

ASAP Annual Report 2020/21



ASAP

www.asaproject.org

ASYLUM
SUPPORT
APPEALS
PROJECT

About ASAP

ASAP is a national charity which reduces destitution among asylum seekers by protecting their legal rights to food and shelter.

- We work with people, and the organisations supporting them, who have been forced to flee their home countries, denied the right to 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 they can find themselves street homeless in the UK, surviving on charitable donations.
- We are a team of 11 paid staff, 1 legal research volunteer and 48 volunteer solicitor and barrister advocates. Our offices are based in East London close to the Asylum Support Tribunal, though during 2020/21 all staff worked from home.

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 pro bono representation (the duty scheme) at the Asylum Support (First-Tier) Tribunal in East London.
- Deliver training, run an advice line and an online network for frontline organisations, advice agencies and legal practitioners working with asylum seekers.
- Engage in policy, lobbying and litigation to address the systemic causes of destitution, improving policies and procedures on asylum support.

Our vision and 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
- Access to justice, holding the Home Office and Tribunal to account and the importance of ensuring dignity and equality for the persons we serve
- Maintaining our independence
- Collaboration with other organisations.

We value:

- Openness and transparency
- Listening to those we work with and support.

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Our vision for the future

ASAP's work is guided by our four goals as identified in our 5 year strategic plan 2019-2024.

- 1 Increasing quality representation and dignity at the Asylum Support Tribunal for all asylum seekers.
- 2 Building the asylum support skills of other organisations to ensure asylum seekers across the UK have access to quality advice and information about their legal rights to food and shelter.
- 3 Tackling the root causes of destitution through policy, lobbying and litigation.
- 4 Maintaining a well-resourced and purposeful organisation to assist asylum seekers and the organisations supporting them.



Mike Spencer

Chair's report

The year has been a frightening one for everyone, but particularly for destitute asylum seekers. That it hasn't been more of a humanitarian disaster is in

part thanks to the dedication and hard work of the staff and volunteers of ASAP. Through strategic litigation and constructive engagement with the Home Office, as well as continuing our core work of the Tribunal duty scheme, advice line and training, ASAP directly and indirectly assisted thousands of asylum seekers to avoid homelessness during the covid-19 pandemic.

Moving almost overnight from a face-to-face Tribunal service to remote hearings has been challenging, but our staff and volunteers have adapted commendably well under pressure. Our challenge now is to ensure that we continue to provide the highest quality of legal service to some of the most vulnerable people in our society at a time of significant change. At a management committee level, we are also working to give our clients and others with lived experience a meaningful say in the way our services are run.

I would like to thank our funders for continuing to support us in this vital work.



Kat Lorenz

Director's report

This year was an exceptional time for us all, characterised by the need for quick adaptation and constant firefighting.

The pandemic hit those who were most

isolated and at risk the hardest, including destitute asylum seekers. When it first struck, we saw chaotic scenes with an increasing use of inappropriate hotel accommodation, lack of cash support, and many advice services having to quickly transition to remote support. However, the Home Office continued support for those who would not normally have been entitled to it, in an attempt to reduce homelessness and the spread of covid-19.

In September 2020 the Home Office announced it would restart evictions, just as the second spike of infections began. The restart of evictions presented a serious risk for refused asylum seekers, many of whom were at increased risk of covid-19 due to the combination of destitution, underlying health conditions and their ethnicities. ASAP spent much of the year trying to reduce the impact of these policies, including providing expert support and evidence in strategic litigation to challenge the lawfulness of the Home Office's plans, resulting in up to 4,000 people keeping their support for another 10 months, through the second wave and the winter.

Like many other agencies, we adapted our service model to assist people with their asylum support appeals, all of which happened remotely. We owe enormous thanks to our volunteers who stuck with us despite the significant extra time required to support people through the remote appeals system. We were able to represent 80% of people who referred themselves to us for help, achieving a very high success rate of 72%. When we analysed the outcomes for people we represented between April and September 2020 we found that our assistance increased chances of success by 46%. Feedback from those we represented remained consistently high, despite the move to remote support.

