

Introduction

Scottish Government adheres to the policy that integration begins on day one of a person’s arrival in Scotland. Access to rights such as housing, financial support and education is critical to the integration process.

These factsheets give an overview of people’s rights and entitlements at different stages of their journeys seeking protection and integration in the UK. We hope that this will ensure that refugees across Scotland will be able to access their rights; and that advisers and supporters will be able to confidently assist them to do so.

These factsheets resulted from a partnership project, facilitated through the New Scots Strategy, involving voluntary and statutory sector agencies from Local Authorities across Scotland. They should be read in conjunction with our Refugee Family Integration Good Practice Guide.

Definitions

In these factsheets we provide information relating to refugees and to people seeking asylum (asylum seekers) under separate headings. We define these terms as follows.

Refugee: any person who has been recognised as being in need of international protection by the UK Government. This includes people who have been granted:

- Refugee status following a claim for asylum in the UK, and resettled refugees
- Humanitarian Protection following a claim for asylum in the UK, and resettled refugees
- Discretionary Leave to Remain following a claim for asylum
- UASC Leave (for people who arrived as unaccompanied asylum seeking children).

Asylum seeker: any person who has made a claim for asylum under the terms of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Topics

Our factsheets summarise the following topics:

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Human rights and equalities
- 03 Education
- 04 Employment and volunteering
- 05 Financial support
- 06 Health and social care
- 07 Housing
- 08 Access to legal advice
- 09 How to claim asylum.

Resources for further information and advice are given at the end of each factsheet.

Immigration advice regulations

It is illegal for an unqualified person to give immigration advice. Non-legal advisers wishing to provide immigration advice or engage in advocacy must register with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to become a regulated immigration adviser at one of three levels.

Advisers whose work is restricted to signposting to regulated immigration advisers or to the provision of general information on immigration and asylum systems do not need to apply to the OISC for registration.

For further details, refer to the OISC website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-immigration-services-commissioner