

LEEDS HARDSHIP FUND

for destitute asylum seekers

"I became homeless, my mental health suffered not only because of the things I suffered in Iran but also because of the way I was being treated in this country, I became a bad person and tried to kill myself."

Hungry and homeless, living in limbo, banned from working yet unable to access benefits. Many destitute asylum seekers do not know where they will be sleeping from one night to the next: in parks and bus stations, public toilets and phone boxes, abandoned buildings, or the floors of friends. For survival, they rely on food parcels and the charity of others.

The number of destitute asylum seekers in Leeds is not known but estimates range from 1,500 to 3,000, and the numbers are believed to be increasing. These are people whose application has been refused but in many cases cannot be returned home because it is unsafe or because they cannot get the necessary travel documents. They cannot claim state benefits and are banned from working to support themselves - they have no income at all

Each winter a group of voluntary organizations in Leeds operates a Hardship Fund to provide limited financial support to those in greatest need. The fund provides small subsistence donations to destitute asylum seekers who have no income at all (for a single person, £25 per week, usually for 4 weeks). This provides a vital lifeline to people in desperate situations and can mean the difference between a meal and nothing to eat.

The Hardship Fund is an essential service to ease the situation of people experiencing homelessness and destitution and is a partnership of:

- Leeds Refugee Forum
- LASSN (Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network)
- Leeds City of Sanctuary
- Meeting Point
- PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers)
- British Red Cross
- RETAS (Refugee Education Training Advice Service)
- Solace
- York Street Health Practice

If you are able to support the Hardship Fund please contact one of the charities above or complete the donation form below; or simply make an online payment direct to the Hardship Fund bank account Leeds Refugee Forum Hardship Fund Account, Sort Code 40-27-15, Account 65015715; or you can make a donation online by going to the Leeds Refugee Forum website -

<http://leedsrefugeeforum.org.uk/>

or clicking on this link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/donatesteps.aspx?beneficiarycampaignid=4261>

Many thanks,

Ali Mahgoub, Leeds Refugee Forum

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£25 supports a destitute asylum seeker for one week

The Leeds Hardship Fund is supported by:

Leeds Refugee Forum, LASSN (Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network), Leeds City of Sanctuary, Meeting Point, PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, British Red Cross, RETAS (Refugee Education Training Advice Service), Solace and York St Health Practice.

<p>Your name</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>Address</p>
<p>Please complete this box to make a Standing Order donation</p>	<p>Please complete this box to make a Single Payment donation</p>
<p>Pay Leeds Refugee Forum, Hardship Fund A/C HSBC, 33 Park Row, Leeds LS1 1LD Sort Code 40-27-15 Account Number 65015715</p> <p>The sum of: £..... Commencing on and thereafter every month until/ you receive further notice from me/us in writing and debit my/our account accordingly. Details of account to be debited:</p> <p>Bank</p> <p>Bank address.....</p> <p>Account number _____</p> <p>Sort code ___ / ___ / ___</p> <p>Signature.....</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>I / we enclose a cheque donation of £..... made payable to Leeds Refugee Forum.</p> <hr/> <p>Leeds Refugee Forum</p> <p>One Community Centre Cromwell Street, Lincoln Green, Leeds LS9 7SG</p> <p>Tel: 0113 244 9600 Email: info@leedsrefugeeforum.org.uk</p>