

## **FBE HUMAN RIGHTS & FREEDOM COMMISSION**

### **INTERIM REPORT ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE AND THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN BAR ASSOCIATIONS.**

In response to the survey of the Human Rights & Freedom Commission about the response of the legal profession in Europe the Commission presents this interim report to the FBE General Assembly in Strasbourg 14 My 2016.

#### **Conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and displacement of people**

Throughout the first 15 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century there have been movements of refugees displaced from areas of acute conflict, in Africa, the Middle East and Aghanistan. This has been seen clearly in the dangerous crossings of the Mediterranean and the long marches of refugees across European states. Concern for the human rights of refugees in these situations has been at the centre of the FBE's human rights' policy.

#### **Response of the Legal Profession in Europe**

Refugees' rights include access to legal advice and assistance. This depends on access to lawyers who are competent and available to assist. The response of the legal profession is varied, in some countries legal aid and assistance is paid for by the state, in others efforts are pro bono and provided by volunteers. Jonathan Goldsmith<sup>8</sup> writes of his knowledge of CCBE member bars which have responded to the call to assist refugees. In Sweden, the bar runs a pro bono project, where members volunteer to assist new arrivals with free legal advice. Teams operate at the country's two major railway stations, Stockholm and Malmo, for at least two hours a day. Many who arrive are reluctant to seek asylum in Sweden and continue their journey to, say, Finland, without having had the opportunity to receive proper advice. The pro bono teams work next to a sign, and wear vests, advertising in English, Arabic and Dari that advice is on offer.

The Spanish bar has set up a register of more than 1,500 lawyers ready to advise those coming to the country on the implementation of the EU's relocation scheme. The bar is also ready to send people to immigration 'hot spots', under an EU-wide scheme that many hope will eventually be established. However, there is no information from the Spanish government as to access to refugees in order to offer free legal advice.

Legal advice is offered in other countries. The Frankfurt, Wuppertal, Nuremburg and Berlin bar associations provide free legal advice to new arrivals. The Berlin Bar has a project to assist refugee children. There are more than 3000 unaccompanied minors and over 500 lawyers have signed up to assist them with legal advice and assistance. There are approximately 80,000 refugees in Berlin. The German Federal National Bar<sup>1</sup> has established a new specialist title for Refugee Advice, so that German lawyers know where to refer people for legal assistance. The German Government estimates that there are up to 1.5 million people seeking to stay in Germany.

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<sup>1</sup> Deutschen Anwaltvereins (DAV)

The project Safe Passage is based in London and Calais. Working with French lawyers in Calais, the UK based Migrants' Law Project assists vulnerable people in the refugee camps, mostly unaccompanied minor, children and other groups, and reunite them with family in the UK. Once a "take charge request" under Dublin III is accepted by the UK Home Office project workers organise the client's journey from Calais to London, and then they receive welfare support from UK non-governmental organisation (NGO) Refugee Action and a UK lawyer to take on their asylum claims in the UK.

In Italy, the national bar ran the 'Lampedusa project' for six months in response to increased arrivals. More than 100 lawyers joined and the national bar provided training so they could advise on Italian, European and international law. On 10 December 2015 the Florence Bar Association provided training for lawyers in human rights law, and information about rights of unaccompanied minors, and have several lawyers who provide pro bono legal assistance. ASGI, an Italian association, mainly of lawyers, deals with the defence of foreigners and their rights in Italy.

The Turkish National Union of Bars has set up a project in the southern provinces of Turkey to investigate needs in order to improve legal aid for the Syrian population in the south. It is made up of local lawyers and NGO's and has a consultation mechanism with the Syrian refugees. The report of this consultation and investigation will be published shortly.

The Budapest bar runs a dedicated page on its website with a database of those lawyers willing to provide pro bono legal assistance to migrants subject to criminal or other administrative proceedings in the country. In the local Bulgarian bars near the border with Turkey, almost all lawyers are involved in the representation of migrants.

In Poland there are projects to assist. The Opole legal advisors have applied for funding from the Polish National Legal Advisors Association to assist people who attend the Centres for Foreigners. The Opole Bar have met with the Office for Foreigners to discuss their proposal. The project proposal includes training for every legal advisor in asylum law, regular attendance at the Centre for Foreigners in Opole, meetings with experts in psychology and cultural sensitivity, and English language classes. They also propose to send advisors to Greece.