I was on maternity leave for much of 2020 and, aware of the changes to policy and the impact of the pandemic on

charities, was worried about the sector I would return to. However, when I came back in October 2020 I found that despite the immense pressures advice agencies had faced, from sky rocketing levels of need, to staffing and volunteer shortages, funding pressures and a constant stream of policy changes, the trend across the UK was organisations acting quickly to adapt their services so that that people could still access the support they needed. Alongside delivering such vital frontline services, partner organisations worked with us to challenge government policy that increased homelessness at the very time people were being asked to stay at home.

I would like to thank the 200+ organisations that have worked in partnership with us this year, from voluntary organisations sharing their expertise on the early stages of asylum support applications and working with us to reduce systemic barriers to support, to solicitors' firms and barristers taking on strategic litigation to increase access to support.

I would also like to thank Alice Webb, who covered my maternity leave with such skill and care, and the staff and management committee whose commitment, tenacity and expertise not only adapted but improved the service.

Despite the challenges, some changes imposed on us brought improvements – our new service model offers increased support to our volunteers, and to those we are helping to appeal. We hope to maintain aspects of this as we move back to a hybrid model, with some face to face appeals, and some remote. We have found the increased collaboration in the sector extremely helpful at a policy level, and are looking forward to continuing this close partnership working. Our training and information work expanded significantly – we developed new e-learning modules and we are building on this experience in our plans for the future.

Finally, funders have been extremely flexible and generous this year – it has made a real difference to our ability to focus on the service, both in terms of emergency funding, which has enabled us to bring in additional staff, and relaxed reporting criteria. Thank you.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS 2020/21



200

REPRESENTED

+36

ADVISED

236

TOTAL HELPED (343
INCLUDING FAMILY)



UP TO **4,000** PEOPLE
KEPT ON SUPPORT
DURING THE PANDEMIC
DUE TO STRATEGIC
LITIGATION



735

CALLS TO
ADVICE
LINE



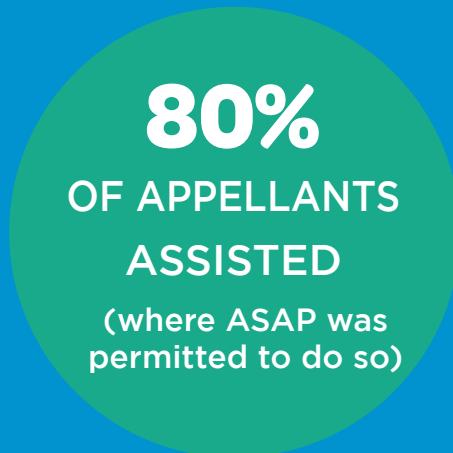
18

TRAINING SESSIONS
+ 4 E-LEARNING COURSES



72%

OR **194** DESTITUTE
PEOPLE (INCLUDING
FAMILY) ACCESSED
ACCOMMODATION
AND SUPPORT



80%

OF APPELLANTS
ASSISTED

(where ASAP was
permitted to do so)



1,037

PEOPLE TRAINED:

606 WEBINAR

399 E-LEARNING

32 PODCASTS

97% SAID THEIR KNOWLEDGE
INCREASED AFTER TRAINING



405

REFERRALS
RECEIVED

74%

ASSISTED

1,099 MEMBERS OF
OUR ASYLUM SUPPORT
ADVICE NETWORK (ASAN)



Access to justice

ASAP's duty scheme at the First Tier Tribunal (Asylum Support) in East London offers free legal representation to asylum seekers appealing decisions by the Home Office to refuse or discontinue their asylum support. We are the only organisation providing this service to appellants from across the UK. Without us, destitute asylum seekers would have to navigate the court system on their own, explaining their case to a judge without a thorough understanding of the law. The Home Office is usually represented in the hearing. This imbalance can make it difficult for asylum seekers to access justice. The court setting can be very intimidating, especially for those already suffering from post-traumatic stress or other mental health issues.

