

2025 Impact Report

Prepared for The Leathersellers



2025 achievements

Asylum Aid ensures quality legal representation and welfare advice for those who really need it - unaccompanied age-disputed children, survivors of trafficking and torture, LGBTQI+ people fleeing persecution, and others seeking safety.



979

clients supported with immigration or welfare advice



145

children and young people supported with trauma-informed legal advice and representation

Despite 2025 being a year of increased hostility towards those seeking sanctuary and growing global instability, I am immensely proud of all that we achieved at Asylum Aid. We reunited families from Gaza, provided multilingual welfare benefits, housing and generalist advice to people from migrant backgrounds in Westminster, consolidated our training, supervising and shadowing programmes - namely Compass and Migrant Justice Greater London - and welcomed our second Justice First Fellow into our award-winning team. Asylum Aid remains committed to supporting the most marginalised and ensuring all those fleeing persecution access the protection every human being deserves.

Piya Muqit - Executive Director

Legal Support



258

clients supported with legal representation

21

stateless people supported

13

families reunited

85

people granted protection

Training

11

charities supported in the refugee and immigration sector



Our flagship programme of training, supervising & peer support for immigration advisers completed its 3rd cohort.

Westminster Advice Services Partnership (WASP)

Through WASP, we delivered advice in community languages to 682 clients from migrant communities covering benefits, immigration, housing & welfare.

Clients were better off by a total of

£1,003,441

“ My heart is full of thanks to my solicitor and entire Asylum Aid team! ”



People who have had to leave everything, flee and seek protection in this country should be treated humanely and with dignity.

[Alison Pickup, Helen Bamber Foundation Group's CEO, speaking with Sky News.](#)



Our national impact

A lack of in-person advice in asylum dispersal areas has left 63% of the population without access to a lawyer. Our partnerships across England and Wales ensure more Survivors receive quality advice and representation. By working together, we reach more places where there is no or little legal aid provision to ensure the most at-risk people seeking asylum receive support. In 2025, we worked with 13 organisations delivering trainings on modern slavery, working with unaccompanied children, and supporting survivors of torture.



South Yorkshire Refugee
Law and Justice

Refugee and
Migrant Centre
West Midlands



Latin American
Women's Rights
Service

Refugee and Migrant Centre



Cheshire, Halton & Warrington
Race Equality Centre



YOUNGROOTS

Young Roots



Refugee Migrant Justice
(formally RAMFEL)



Children and Families
Across Borders



Devon and Cornwall
Refugee Support



SUFRA North West London



Action for Refugees
in Lewisham



RELEASE



Voices in Exile



Voices in Exile



Da'aro Youth Project



I keep going back to the slides from the training - I thought I knew a lot, but in some cases I found I didn't. The training has given me much more confidence and I've discovered a range of new angles into cases. (COMPASS participant)



What do you do when you're disbelieved as a child?

Asylum Aid is proud to be part of the Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium who published data showing that between January 2024 and June 2024, at least 262 children were misclassified as adults by the Home Office on arrival. Instead of being believed, children are wrongly treated as adults and placed in inappropriate accommodation such as adult hotels putting them at risk of trafficking and abuse.

30% of the children we support are age-disputed children

5 successful age dispute challenges in 2025 were accepted

Rahwa's story

Your support ensures we can help young people like Rahwa.

At just 13 years old, Rahwa was forced to flee her home of Eritrea because of forced military conscription. On her journey to safety, she was trafficked and abused for several years but managed to escape to the UK. However, despite being a survivor of trafficking and still a child when she arrived, both the Home Office and Local Authority wrongly assessed her to be seven years older than she was and put her in an adult hotel with complete strangers. Luckily, a partner organisation referred Rahwa to Asylum Aid.

We took the time to listen to Rahwa's story and experiences, working at her pace to gather the evidence needed for her claim to be successful. We attended her interviews with the Home Office, helping her to feel safe and put her best case forward. Challenging incorrect age assessments are complex but we fought hard for her to be recognised as a child refugee.



When I first came, I felt nervous, but my caseworker was a nice and kind lady and I felt good and comfortable. She helped me by listening and sharing my stories clearly.

Our age dispute challenge was accepted with Rahwa finally recognised as the age she is. She was taken out of the hotel and placed into supported accommodation under the care of local authorities with child-specialist support workers who helped her go back to school and access medical care. She is now safe after finally getting refugee status and in the future, Rahwa hopes to create music that connects with people and share her voice with the world.

Challenging harmful systems

We identify systemic problems from our front-line casework and transform the UK's asylum system and support survivors to fight injustice

Protecting stateless people's right to family reunion

The previous government had changed Immigration Rules making family reunion for stateless people much harder.

We challenged that in the High Court and won! The judge found that the rules were irrational and discriminatory and our challenge demonstrated the importance of simplifying this unnecessarily complex change.



Ensuring support to trafficking survivors of trafficking who are considered a 'threat to public order'

Our client was disqualified for support based on a decades old sentence for fraud - despite being a survivor of trafficking.

She was threatened with deportation and her support, including accommodation at a safe house, being withdrawn which severely damaged her mental and physical well-being. We fought to stop this threat and the SSHD agreed to withdraw their decision.

She has since received a positive conclusive grounds decision, her deportation order has been withdrawn and she is due to receive a grant of refugee status!



Supporting young survivors when the Home Office disputes age assessments conducted by the local authority (LA)

We successfully resolved a child's age dispute by backing the LA's accurate assessment and he was taken out of a hotel and put in safe, age-appropriate care.

We now challenge the pressures placed on local authorities by the Home Office and empower them to stand firm and defend their professional age assessments.



Looking ahead

Our vision is that all those who come to the UK in need of protection obtain it and are treated fairly and with dignity. Looking ahead in 2026, we are excited to:



- Fight against the hostile environment policies that leave our clients marginalised and disempowered;
- Work with our Pro Bono partners to represent refugees in their citizenship applications;
- Grow our partnerships across England and Wales with grassroot and front-line charities in advice deserts;
- Embed the valuable voices and insights of our clients deeper into our work.