



information sheet

Still Human Still Here Campaign

13th June 2007

The Still Human Still Here campaign is seeking to end destitution among those asylum-seekers who remain in the UK after their asylum claims have been refused. The campaign is supported by ILPA, and several other organisations. A list of supporting organisations is available on the campaign website at www.stillhuman.org.uk

This information sheet gives some information about the campaign, and a number of sleep out events organised in support of the campaign.

The aims of the campaign

The general aim of this campaign is to end destitution among those who have been refused asylum and remain in the UK. Specific aims are set out on the campaign website at www.stillhuman.org.uk

Why ILPA supports this campaign

Recent research by various organisations confirms what has been suspected for a long time:

- there are large numbers of people in the UK who have been made homeless and destitute after being refused asylum
- destitution is used as a method of immigration policy seeking to force people to leave the UK so as to escape the homelessness and destitution they face here

The numbers of people staying in the UK in destitution shows that the policy does not work. The terrible circumstances, in which many of these people live, shows the policy is immoral.

This also confirms something we have long believed to be true. Very many asylum-seekers have no confidence in the UK asylum system. Many have received very poorly reasoned decisions to refuse them asylum. Since many come from countries, where serious human rights abuses are widely reported (e.g. Iraq, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Afghanistan), it is not surprising they continue to be afraid of returning to their home country. Starving these people, making them homeless, denying healthcare and causing serious mental illness as a result of a policy of destitution is neither sensible nor moral.

Sleep out events

In support of this campaign, many organisations across the UK have arranged sleep outs over the next few weeks. Amnesty International, Church Action on Poverty and the Refugee Council have taken a lead in supporting these sleep outs. Further information is available, including where and when sleep outs are taking place; and help with how to organise a sleep out.

This information can be found at:

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10918>

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/gettinginvolved/campaign/just_fair/summersleepouts.htm

Change to the law

The Still Human Still Here campaign is also supporting a change to the current UK Borders Bill. This change would stop destitution of those who have been refused asylum. More information

ILPA information service

funded by JRCT

www.ilpa.org.uk/infoservice.html

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about this change is available at:
<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10918>

Research and Reports

Relevant research and reports include:

- Amnesty International – *Down and Out in London* (2006); and Refugee Action – *The Destitution Trap* (2006) <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10682#report>
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust – *Destitution in Leeds and Moving on- From Destitution to Contribution* (2007) <http://www.jrct.org.uk/text.asp?section=0001000200030006>
- Joint Committee on Human Rights – *The Treatment of Asylum Seekers* (2007) <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200607/jtselect/jtrights/81/81i.pdf>