

ASAP requires new Management Committee members

The Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) is a small national charity working in the area of asylum support law to reduce the destitution of asylum seekers by defending their legal rights to food and shelter. We represent some of the most marginalised people in the UK, many of whom are unable to return to their home countries, are denied work in the UK and are prevented from accessing support. We operate by running a free legal advice & representation scheme at the Asylum Support Tribunal, through training, an advice line, and policy work such as producing research reports and lobbying. Since its official launch in June 2004, ASAP has developed a unique legal expertise in asylum support work, which carries over into our evidence-based policy and lobbying work. Last year we represented and advised 596 destitute asylum seekers at the Asylum Support Tribunal enabling 426 people, including their dependants, to access accommodation and support.

Currently, ASAP employs the following staff: Director, Solicitor, Duty Scheme co-ordinator, Duty Scheme Assistant, Training Co-ordinator, Legal Advisor, Finance and Operations Officer, Legal advisor and researcher and Women's Legal advisor. We are also supported by roughly 40 solicitors and barristers who assist us with our Duty Scheme as Volunteer Advocates.

ASAP's work and strategy is overseen by a voluntary Management Committee. The MC has a broad range of skills and experience, including relevant legal expertise, HR, communications, policy work and charity management. To complement the existing MC we are currently seeking new members of this Committee, specifically people who can bring:

- A strong understanding of budgeting, forecasting and reporting financial information to decision-making boards, ideally with a good working knowledge of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)

We are especially interested in receiving applications from refugees and others who have had direct experience of the UK's asylum system. We are able to meet travel costs associated with attending Management Committee meetings.