Without ASAP to advise and represent them, destitute asylum seekers would be more likely to leave the Tribunal with a negative decision, facing destitution and homelessness. Our volunteer duty scheme advocates are made up of experienced barristers and solicitors who represent people on a rota basis roughly every 6 weeks. Our duty scheme team receives and processes referrals from over 200 agencies in the UK that are looking for assistance for their clients in their asylum support appeals. The team provides expert advice and assistance to our volunteer advocates as they prepare the cases in the days running up to the appeal and represent on the day of the hearing itself.

In March 2020, the Home Office announced that it would not terminate support for those already in receipt of it. However, it continued to refuse people's applications for support. Appeals transitioned from primarily face to face hearings to entirely remote, telephone appeals, alongside paper-based determinations. We quickly changed our service model and our volunteers moved to a remote system, contacting the appellant several times before lodging written submissions before the appeal. This took over twice the time of our face to face system, and we owe significant thanks to the volunteers who stuck with us during this time.

Achievements of the duty scheme in 2020/21

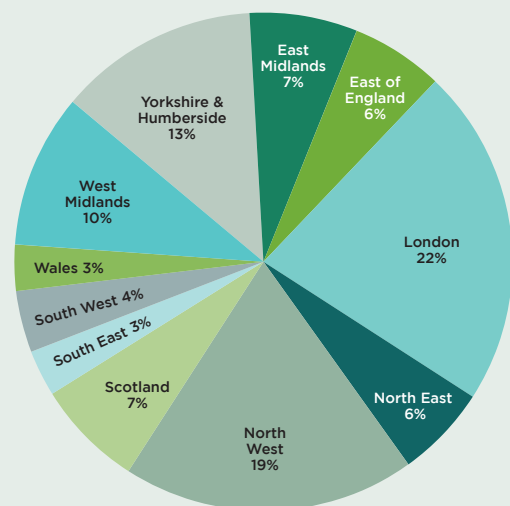
- We represented and advised 236 asylum seekers (343 including family members).
- We achieved a successful outcome for 72% of the clients we represented at the Asylum Support Tribunal.
- There were 48 volunteers on the scheme, recruited, supported and coordinated by our duty scheme team.
- We represented 80% of appeals where we had permission to assist.¹
- 21% of those we represented gave us feedback; 90% were very satisfied with ASAP's service and 10% satisfied.

“ASAP helped us with our section 4 support appeal – chances were very low to win, but ASAP’s barrister did extremely well and we got support. We cannot thank him enough”

Top nationalities represented



Regional representation



Duty scheme: key facts in 2020/21

- 75% of those we assisted were male and 25% female.
- 19% were families with children.
- The top four countries of origin were Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Zimbabwe.
- 57% overall (60% of women) presented with one or more vulnerability (eg torture survivors, physical or mental health issues).

¹ Excludes cases that were withdrawn/adjourned/not referred/where ASAP was not permitted to assist because another solicitor was involved/where the appellant did not want our assistance.



Duty scheme advocate

Jonathan Lafferty on his experience of volunteering with ASAP

I have been a duty scheme advocate since June 2018. Having heard a number of colleagues recommend ASAP as challenging and rewarding in equal measure, I applied to join earlier that year.

The application process was itself challenging, and included my first 'job' interview for some years as I explained why I wanted to join the duty scheme. One point of difference with ASAP is the emphasis on the commitment of the advocates to representing clients regularly. That opportunity to develop thoroughly the skills to be a duty scheme advocate was particularly attractive. The training, which lasted several days, was thorough but equipped me well for my first time in court alone.

My day job is as a commercial litigator at Sidley Austin. That role and my role as a duty scheme advocate draw on many of the same skills but there are important differences. Outcomes in commercial litigation are measured in months or years, but with ASAP there is only a few days or hours between first getting a client's case and receiving a decision from the court. When we get a good result for a client – which normally means that they can stay in their accommodation and receive financial support – it is truly rewarding to see the impact of that decision on their lives.

