

# Welcome to Scotland

You may be feeling scared, nervous and lonely or curious about arriving in Scotland. Everything is new and strange because you do not know anyone and you feel homesick. Things will take time but it will get better.

This guide will give you information about getting support, the things that you can do in Glasgow and all about your rights.

We hope that you enjoy reading the guide and find all of the information useful.



**Young Survivors - Steps to the Future Group**  
Glasgow 2006  
(Reprinted 2010)

phf Paul Hamlyn  
Foundation



The Scottish  
Government



scottish  
refugee  
council

# Finding Your Way Around This Guide

## Difficult words

You may find some of the words in this guide difficult to understand. Most of these words have numbers next to them so that you can look up their meaning in the Glossary at the back of this guide

## The Directory

Throughout the guide we mention lots of different organisations that are there to help and support you. For more information on these and other organisations you can use the Directory at the back of the guide.



## A message to young people living outside of Glasgow

If you are a young person living and claiming asylum in another area of Scotland, outside of Glasgow, the information in this guide is important for you to read too. Many of the organisations listed are based in Glasgow, but if you call Scottish Refugee Council on their free telephone number 0800 085 6087 they can put you into contact with organisations in your local area.

## **Note to Service Providers**

While the information in this publication is aimed at unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people we would also like to encourage the service providers supporting them to read the guide and make sure they understand all the information contained. This will provide them with sufficient knowledge to introduce the contents to the young people in their care.

## **Acknowledgements**

This guide has been produced by Scottish Refugee Council and *the big step*. The need for this guide was initially identified by the 'Young Survivors Steps to the Future Group', which is a group of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people from 13 to 18 years of age supported by *the big step*. The young people represented in this group felt that there was a lack of specific information available to them about the asylum process and their rights. The importance of such information was further supported by research conducted by Scottish Refugee Council and the Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society at Glasgow University which looked at the needs and experiences of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children living in Scotland.

To ensure that the information would be accessible to young people, it was originally acknowledged that young people involved in the 'Young Survivors' group would participate in its development and later the young people from Campus also contributed to the update in 2010. The 'Young Survivors' group worked hard in developing the overall concept; including selecting and working closely with the designers to devise content ideas.

The result is a guide largely produced by and for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people.

Scottish Refugee Council and Glasgow City Council are grateful for the major contribution made by the young people from the 'Young Survivors Steps to the Future Group' and the subsequent contributions made by the young people from Campus to update the pack in 2010. Their personal experiences and insights of claiming asylum in Scotland have been invaluable to the production of this guide. It is hoped that through sharing their experiences, other young people in the same situation will be more informed of the key issues that are important when arriving and settling in Scotland, claiming asylum and understanding their rights. If you would like further training or guidance on how to use this guide please contact Scottish Refugee Council.

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