The National Association of Romanian Bars has founded the National Institute for the training and improvements of lawyers in Romania, who is in charge for organizing the continuous training of the attorneys. For the Regional Centre Cluj. Due to the fact that asylum and migration legislation is not very well known, the National Institute has elaborated written material in English. The Institute will hold courses for attorneys on this subject, starting in May 2016.

The American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) runs a programme in Turkey to assist Syrian refugees. Supported by the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, ABA ROLI has trained over 50 local lawyers this year to assist Syrian refugees to exercise their rights under the Turkish legal system. They have developed an SMS-based legal helpline platform, which they would like to extend to other countries, in particular to refugees who take the western Balkans route from Turkey into the EU.

Following the proposal of the Deutschen Anwaltvereins (DAV), the CCBE has launched a refugee advice project to raise sufficient funds to provide for volunteer lawyers from European jurisdictions to assist in Greece with expert legal advice on immigration and asylum law.

The FBE has agreed to contribute 10,000 Euros to the CCBE project and recruit volunteers to go to Greece for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. In a complimentary initiative the FBE, together with the Madrid Bar Association, is planning a small investigative delegation to carry out a needs assessment in Idomeni or Lesbos in order to plan what assistance can be offered.

### **Conclusion**

We are facing one of the greatest human rights challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is the duty of the international legal community to protect human rights, access to justice and respect for the rule of law. The number of states which believe that international law can be ignored is growing. In each of our own jurisdictions we must be the guardians of the values of humanity and ensure that we are able to overcome the refugee crisis by showing that we can assist people wherever they need to assert their human rights.

For information regarding NGO's which assist refugees and migrants, please go to <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/refugee-resources> where there is information about the Rights in Exile Programme. Scroll down to find the Pro Bono Directory by country.

**Author: Professor Sara Chandler QC (Hon) Vice President Federation of European Bar Associations and member of the Human Rights & Freedom Commission.**

For information regarding NGO's which assist refugees and migrants, please go to <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/refugee-resources> where there is information about the Rights in Exile Programme. Scroll down to find the Pro Bono Directory by country. Here are some examples of NGO's where lawyers can volunteer pro bono assistance for refugees.

#### AUSTRIA:

[www.asyl-in-not.org/#sthash.sgjDOUC0.dpuf](http://www.asyl-in-not.org/#sthash.sgjDOUC0.dpuf) has a telephone helpline which provides information and assistance in 8 languages.

There are 9 NGO's which provide assistance, some known to the Austrian National Bar Association.

#### BELGIUM:

##### Belgian Refugee Council (CBAR-BCHV)

<http://www.cbar-bchv.be/> Email: [info@cbar-bchv.be](mailto:info@cbar-bchv.be)

The Belgian Refugee Council is a non-profit association that provides advice and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, and also to their lawyers and NGO's acting in the field. Its main working areas are legal aid to asylum application, family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection, and aid to asylum seekers in detention.

##### CIRE- Coordination et Initiatives pour Réfugiés et Etrangers (Coordination of Initiatives for Refugees and Foreigners)

[www.cire.be](http://www.cire.be) Email: [cire@cire.be](mailto:cire@cire.be)

CIRE coordinates a network of NGOs providing services to refugees and asylum seekers including over 600 beds, assistance in finding and affording more permanent accommodation, visits to detention centres, French language classes and assistance

integrating into Belgian culture, interpretation and aid in voluntary repatriation. Also works on advocacy for refugee and migrant policy.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/belgium-pro-bono-directory#sthash.7jrVv3Z0.dpuf>

#### CZECH REPUBLIC:

### Association for Migration and Integration

<http://www.migrace.com/> Email: [poradna@refug.cz](mailto:poradna@refug.cz)

The Association for Integration and Migration is a non-profit organisation helping foreigners in the Czech Republic, with special focus on asylum seekers and refugees. It has a well established tradition of providing legal and social counseling to foreigners, such as asylum seekers, refugees, labour migrants, undocumented migrants and their families. As integral part of its activities it is working with the broader public on cultivating tolerance and combating xenophobia and racism.

#### FRANCE:

### Association Pierre Claver

[www.pierreclaver.org/](http://www.pierreclaver.org/)

Pierre Claver Association is made up of lawyers and volunteer lawyers willing to help those displaced by force from their home country and taking refuge in France, especially asylum seekers within the meaning of French law and international levels.