I particularly enjoy oral advocacy on the scheme: it is challenging, requiring quick thinking on the facts of the case, on the law or simply by reading the judge's reactions. However, those challenges are quite insignificant compared to the challenges faced by our clients at court. Many have a distrust of or fear of authority. Often their evidence to the court concerns traumatic or stressful experiences from their past. A failed appeal can leave some clients without access to housing or financial support. These issues, which are at the forefront of my mind when I am in court, are an important reminder of the importance of ASAP's work, and are why I am delighted to continue supporting ASAP.

Case study of our work at the Tribunal

In early December 2020, a destitute Lebanese asylum seeker was refused section 4 support. The Home Office accepted that he was destitute but considered that he could avoid the consequences of destitution by leaving the UK. He had previously been refused asylum and was now preparing a fresh claim. His appeal was heard just before Christmas, at the height of the pandemic. He was street homeless in Glasgow which, at that time, was a 'tier 4' area, according to the Scottish system of tiers. There was clearly a public health risk in forcing him (and many others) to be destitute.

The judge noted that the Home Office's policy was to refuse applications for support, although those already on support were not yet being removed from it. The Home Office argued in the hearing that, in any event, the 'covid concession' was over, ignoring the fact that Scotland was due to go into an even stricter lockdown on Boxing Day.

The judge allowed the appeal, concluding that the human rights of the general public in Glasgow were adversely affected by the Home Office's refusal of support. *This was one of the many allowed 'covid' appeals due to ASAP's work.*

QUOTES FROM PEOPLE WE REPRESENTED IN 2020/21

“My appeal was successful, saving me from the street. I really appreciate the advice given before and after the appeal”

“Thanks for your support. We have won the case and I needed your help and guidance and I didn't want to be on my own so I am very grateful for the help”

“A fantastic service. I have a high opinion and deep appreciation for it”

“It has helped a lot in terms of my panicking and I do not know how to put in words what I need to say. So it helps in that way”

Enhancing knowledge and expertise

ASAP provides specialist training on various topics relating to asylum support. We offer a variety of training models to agencies that provide advice and support to asylum seekers, from an online introduction to asylum support to tailor made, in-house training or more specialised technical legal training. In 2020/21 all training was remote, via webinar, e-learning or, for the first time, podcast.

ASAP's e-learning modules, which can be accessed free online by busy caseworkers, increase accessibility for smaller organisations with fewer paid staff, or more transient volunteers. This year we developed three new e-learning modules on schedule 10 support, remote appeals and the right of appeal. These continued to be used by a high number of advisors, with 399 receiving training in this way. For the first time, we trialled podcasts to explain complex asylum support case law, training 32 people on the impact of cutting edge court cases on the Home Office's attempts to cut

off or refuse support during the pandemic.

In April and May 2020 we ran three additional webinars on covid-19 and asylum support, and doubled capacity per webinar to meet the high demand for information at a time when policies were rapidly changing.

We developed an extensive 'how to' guide for people going through appeals and their advisors and made it available on our website. It was developed in response to feedback from the people we represent and their advisors, and takes people through the appeals process in an accessible, step by step way. Our aim is that the guide will encourage and support people to lodge their own appeals in the absence of an advisor to help them, as well as support less experienced advisors to navigate the appeals process with their clients. Migrant Help's announcement in September 2020 that it would stop assisting with appeals has made this resource even more valuable.

Training in 2020/21

- 18 webinars delivered (15 live and 3 pre-recorded).
- 1,037 people trained, 606 through webinars, 399 via e-learning and 32 through podcasts.
- 216 organisations accessed our training.

Training feedback

About 97% of trainees reported an increase in knowledge of asylum support following our training. Some requested more case studies in the e-learning sessions and increased use of video and audio. We have incorporated this into our more recent e-learning courses.

