

Asylum and Immigration

Innocent children are dragged from their beds, separated from their parents and taken to prison. Surely not in Glasgow?

These are the children of asylum seekers who have sought safety in Britain.

So who are asylum seekers?

Anyone has the right to flee persecution and in any one year about 35,000 people seek asylum in Britain. That's just 2% of the world's refugees. At present there are just over 5,000 people claiming asylum in Glasgow, many of them very highly qualified people – doctors, lawyers and teachers. Most asylum seekers are from Iran, Somalia, Eritrea, China and Afghanistan - countries which are high up on Amnesty International's list of human rights-abusing governments.

A refugee is someone who has successfully claimed asylum and has many of the same rights as any other UK citizen.

What happens to asylum seekers?

Once someone has made a claim for asylum they can receive support from the National Asylum Support Service. This includes housing and benefit of £37.77 a week – 30% below the level of income support. They are not allowed to work, although most would much prefer to support themselves.

Recently, the government has instituted a new fast-track asylum system which allows just five days between making an application and the initial interview. This makes it difficult for lawyers representing the applicants to translate documents, understand the reasons for the claim and prepare the case. Those whose claims are already in the pipeline must wait months or even years for a decision and many suffer from depression as a result.

If the claim is rejected, asylum seekers lose their housing and benefit and are liable to be forcibly deported. Many are taken to Dungavel detention centre.

The adjudication process is not foolproof, and asylum seekers have been forcibly returned to countries such as Zimbabwe which the government themselves acknowledge to be dangerous. Some asylum seekers have killed themselves rather than be sent back to a country they fear.

**There are many
immigrants in Scotland.
Let's welcome our
newest arrivals.**



**scottish
green party**

www.glasgowgreens.org

The Scottish Green Party's policies

We support fully the right of asylum for those fleeing persecution in line with our obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

We believe that asylum seekers should have the same housing, employment and benefit rights as any other resident of the UK. Asylum seekers should be given every opportunity to make their claim, including the right to legal advice, translation and interpretation, and specialist health care.

The Scottish Green Party would work to address the need for asylum through fair aid and trade, debt relief and an end to arms sales, and through tackling climate change, which will result in water shortage and the loss of fertile land, and is estimated to create another 200 million refugees by 2050.

What can we do?

Asylum and immigration are reserved to Westminster, so lobby your MP for a fairer deal for asylum seekers, for an end to dawn raids and the detention of families.

Visit the sites <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk> and <http://closedungavelnow.com> which contain information on how to help asylum seekers and refugees.

Vote Green! We will lobby the Westminster and European Parliaments to replace the current unfair asylum and immigration laws, work to end the root causes of refugee flows and ensure that Scotland benefits from the skills and energy of refugees and asylum seekers.

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