

Introduction

Refugee Action is an independent national charity working with refugees to build new lives in the UK. We provide practical advice and assistance for newly arrived asylum seekers and long-term commitment to their settlement through community development work. As one of the country's leading agencies in the field, Refugee Action has over 20 years' experience in pioneering innovative work in partnership with refugees.

History of Refugee Action

Refugee Action was founded in 1981 to provide a new approach to the successful resettlement in the UK of refugees and asylum seekers. This was based on supporting, promoting and working in partnership with refugee communities. Our work has included the reception and settlement of thousands of newly-arrived refugees from Vietnam, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Refugee Action's work today includes:

- **Asylum advice**
Since April 2000, Refugee Action's Asylum Advice teams have provided a reception service for newly arrived asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service as well as successful asylum applicants who need help in accessing mainstream services and accommodation. We also advise clients facing problems such as racial harassment, domestic violence and destitution. From seven regional offices covering the North West, East Midlands, South West and South Central, Refugee Action provided high quality asylum advice in more than 29,000 casework sessions last year.
- **Development and integration**
Refugee Action works to promote the development of new refugee community organizations and to build the capacity of existing ones. Our work includes everything from assistance with accessing funding, to long-term training and support. Last year, our community development officers worked with 547 refugee community organisations and groups.
- **Advice for asylum seekers considering return**
Choices, our voluntary return project, offers independent advice and information to refugees and asylum seekers who are considering whether to return home and want to discuss their options. Last year Choices received 1,468 enquiries.
- **Specialist projects**
Throughout the regions, Refugee Action works to improve access to mainstream services and enhance opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers through innovative projects.
- **Campaigning and raising awareness**
Refugee Action campaigns for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and works to ensure that their voices are heard both in the media and in the formation of public policy.

For more information

If you would like more information on Refugee Action, are interested in volunteering or would like to make a donation please visit our website at: www.refugee-action.org.uk or call 020 7654 7700.

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