Comments included:

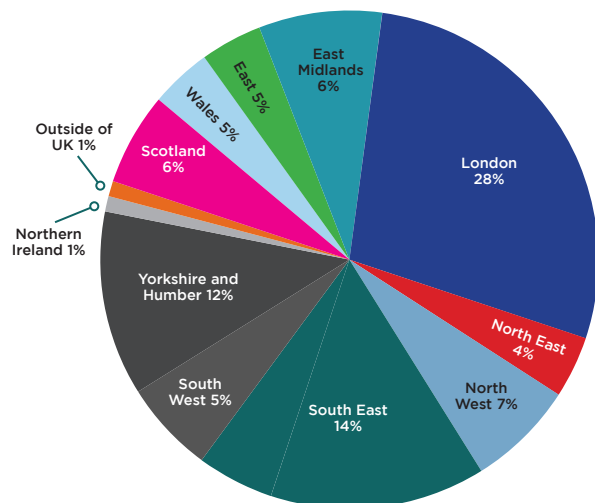
“ASAP runs very informative and useful sessions from knowledgeable people”

“Just continue with this training as it's our only source of information”

“It was – as always – extremely useful. Covered huge amounts very succinctly and in a short amount of time”

“In my experience ASAP training is always excellent”

Location of trainees



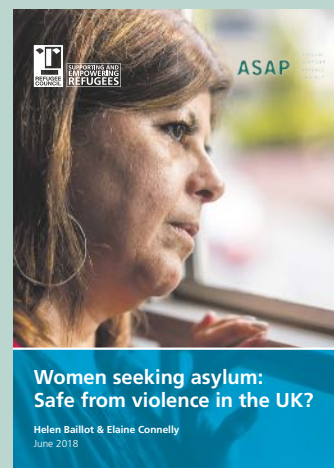
Women's project update

The women's project at ASAP aims to reduce destitution and its associated risks among asylum-seeking women.

ASAP assisted 60 women attending the asylum support tribunal in 2020/21: 25% of all appellants were women, 60% had additional vulnerabilities (such as mental and physical health problems) and 30% reported that they had experienced or were experiencing gender-based violence. ASAP assisted in the cases of 277 women through our second tier advice line: 64% of these calls were in relation to women who had additional vulnerabilities and 38% of the cases reported that the women had experienced or were experiencing gender-based violence.

In 2020/21 the women's legal advisor focused primarily on access to support for women experiencing domestic abuse. The women's legal advisor:

- Increased the knowledge of women's organisation on the rights and entitlements to support of the asylum-seeking women they work with, in six webinars for 217 people
- Provided in-depth second tier support for advisors to assist 30 women experiencing domestic abuse to consider their safe accommodation options
- Successfully lobbied the Home Office to produce an 'implementation checklist' to ensure accommodation providers, Home Office caseworkers and other frontline agencies were aware of their responsibilities under the Home Office asylum support guidance on domestic abuse.



Output from the project: [our report](#) on safety from violence

Advice line in 2020/21

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 organisations' queries relating to asylum support.

- We received 733 calls to our advice line.
- These calls came from 191 organisations, mainly voluntary sector agencies but also solicitors, statutory providers and 57 individuals.
- Top three callers were Red Cross, Bristol Refugee Rights and Govan Community Project.
- 48% cases related to section 4 support and 49% related to section 95 support.
- Only 42% of clients were in formal support at the time of the call, highlighting the immediate need for assistance.
- 38% related to a female asylum seeker, much higher than the 25% of women we help at asylum support appeal, confirming the importance of the advice line in supporting destitute women seeking asylum support.



Asylum Support Advice Network

The Asylum Support Advice Network (ASAN), which was launched in early 2016, has grown to 1,099 members over the past year. ASAN functions as a Google group, allowing members to post questions, share knowledge and disseminate information and best practice on asylum support issues. The network also met twice to exchange information, best practice and facilitate networking. Feedback from members is that it offers a useful tool to share information and seek peers' answers to queries. It also provides evidence for collaborative policy work. Discussions this year included covid-19 and asylum support eligibility, alongside problems such as the use of hotels/barracks as asylum support accommodation. This year, we trialled remote meetings, finding that attendance rates were far higher than before. Given that ASAN is a national network, we will look to continue at least half of meetings remotely.

