

Workshops

1. Getting Your Voice Heard Strategies for Campaigning and Influencing

Regional Asylum Activism Project Coordinators:

Estelle Worthington (North West)

Lorna Gledhill (Yorkshire and Humberside)

Emma Birks (West Midlands)

This workshop will look at the local action advocates and activists can take to defend the rights of people seeking asylum. Drawing on case studies from the North West, and further afield, we will discuss some of the tools and techniques involved in campaigning effectively for asylum rights, including grass-roots campaigning and using narrative to change hearts and minds; lobbying councils; and influencing decision makers. We will also explore different ways of supporting national campaigns for change, particularly in relation to destitution and asylum support rates.

This workshop will be delivered by the Regional Asylum Activism team and is aimed at volunteers, supporters and advocates. It may also be of interest to local decision makers and statutory service providers.

2. Introduction to the current system of Asylum Support, plus overview of Immigration Bill changes

Marie-Anne Fishwick, ASAP Legal Adviser

This introductory level workshop provides an overview of the asylum support system which should equip delegates with the confidence to identify what type of asylum support a person might be entitled to. The session will cover the criteria for support for those in the asylum system as well as practical information such as how to apply, how to appeal and what the support consists of. The end of the session will be dedicated to the changes being proposed by the Immigration Bill 2015.

The workshop is aimed at those of you with little or no experience of the asylum support system, or those that need to revisit the basic structure of asylum support. If you are already familiar with section 95 and section 4 support, we suggest you attend the workshop on Legal Challenges to Destitution. This workshop will include a snapshot of the asylum support changes being brought in by the Immigration Bill 2015.

3. Legal Challenges to Destitution

Deborah Gellner, ASAP Solicitor

Anna Dixie, ASAP Legal Adviser

Lara ten Caten, Solicitor, Hansen Palomares Solicitors

This workshop explores the legal options when an asylum support appeal is dismissed. Could the decision be set aside or judicially reviewed, or is a re-application for support more appropriate? What are the options for preventing destitution in the meantime? We will look at how best to deal with section 95 destitution cases where the Home Office has decided applicants have assets, for example because they arrived in the UK on visitors' visas. We will discuss the significance of the Principal Judge's decision of August 2015 on applications for support on the basis of fresh claims, including those based on Article 8.

This workshop is aimed at advisers who have some experience of assisting clients with asylum support appeals.

4. Support for Families with Children after the Immigration Bill 2015

Alice Webb, ASAP Women's Legal Adviser

Abi Brunswick, Director, Project 17

The Immigration Bill 2015 will significantly change asylum support entitlement for families with children. The current system, which allows families to remain on asylum support after a final negative decision on their asylum claim, is going to come to an end for all new arrivals. This workshop, jointly run by ASAP and Project 17, will provide an overview of how the new system of support for families is likely to function. This will include the new powers of local authorities to provide support for refused asylum seeking families.

This workshop is aimed at people who already have an understanding of the existing asylum support system and who want to find out more about the Immigration Bill is going to change the system for refused asylum seeking families.