Sponsored Walk in May 2014. Thank you to everyone who walked, donated or came to cheer us on.

### Funders

AB Charitable Trust  
Allan Lane Foundation  
Allen and Overy  
foundation  
Comic Relief  
Eleanor Rathbone  
Esme Fairbairn  
Freshfields Bruckhaus  
Deringer  
Garden Court Chambers  
Herbert Smith Freehills

Lloyds TSB Foundation for  
England and Wales  
London Legal Support  
Trust  
Metropolitan Migration  
Foundation  
Samuel Sebba  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Trust for London  
Tudor Trust  
Unbound Philanthropy

### Others

Deighton Pierce Glynn  
solicitors  
Hannah Tye at Freshfields  
Bruckhaus Deringer  
Emma Cooke and Rebecca  
Perlman at Herbert Smith  
Freehills  
Housing and Immigration  
Group (HIG)  
Immigration Law  
Practitioners Association  
London Destitution Advice  
Network (LDAN) members

Maternity Action  
Oxford House  
British Red Cross Refugee  
Services  
Refugee Action  
British Refugee Council  
Lorna Gledhill, Regional  
Asylum Activism  
Mike Kaye at Still Human  
Still Here  
Members of the women's  
charter group

# ASAP

ASYLUM  
SUPPORT  
APPEALS  
PROJECT

[www.asaproject.org.uk](http://www.asaproject.org.uk)

## Management committee 2014/15

**Chair:** Alison Pickup

**Vice chair:** Paul Yates

**Treasurer:** Charles Ssempijja

**Deputy treasurer:** Maziar Jamnejad

Carolina Gottardo

Daniel Silverstone

Kat Lorenz

Onike Gollo

Richard Orton

Dave Garratt

## Current staff

**Director:** Hazel Williams

**Women's legal adviser:** Alice Webb

**Solicitor:** Deborah Gellner

**Legal researcher and adviser:** Marie-Anne Fishwick

**Duty scheme coordinator:** Anna Dixie

**Duty scheme assistant:** Kama Petruczenko

**Finance and operations officer:** Dianah Rouse

## Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)

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2 Clove Crescent

London E14 2BE

Tel: 020 3716 0284 Fax: 020 3716 0272

**Charity number: 1105625**

**Company number: 04763838**

## Duty scheme volunteers

Adam Slawson  
Alasdair Mackenzie  
Alison Pickup  
Anish Bhasin  
Anna Gordon  
Ardil Salem  
Ben Amunwa  
Bryony Poynor  
Charles Loudon  
Cian Mansfield  
Claire Stirrup  
Claire Whittle  
Daniel May  
Daniel Sills  
David Wood  
Debra Gerstein  
Edward Bartrouney  
Ella Davies  
Emma Mockford  
George Richards  
Georges Chalfoun  
Graeme Robertson  
Greg Fullelove  
Gwawr Thomas  
Hattie Middleditch  
James Hain-Cole  
Jemma Garside  
John Lane  
Lara Nassif  
Lara ten Caten  
Marie-Claire O'Kane  
Mark Wassouf  
Michael Hershan  
Michael Howe  
Michael Kotrly  
Michael Quayle  
Michelle Knorr  
Nick Stern  
Nicolas Gray  
Oliver Marsden  
Paul Yates  
Peter Melleney  
Phillip Henderson  
Phillippe Bonavero  
Rebecca Sambrook  
Siobhan Lloyd  
Sophie Jones  
Stephanie Needleman  
Susan Field  
Tom Copeland  
Tom Henderson  
Tom Wood  
William Widdess

Ben Hoare Bell Solicitors  
Doughty Street Chambers  
Doughty Street Chambers  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Debevoise and Plimpton  
36 Bedford Row  
Garden Court Chambers  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
1 Pump Court  
Charter Chambers  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Osbourn Clarke  
1 Mitre Court Buildings  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Duncan Lewis Solicitors  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Hansen Palomares  
4 New Square  
Doughty Street Chambers  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Wilmer Hale  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Doughty Street Chambers  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Lloyds Bank  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Charter Chambers  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
4 Kings Bench Walk  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
1 Mitre Court Buildings  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Garden Court Chambers  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Herbert Smith Freehills