

Scottish Refugee Council Press Release



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TELL IT LIKE IT IS!

Refugee agencies urge political parties to tell the truth about asylum during the general election campaign, 10.00 - 11.00am Tuesday 22 February, Attlee Room, Portcullis House, Westminster.

On the day that official figures are expected to show that asylum claims are 70% down from a peak in 2001, refugee agencies have come together to call for all parties to campaign on this issue in a calm and sensitive way, using facts and figures, not myths and scare stories.

Scottish Refugee Council has come together with our Welsh and English sister organisations, and STAR – Student Action for Refugees, to launch *Tell it like it is: The Truth About Asylum*; a pocket guide for anyone who wants to have the facts about asylum at their fingertips during the election campaign.

The agencies hope that the guide will be carried around by parliamentary candidates, party workers and anyone else taking part in the campaign, so that when the asylum issues comes up on the doorstep or in meetings they will have a reliable information available in a handy format to counter the myths that are so widespread.

Sally Daghlian, Chief Executive of the Scottish Refugee Council said:

“Asylum will clearly be a key issue throughout the general election campaign. It is vital that the debate is based on the truth; not on the myths and prejudices that have created so much public concern over this issue. The pocket guide is not designed to advocate any particular platform or political view. It simply provides clear, verifiable facts and figures that help put the issue of asylum into its proper perspective. We don’t think it’s too much to ask that our political representatives campaign on this issue in a responsible manner. The pocket guide will enable them to do just that”.

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