Pierre Claver offers a service for free legal assistance for all steps, from entering French territory to the possible review of their cases by the National Court of the Right of Asylum. Pierre Claver works closely with government agencies and private bodies, and provides services regardless of origin or religion. Among the cases presented to it, the association is focusing its efforts on those that meet the criteria set by the French and international conventions.

### Association Revivre

<http://association-revivre.fr/> Email: [refugiesrevivre@gmail.com](mailto:refugiesrevivre@gmail.com) (tell your name and phone number and they will call you back)

Online service dedicated solely to Syrian refugees in France to welcome them, inform them, orient them and accompany them at all steps, speaking Arabic, French and English.

### Cimade

<http://www.lacimade.org>

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/france-pro-bono-directory#sthash.Fe2s7WxO.dpuf>

GERMANY:

agisra e.V.

Email: [info@gisra.org](mailto:info@gisra.org)

Agrisra offers support for female refugees and migrants and their children. They provide a free and confidential advisory service for refugee and migrant women which includes legal and social service advice; run training courses to educate and inform these women about their rights; provide psychosocial counseling and therapy; and can provide details of partner organisations able to assist in other ways. You can [download a flyer in many different](#)

[languages](#) which details the areas of assistance Agisra works in.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/germany-pro-bono-directory#sthash.60yBT8pt.dpuf>

Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband (AWO)

[www.awo.de](http://www.awo.de) Email: [info@awo.org](mailto:info@awo.org)

AWO have offices throughout Germany, and offer legal aid services to those pursuing claims for asylum as well as lobbying the government and wider society on the issue of migrant's rights.

Arbeitskreis Asyl Rheinland-Pfalz (Working Group on Asylum Rhineland-Palatinate)

[www.asyl-rlp.org](http://www.asyl-rlp.org) Email: [info@asyl-rlp.org](mailto:info@asyl-rlp.org)

We are one of the 16 refugee councils in Germany and offer legal aid in the area immigration for the Rheinland-Pfalz county. We can provide advice and support for asylum applications. Volunteers in Rhineland-Palatinate can call and write to the Immigration Office on behalf of the applicant.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/germany-pro-bono-directory#sthash.60yBT8pt.dpuf>

HUNGARY

The Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

[www.cordelia.hu](http://www.cordelia.hu)

Email: [cordelia@cordelia.hu](mailto:cordelia@cordelia.hu)

The Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims offers complex psycho-social rehabilitation to severely traumatized asylum-seekers and refugees and their families. The professional staff usually treat refugee clients at the Hungarian reception centres. Specific services include: psychiatric, psychological and non-verbal therapies and social assistance; assisting torture survivor clients in the legal process with medical reports documenting the evidence of torture; offering trainings and supervision for professionals working with refugees, and organising awareness raising programme on the international day of torture victims.

## Demokratikus Jogok Fejlesztéseért Alapítvány (Foundation for the Development of Democratic Rights)

[www.demnet.org.hu](http://www.demnet.org.hu)

Email: [info@demnet.org.hu](mailto:info@demnet.org.hu)

Projects supporting the Roma community as well as migrants and refugees.

## Magyar Helsinki Bizottság (Hungarian Helsinki Committee)

[helsinki.hu](http://helsinki.hu); <http://helsinki.hu/en/>

Email: [helsinki@helsinki.hu](mailto:helsinki@helsinki.hu)

The HHC ensures access to effective, free-of-charge legal counselling and representation at all places (reception centres, community shelters, alien policing jails) where persons in need of international protection are accommodated or detained in Hungary.

. To assist with casework, the HHC provides legal advice and country information (COI) to its network of lawyers. The HHC also organises trainings on domestic, European and international refugee law as well as immigration law and practice for its own staff and lawyers and other asylum professionals working in government agencies and courts.  
- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/hungary-pro-bono-directory#sthash.UiCh4kop.dpuf>

### IRELAND:

[www.legalaidboard.ie/lab/publishing.nsf/Content/Refugee\\_Legal\\_Service](http://www.legalaidboard.ie/lab/publishing.nsf/Content/Refugee_Legal_Service)

The RLS provides a service to asylum seekers at all stages of the asylum process. There is legal aid for assistance to make asylum applications

## The Integration Centre

[www.integrationcentre.ie](http://www.integrationcentre.ie)

Email: [info@integrationcentre.ie](mailto:info@integrationcentre.ie)

The Integration Centre - Connecting Communities Advancing Integration - is committed to the integration and inclusion of people from immigrant backgrounds in Ireland. The Centre specializes in planning, monitoring and advocacy at city, local, national and international levels and provides regionalized information, advice and training services. Evidence-based research influences positive change in legislation, policy and practice. We have more than 250 affiliated organisations as part of our network.