Tackling the root causes of destitution



Holding to account: the Home Office

ASAP uses its unique body of evidence from the duty scheme work at the Asylum Support Tribunal coupled with its links to the wider asylum support sector and expert knowledge to lobby for positive change to asylum support policy and law, as well as holding the Home Office to account on the lawful application of existing policy and law. As the leading experts in asylum support law we continue to be the NGO co-chairs on the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum on asylum support.

As part of ASAP's policy and advocacy strategy we identified four key areas to direct our policy work for 2020/21:

- Engaging with the Asylum Support Tribunal to ensure that, despite the impact of covid-19, appeals went ahead in a manner that was just and fair for appellants
- Increasing communication channels between sector partners and the Home Office on entitlement to support during the pandemic
- Providing witness statement evidence to support strategic litigation challenging the Home Office's restart of evictions during the second wave of the pandemic
- Increasing capacity in our sector to assist clients to lodge appeals, in advance of the restart of Home Office eviction decisions
- Ensuring that the new Home Office asylum support guidance on domestic abuse was implemented effectively.

As was the case across the board this year, we faced significant unanticipated challenges at a policy level, and spent much of our time working to ensure access to asylum support at a systemic level during the pandemic.

Key achievements in 2020/21

- Halted the Home Office's plans to evict thousands of asylum seekers from September 2020, as infection rates escalated. The Home Office announced in September 2020 that it would stop support for those on asylum support, where it believed they had no longer had any grounds for support. This was at the point where infection rates were starting to increase again. We referred clients for legal advice, and drafted a witness statement to support strategic litigation challenging the lawfulness of the Home Office's decision. The court ordered that asylum seekers should not be evicted until the hearing took place. This kept up to 4,000 people on support through the second wave of the pandemic and the winter months, until all government restrictions eased in July 2021.
- We advocated with the Asylum Support Tribunal to ensure access to justice for destitute asylum seekers, many of whose appeals were listed to be determined 'on the papers' rather than being given oral hearings at the beginning of the pandemic. This required written submissions in English rather than oral evidence via an interpreter – extremely challenging for destitute asylum seekers. Following these discussions, the Tribunal updated its guidance on how it decides on the type of hearing that will be held. The latest version indicates that oral appeals will usually be listed as such, where requested by the appellant.
- Restructured ASAP's policy work to recruit a policy and research manager and a policy and research advisor to streamline ASAP's policy work internally.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
INCOMING FROM:				
Donations and legacies	£358,211	£327,666	£685,877	£604,174
Investment income	£170	–	£170	£426
Income from charitable activities	£900	–	£900	£2,071
Total	£359,281	£327,666	£686,947	£606,671
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities	£291,882	£348,257	£640,139	£556,258
Total resources expended	£291,882	£348,257	£640,139	£556,258
Net income/(expenditure) before transfer	£67,399	(£20,591)	£46,808	£50,413
Transfer between funds	–	–	–	–
Net income/(expenditure) after transfer	£67,399	(£20,591)	£46,808	£50,413
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	£67,399	(£20,591)	£46,808	£50,413
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds at start of year	£247,397	£43,925	£291,322	£240,909
Total funds at end of year	£314,796	£23,334	£338,130	£291,322

The financial statements shown are a summarised version of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The full statutory report can be obtained by contacting ASAP at:
Studio 11/12, Container City Building, 48 Trinity Buoy Wharf, London, E14 0FN.

ASYLUM SUPPORT APPEALS PROJECT
Company limited by guarantee no. 04763838

Funders, trustees, staff and volunteers

Thanks to our funders, supporters, partners and all who supported our work in 2020/2021

FUNDERS

AB Charitable Trust
Access to Justice Foundation
Allen and Overy Foundation
Barings Foundation
Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All and Help Through Crisis)
City Bridge Trust
Comic Relief
Community Justice Fund
Esme Fairbairn Foundation
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Herbert Smith Freehills
John Ellerman Foundation
Legal Education Foundation
London Legal Support Trust
Metropolitan Migration Foundation
Oak Foundation
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Strategic Legal Fund
Tudor Trust
Individual donors

