

# ASPIRE

## Respect and dignity for all asylum seekers

Northern Ireland has shown itself willing to support people seeking sanctuary. The successful Syrian refugee resettlement scheme is an example of positive action and we are inspired by our collective efforts. It is now time to turn our attention to asylum seekers. We ASPIRE to a society where all asylum seekers are treated with respect and dignity.

**What can I do?** This Refugee Week, the Refugee & Asylum Forum seeks support for these six actions from organisations and individuals.

<b>A</b>	<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Northern Ireland oversight and scrutiny of asylum matters</li><li>- Adopt a positive, proactive approach</li></ul>
<b>S</b>	<b>SUPPORT DESTITUTE ASYLUM SEEKERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Commit to alleviating asylum destitution for all</li><li>- Ensure that families are not made destitute by new UK legislation</li></ul>
<b>P</b>	<b>PROTECT FROM PROSECUTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensure no asylum seeker is prosecuted for seeking refuge</li><li>- Respect the 'refugee defence' enshrined in international law</li></ul>
<b>I</b>	<b>INVEST IN REFUGEE INTEGRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Address this outstanding action from SAFER/Five actions</li><li>- Long-term support and core funding for asylum organisations</li></ul>
<b>R</b>	<b>ROUTES TO SPECIALIST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Specialist health care for survivors of trauma and torture</li><li>- Access to social care for vulnerable asylum seekers</li></ul>
<b>E</b>	<b>EQUAL RIGHTS TO EDUCATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Improve the process for 'newcomer children'</li><li>- Equal access to Further and Higher Education</li></ul>

Please notify Liz of your support: [elizabeth.griffith@lawcentreni.org](mailto:elizabeth.griffith@lawcentreni.org)

A big **THANK YOU** from members of the Refugee Asylum Forum