ITALY:

## Programma Integra (Migration, Asylum and Social Integration Centre)

<http://www.programmaintegra.it/> Email: [socio-legale@programmaintegra.it](mailto:socio-legale@programmaintegra.it)

*Programma Integra* is an integrated social cooperative founded in 2005. Its main function is facilitating and supporting the social integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into local communities in Italy. It provides a range of services such as social and legal counselling, job orientation, encouraging employers to hire migrants and refugees, vocational training courses and Italian language courses, intercultural mediation initiatives, and social mediation services in the field of housing. Such interventions are carried out by a team of professional social workers. They identify an individually tailored set of services to help each beneficiary achieve his/her social and economic autonomy. *Programma Integra* also offers training courses for social workers, provides information services through a web platform, organises seminars and workshops, and carries out research for best practices. Finally, they promote the involvement of the community in the challenge of ensuring integration and provide support to institutions and local authorities encouraging the social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

## Asilo in Europa (Asylum in Europe)

[www.asiloineuropa.blogspot.co.uk/](http://www.asiloineuropa.blogspot.co.uk/)

Asilo in Europa is an Italian NGO based in Bologna (Italy) and focuses on asylum protection in the EU. Their main aims are to promote the development of a common understanding of the European dimension of asylum law, as well as to improve the exchange of information among NGOs that work in different countries. Their blog [Asilo in Europa](http://www.asiloineuropa.blogspot.co.uk/) provides news,



analysis and commentaries on EU asylum law, jurisprudence and policy; and a description of the main points of the asylum systems of each EU Member State.

## Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI)

[www.asgi.it](http://www.asgi.it) Email: [segreteria@asgi.it](mailto:segreteria@asgi.it)

The Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI) is a membership-based association focusing on all juridical aspects of immigration. As a pool of lawyers, academics, consultants and civil society representatives, ASGI's expertise relates to various areas of immigration and migrants' rights, including but not limited to anti-discrimination and migrants rights, xenophobia, children's and unaccompanied minor's rights, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless, and citizenship.

## Avvocati per niente (APN) (Lawyers for Free)

[www.avvocatiperniente.it](http://www.avvocatiperniente.it) Email: [info@avvocatiperniente.it](mailto:info@avvocatiperniente.it)

APN is an association of volunteer lawyers that deal with immigration and asylum cases.

## Borderline Sicilia

[www.siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/](http://www.siciliamigranti.blogspot.it/) Email: [borderline-sicilia@libero.it](mailto:borderline-sicilia@libero.it)

Borderline Sicilia monitors migration in Sicily: the arrival of migrants, their arrival in centers, and their administrative detention, with a particular focus on vulnerable categories (women, minors, asylum seekers). It publishes on their blog material about their activities, sends monthly newsletters, provides legal, social and medical assistance. It also focuses on lobbying and advocacy activities. It promotes important cases in different tribunals and works with other organisations, like the Observatory against discrimination "Nouredine Adnan".

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/italy-pro-bono-directory#sthash.UIUhNDZq.dpuf>

## Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) (Italian Refugee Council)

[www.cir-onlus.org/](http://www.cir-onlus.org/) Email: [cir@cir-onlus.org](mailto:cir@cir-onlus.org)

The CIR have offices all over Italy, in Malpensa, Gorizia, Venezia, Verona, Ancona, Caserta, Napoli, Lecce, Brindisi, Badolato, Palermo and Catania, details of which are available on their

**website.** The goal of CIR is to defend the rights of refugees and asylum seekers through assistance at the border to ensure access to refugee protection; social and legal assistance for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection; Reception and care for victims of torture; assistance to refugee women; legal assistance and social guidance for unaccompanied minors; and assistance to refugee communities. CIR are a member of Euromediterranean Human Rights Network. The Italian Refugee Council is a member of the Euromed Human Rights Network's Migration and Asylum Working group.  
- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/italy-pro-bono-directory#sthash.UlUhNDZq.dpuf>

#### LUXEMBOURG:

### Association de Soutien aux Travailleurs Immigrés (Support Association for Immigrant Workers) (ASTI)

[www.asti.lu](http://www.asti.lu) Email: [zerktouni@asti.lu](mailto:zerktouni@asti.lu)

Support services for refugees including providing information and translation.

