

*10 October 2005*

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### **SEEKING REFUGE ON THE WEB**

#### **Scottish Refugee Council launches its new website.**

With over 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers now living in Scotland, the need for up to date information on asylum issues has never been greater.

Scottish Refugee Council has comprehensively redesigned its website to offer fast, accurate information to; people seeking asylum, researchers, members of the public and anyone else who wants to learn more about this complex issue. The site is easy to use and is designed to help people who may not speak English as their first language.

Features include:

- Advice for people seeking asylum, in eight different languages
- A directory of over 200 Scottish asylum organisations based in Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Up to date specialist information on all aspects of refugee issues.
- Comprehensive arts and cultural events listings
- Information on training, fundraising, campaigning and publications

We aim to offer clients and people interested in refugee issues a state of the art web resource, that is easy to access and which empowers users to find things out for themselves.

Scottish Refugee Council Chief Executive Sally Daghlian said:

*““With the needs of our client group in mind, the interface has been designed to be user-friendly and accessible to those whose first language is not necessarily English. The new site offers a one-stop information resource on asylum issues, whether you are using it as a refugee, a campaigner, a voluntary worker, or simply someone who wants to find out the facts.*

*“We aim to make our site the first port of call for anyone seeking information on asylum issues in Scotland”.*

We asked a Focus group of refugees and people seeking asylum to try out the new site and give us their views. Here is a sample of their reactions:

*“ This is a brilliant website. I like that it is so colourful and friendly. This will be very good for asylum seekers and refugees”- Fatima*

*“This site is very easy to use and helpful. I found everything I was looking for”.*

**- Abeer**

***" It's very useful for asylum seekers to have this good advice in their language. I like that I can identify my language from the first page of the site".***

**- John**

***ENDS***

***For further information please contact Andrew Dougal, Scottish Refugee Council Press & Communications Officer on 0141-223-7927, mobile 07734-030763, or email [andrew.dougal@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:andrew.dougal@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)***