

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Ideas for how to campaign for a better deal for people seeking asylum

- ü **Make new arrivals in the community feel welcome:** a simple 'Hello' can really make someone's day, especially if the person is feeling out of place, lonely etc. Just a friendly word or a smile can make a huge difference.
- ü **Keep yourself informed about refugee issues and legislation**
- ü **Parents: educate your children**
- ü **Write to your MP, MSP, and/or Home Secretary:**
 - MP:** **Mohammed Sarwar** • Parliamentary Office • 247 Paisley Road West • Kinning Park • Glasgow G51 1NE • Tel: 0141 427 5250 / 0207 219 5024 • E-mail: sarwar@sarwar.org.uk
 - MSP:** **Frank McAveety** • 1346 Shettleston Road • Glasgow • G32 9AT • Tel: 0141 764 0175 • E-mail: Frank.Mcaveety.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
Gordon Jackson • 247 Paisley Road West • Kinning Park • Glasgow G51 1NE • Tel: 0141 427 7047 • E-mail: Gordon.Jackson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
 - Home Secretary:** **Rt Hon John Reid** • House of Commons • London SW1A 0AA • **OR:** Parliamentary Advice Office • 115 Graham Street • Airdrie ML6 6DE • Tel: 01236 748777 • reidj@parliament.uk
- ü **Befriend refugees in your area by attending a drop-in centre.** There is a weekly drop-in in Govanhill run by Crossroads and Govanhill Free Church, everyone welcome. Tuesdays, 12.30 – 2.30 • 26 Belleisle Street • Tel: 0141 423 5955 / 637 0761
- ü **Join Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees:** c/o Fire Brigade Union • 52 St Enoch's Square • Glasgow G1 • Tel: 07870 286 632 • glascamref@hotmail.com
- ü **Complain to the Press Complaints Commission when the media misrepresents refugees:** Press Complaints Commission • 1 Salisbury Square • London • EC4Y 8JB • E-mail: complaints@pcc.org.uk • Help Line: 0131 220 6652
- ü **Sign the online petition to give amnesty to families in Scotland**
<http://new.petitiononline.com/amn2005/petition.html>
- ü **Donate to the Food Bank at Bridging the Gap:** make a donation to destitute asylum seekers of dried or tinned food, washing products or toiletries: Greyfriars Centre • 270 Ballater St • Gorbals • Glasgow • G5 0YT • Tel 0141 418 0241 • Email: secretary@bridging-the-gap.org
- ü **Join in demonstrations at Dungavel:** Dungavel Removal Centre, a former prison, is located in an isolated spot near Strathaven in South Lanarkshire, and is one of ten such centres in the UK which incarcerates individual asylum seekers and even their families. The Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees organises sporadic demonstrations outside Dungavel, most recently in the aftermath of the suicide there, and Friends of Refugees Ayrshire hold demonstrations at the time of St. Andrew's Day and Burns Day.
- ü **Join Scottish Detainee Visitors Scheme:** an independent charity that provides social, emotional and practical support to asylum and immigration detainees in Scotland. SDV volunteers visit detainees in Dungavel Removal Centre on Monday and Thursday evenings. Scottish Detainee Visitors Scheme • c/o SRC • 5 Cadogan Square (170 Blythswood Court) • Glasgow G2 7PH • Tel: 0141 248 9799 • Fax: 0141 243 2499 • E-mail: info@sdv.org.uk
- ü **Prevent a destitute asylum seeker from rough sleeping.** Can you or someone you know offer a place to sleep on a week-by-week basis? It might be a bed space or a small box room. Anything, so

long as it's safe and warm, is fine. If you think you might be able to help and would like to know more please call Positive Action in Housing on 0141 353 2220 or email home@paih.org

- ü **Offer a spare room as a bail address:** Can you help someone be released from Dungavel Detention Centre? If you think you or someone you know has a spare room and might be able to then please contact David or Jamie at PAIH on 0141 353 2220 or e-mail david@paih.org
- ü **Join the weekly vigil outside Brand Street:** every Saturday morning, there is a solidarity vigil at the gates of the Immigration Reporting Centre at Brand Street, Glasgow, from 10am to around midday. The vigil is a place where you can show your support for asylum seekers who have to sign on at the centre. People are searched and fingerprinted each week, and are never sure if they will be leaving by the front gate or handcuffed and taken into detention into the back of a van. It is also a place where you can meet people and find out ways that you can get involved in the resistance to the government's asylum and migration controls.
- ü **Join No Borders Glasgow:** part of the European No Border Network, No Borders Glasgow is a local collective working in solidarity with refugees, migrants and other groups, for the freedom of movement of all. Fights against detention, deportation and destitution. E-mail: noborders-glasgow@riseup.net Weblog: www.openborders.org.uk
- ü **Donate money:** to destitute asylum seekers who have no access to any other support. You can make a one-off donation or contribute on a monthly basis by standing order or direct debit.
 - **Bridging the Gap destitution fund:** cheques should be made payable to Bridging The Gap and the back of the cheque should be marked 'Destitution Fund'. Greyfriars Centre • 270 Ballater St • Gorbals • Glasgow • G5 0YT • Tel 0141 418 0241 • E-mail: secretary@bridging-the-gap.org
 - **Positive Action in Housing destitution fund** Cheques should be made payable to Positive Action in Housing and the back of the cheque should be marked clearly 'Hardship Fund'. Or donate online at www.paih.org. Positive Action in Housing • 98 West George Street • Glasgow G2 1PJ • www.paih.org/destitutionappeal
 - **Refugee Survival Trust:** 19 Smith's Place • Edinburgh EH6 8NT • <http://www.rst.org.uk> • Tel: 0131 554 6776 • info@rst.org.uk
- ü **Give some of your time by volunteering** with organisations that work to support refugees and asylum seekers and promote their inclusion in the wider community:
 - **Govanhill Settlement and Integration Network:** c/o Anna Griffiths • Crossroads Youth and Community Association • 19a Belleisle Street • Glasgow G42 8HL • Tel: 0141 423 5955 • annag@cyca.org.uk
 - **Amina - Muslim Women's Resource Centre:** Network House • 311 Calder St • Glasgow G42 7NQ • 0141 585 8026 • info@mwrc.org.uk • www.mwrc.org.uk
 - **The Peer Advocacy Project** at The Initiative has volunteering opportunities for host community people as well as asylum seekers and refugees. Volunteers provide practical and emotional support to vulnerable asylum seekers, who are either new in Glasgow or very isolated; volunteers can also design and deliver awareness raising workshops to local groups and organisations about issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees. Contact Eeva Sarkkinen, Co-ordinator • eevasarkkinen@the-initiative.org.uk • The Initiative • Adelphi Centre • 12 Commercial Rd • Glasgow G5 0PQ • 0141 420 3573 ext 220 • 0141 429 6314 • Fax: 0141 429 2649
 - **The Volunteer Centre** • 84 Miller Street (just off George Square) • Glasgow • 0141 226 3431.
- ü **Join the Scottish Refugee Council campaigning group** and get regular emails highlighting campaigning issues and explaining how you can write to the media. www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/support/Campaign
- ü **Get a copy of the new Scottish Refugee Council film 'Asylum Realities'** (launching during Refugee Week this year) and show it in your workplace, at your school or to family and friends.