### Caritas Luxembourg

[www.caritas.lu](http://www.caritas.lu) Email: [caritas@caritas.lu](mailto:caritas@caritas.lu)

Website provides contact details for different departments offering services to refugees: housing, legal assistance, advice, integration support.

Provides support for asylum seekers including housing (Foyer Sainte Antoine: capacity 88 people), legal advice, integration support and translation.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/luxembourg-pro-bono-directory#sthash.oSz4GO8w.dpuf>

#### MALTA:

### The People For Change Foundation

[www.pfcmalta.org/](http://www.pfcmalta.org/) Email : [info@pfcmalta.org](mailto:info@pfcmalta.org)

The People for Change Foundation (PFC) is a Malta-based human rights think tank with a Maltese, European and global scope. PFC provides evidence-based, independent, practical and creative ideas on the protection, respect and promotion of human rights in Malta and across the European Union. PFC can provide advice to asylum seekers and their lawyers, particularly those facing return to Malta under the Dublin II system. They are also in a

position to refer asylum seekers to other entities that may be better able to assist in particular cases; and provide an online reporting system for racist incidents in Malta: [www.reportracism-malta.org](http://www.reportracism-malta.org).

## Aditus Foundation

[www.aditus.org.mt](http://www.aditus.org.mt) Email: [info@aditus.org.mt](mailto:info@aditus.org.mt)

Aditus was founded in 2011 by a group of young lawyers who made it their mission to monitor, report and act on human rights access in Malta. Our main activities include offering pro bono legal information and advice to refugees, both through community advocacy projects and aid to individual clients. For the latter, we make regular visits to detention facilities and welcome refugee clients at our offices. We focus primarily on the laws and government of Malta but also address the EU institutions, the UN, the Council of Europe and other relevant agencies. We remain in constant communication and cooperation with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities to maintain a comprehensive approach and to ensure that refugees know they can solicit our help.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/malta-pro-bono-directory#sthash.aep5TSBn.dpuf>

## MOROCCO:

### Droit et Justice

[www.droitjustice.org](http://www.droitjustice.org) Email: [maud@droitjustice.org](mailto:maud@droitjustice.org) or [sofia@droitjustice.org](mailto:sofia@droitjustice.org); [jonah@droitjustice.org](mailto:jonah@droitjustice.org); [aminata@droitjustice.org](mailto:aminata@droitjustice.org).

With the support of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), the British Embassy in Morocco and the Arab Human Rights Fund (AHRF), the Association Droit et Justice launched in August 2013 a program of legal aid for asylum seekers in Morocco. Migrants in Morocco mainly come from sub-Saharan Africa. Some of them have had to flee their country after being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or because they are members of a particular social group. They are therefore eligible for asylum but do not have access to information on procedures for granting refugee status in Morocco. Those who apply for asylum are not assisted by a lawyer. The goal of this project is to train a team of lawyers and jurists willing to invest voluntarily in legal aid for asylum seekers by being assigned one case per year under the supervision of Droit et Justice. In this way, lawyers will use the acquired theoretical skills to assist migrants in their application for asylum in Morocco. Of course, our association provides permanent legal support, as well as ongoing training, to the volunteer lawyers and

jurists. The issue has gained so much importance recently that the Moroccan authorities have decided to establish a national refugee status determination system. Until recently, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been the decision-making body in this area.

