

Destitution Project Impact Report April - June 2022

Food Support: parcels Destitute Asylum Seekers (DAS): 42	Food support financial: £7,800
Asylum Seekers: 348	Emergency funding: medical, essential travel, accommodation
Casework sessions Face to face: 51 Remote: 220 New Service Users registered: 4 "Walk in": 44	Drop in Attendance Total: 651 Average: 50

Agencies that Destitution Project (DP) has connected with:
Salvation Army providing support for victims of human trafficking
Sharples School re donation, Thornleigh Salesian celebrating Refugee Day

Key learning to take forward

1. For a few weeks our DP Drop in became quieter than usual. Although this could be for many reasons it coincided with the rise in detentions of Kurdish/Iraqis during April / May which has caused a lot fear and anxiety; also Govt proposals to deport asylum seekers arriving by illegal forms of transport to Rwanda; many asylum seekers are worried about this especially those w/o fresh claims in place. We believe many are choosing to stay undercover for fear of being picked up
2. We are still not able to lift restrictions on registering new cases because partner organisations are also under pressure e.g. Citizen Advice Bureau are not taking on new cases until late May/June as they are restructuring the immigration department and due to the high demand in cases. Home Office interviews and decision making are taking longer than before; we have begun sign posting asylum seekers to our local MPS who have been writing to the Home Office on their behalf to speed the process up.
3. Although we still supply food parcels to all asylum seekers who want one (as well as our DAS Destitute asylum seekers) due to shortages and rising prices we have had to restrict some items e.g oil.
4. Also, due to cost of living increases we have begun approaching our supporters for more help. However they are receiving similar requests from other beneficiaries.

Case studies

S is from Iran. She first came to DP with her husband and 4 year old daughter in 2012; their asylum case was refused. Two years later they were

divorced. The husband submitted a fresh claim which was successful but S and her daughter were refused, however their weekly allowance and Home Office accommodation remained in place because S's daughter was still a minor.

DP supported S with presenting a fresh asylum case in 2019, which was again rejected. She finally received leave to remain after going through the Appeal stage in court in April 2022.

AH is from Somalia. He was awarded refugee status to rejoin his family. This was revoked by the Home Office due to his committing a criminal offence and being imprisoned. When he was released, the Home Office had not made a decision on whether his refugee status would be reinstated, he would have to claim asylum again or be deported to Somalia. He was unable to return to his family in London so came to Bolton where he had some friends but then became homeless. It was then found out that he had been the victim of human trafficking.

Our Caseworker contacted his solicitor for an update on his status and sent a report to the Home Office about the fact that he had been a victim of human trafficking. She also contacted the Salvation Army (SA - they provide specialist support for all adult victims of modern slavery) and completed an application. The SA took on his case, found him accommodation in Birmingham and a support worker to assist him. Our Caseworker then closed his file at DP and sign posted him to organisations providing similar services in Birmingham.

Z is from Iran. He registered with DP September 2021. Prior to that his asylum case had been refused because he was unable to provide proof of baptism (his solicitor did not ask the Home Office to postpone the interview to allow Z time to receive his baptism certificate). Our Caseworker assisted him in finding a new solicitor, he was given weekly food parcels, vouchers and clothing. In February this year our Caseworker supported him in submitting a fresh claim along with the baptism certificate, medical report, and other supporting letters. Once his fresh claim was submitted to the Home Office, our Caseworker applied for Home Office accommodation and financial support. He was dispersed outside the Bolton area. He received leave to remain decision in June; this was a real surprise as many service users wait for years before getting a decision from Home Office.