OTHER SUPPORTERS

First-tier Tribunal (Asylum Support)
Hannah Tye at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Marion Edge and Andrew Barton at Herbert Smith Freehills
Asylum Support Advice Network (ASAN) members
Public Law Project

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (TRUSTEES)

CHAIR Michael Spencer
VICE CHAIR Alasdair Mackenzie
TREASURER Jessica Gaskin (resigned July 2020), Sheryl Whitehall
Dave Garratt
Loraine Masiya Mponela
Maryam Oghanna
Nicola Parker
Amelia Seeto
Sarah Taal

STAFF 2020/21

DIRECTOR Alice Webb (maternity cover August 2019 – October 2020), Kat Lorenz

DUTY SCHEME COORDINATOR Lilly Barritt
DUTY SCHEME ASSISTANT

Mariana D'Arcadia
FINANCE AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

Dianah Rouse
LEGAL ADVISOR Mark Rogers, Ravi Low-Beer (from June 2020)

POLICY MANAGER Marie Anne Fishwick

SOLICITOR Deborah Gellner
TRAINING COORDINATOR

Aideen Woods
WOMEN'S LEGAL ADVISOR Matilda Bryce
OFFICE VOLUNTEER John Hillman

DUTY SCHEME VOLUNTEERS

Alasdair Mackenzie
Doughty Street Chambers
Ali Grodzki
Herbert Smith Freehills
Anish Patel
Herbert Smith Freehills
Anna Brennan
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Anthony Ojukwu
Competition and Markets Authority
Catherine Gilfedder
Dentons UK
Chris Spiller
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Christina Guazzi
WilmerHale
Cian Mansfield
Scott and Scott
Connor Johnston
Garden Court Chambers
Felix Schaaf
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Gabriella Polledri
Osborne Clarke
Gimhani Eriyagolla
Hodge Jones & Allen
Graeme Robertson
Herbert Smith Freehills
Greg Fullelove
Osborne Clarke
Hannah Smith
AIRE Centre
Hanne Gundersrud
Herbert Smith Freehills
Harriet Tolkien
Herbert Smith Freehills
Helen Jackson
Jake Savile-Tucker
Herbert Smith Freehills
Jessica Steele
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Jonathan Lafferty
Sidley Austin
Joshua Kelly
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Joshua Pemberton
Open Society Foundations
Kerrie Barrett
Herbert Smith Freehills
Marie-Claire O'Kane
4 New Square
Maryam Oghanna
Forsters
Matthew Ahluwalia
Garden Court Chambers

Michael Booker
Bristol Law Centre
Michael Howe
Wilmer Hale
Michael Kotrly
One Essex Court
Michael Quayle
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Michael Spencer
Doughty Street Chambers
Miryam Farrelly
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Olga Dementyeva
Herbert Smith Freehills
Peter Fitzpatrick
Powell Gilbert
Philip Henderson
Henderson and Jones
Ramya Arnold
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Ravi Low-Beer
Rebecca Butt
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Robert Colvin
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Simon Cox
Doughty Street Chambers
Sophie Caseley
Garden Court Chambers
Sophie Jones
Herbert Smith Freehills
Sophie Tang
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Stephanie Needleman
Justice
Susan Field
Herbert Smith Freehills
Thomas van der Klugt
Essex Chambers



History of ASAP

- In 2000, the government separated housing and financial support for asylum seekers from British citizens.
- Asylum seekers had to apply for a lower level of support to the Home Office, with the right of appeal if refused, but without legal aid.
- People were left to navigate this complex area of law alone, defending themselves against a Home Office advisor despite language and cultural barriers and a lack of technical knowledge.
- A group of solicitors lobbied for legal aid to be reinstated, and when this was refused, they founded ASAP in 2003 to provide free legal representation for asylum support appeals.



The current ASAP team

ASAP
www.asaproject.org

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Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)
Studio 11/12
Container City Building
48 Trinity Buoy Wharf
London
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Tel: 020 3716 0284 Fax: 020 3716 0272
Charity number: 1105625
Company number: 04763838