## Association Beni Znassen pour la Culture, le Développement et la Solidarité (ABCDS)

[www.abcds-maroc.org/](http://www.abcds-maroc.org/)

E-Mail: [abcds.asso@gmail.com](mailto:abcds.asso@gmail.com) or

[hicham.baraka@gmail.com](mailto:hicham.baraka@gmail.com)

Le programme « Migrations et Droits Humains » de l'ABCDS Maroc a pour mission : Fournir un soutien humanitaire d'urgence pour les migrants en situation de vulnérabilité, aux personnes entrantes sur le territoire marocain et aux personnes reconduites à la frontière; Offrir aux migrants un accès à l'information socio-juridique ; Accompagner et orienter juridiquement les migrants, réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile et faire valoir leurs droits ; Récolter les données et recueil des témoignages sur les violations des droits des migrants aux frontières maroco-algériennes ; Promouvoir les actions de sensibilisation et de plaidoyer au Maroc et en Europe sur les conséquences des politiques migratoires sur les droits des migrants.

Beni Znassen Association for Culture, Development and Solidarity (ABCDS) is an association governed by the Moroccan law, established in June 12th, 2005 by a group of young activists. Among other programs, ABCDS leads a program of humanitarian and legal support to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in distress in the zone of Oujda and its neighborhood. ABCDS is engaged alongside other associations, in the denunciation of the pitiful living conditions of the migrants in transit in Morocco and the important infringements of their rights and physical integrity from which they are victims as well in Morocco as during their crossing attempts towards Europe.

## Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM)

[www.adfm.ma/](http://www.adfm.ma/)

Email: [contact@adfm.ma](mailto:contact@adfm.ma)

The democratic association of women in Morocco –ADFM– is an autonomous, feminist, and non profit NGO. Its principal objective is the promotion of women's rights and strategic interests. ADFM is a member of the Euromed Human Rights Network's Migration and Asylum Working group.

## Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (AMAPPE)

<http://www.amappe.org.ma> Email: [amappe@mtds.com](mailto:amappe@mtds.com)

Runs a socio-economic integration project in partnership with the High Commissioner for Refugees United Nations in Morocco. This creates micro income generating activities.

## L'Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH)

[www.amdh.org.ma/](http://www.amdh.org.ma/) E-mail: [amd1@mtds.com](mailto:amd1@mtds.com)

AMDH is an independent NGO which promotes the respect for all human rights. AMDH intervenes to officials and to the concerned responsible in order to protect and ensure the respect of human rights and to support and bring justice to victims of violations. The AMDH is a member of the Euromed Human Rights Network's Migration and Asylum Working group.

## Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

[www.euromedrights.org](http://www.euromedrights.org)

Email: [information@euromedrights.net](mailto:information@euromedrights.net)

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/morocco-pro-bono-directory#sthash.PHpoMc1a.dpuf>

NETHERLANDS:

## Vereiniging Asieladvocaten en Juristen Nederlands (Association of Asylum Lawyers) (VAJN)

[www.vajn.org/](http://www.vajn.org/) Email: [vajn@vajn.org](mailto:vajn@vajn.org)

VAJN is an association of asylum lawyers who provide legal aid. You can find associates of VAJN in several dutch cities.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/netherlands-pro-bono-directory#sthash.Zw5JIL7p.dpuf>

## VluchtelingenWerk Nederland (Dutch Council for Refugees)

[www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl) Email: [info@vluchtelingenwerk.nl](mailto:info@vluchtelingenwerk.nl)

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/netherlands-pro-bono-directory#sthash.Zw5JIL7p.dpuf>

VluchtelingenWerk Nederland (Dutch Refugee Council) is an independent, non-governmental organisation, founded in 1979. They offer refugees practical support during their asylum procedure and can help them rebuild their lives in the Netherlands. With one National Office, 14 regional offices, and 310 local branches, they are active in 90% of all local council districts. The National Office supports the regional and local branches with advice, education, and information. They provide personal and legal support, and can access lawyers for asylum claims. They also provide information about countries of origin to lawyers, as well as sources to substantiate asylum claims, research case law history and (European) legislation. - See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/netherlands-pro-bono-directory#sthash.Zw5JIL7p.dpuf>

POLAND:

## The Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre

[www.pomocprawna.org](http://www.pomocprawna.org) Email:

[przybyslawska@pomocprawna.org](mailto:przybyslawska@pomocprawna.org), [pajura@pomocprawna.org](mailto:pajura@pomocprawna.org)

HNLAC is a non-profit non-governmental organisation established in 2002 in Kraków. HNLAC's main objective is to protect human rights by providing free legal aid to persons at risk of social exclusion and discrimination, including the poor, victims of domestic violence, foreigners, asylum seekers and refugees. The HNLAC also monitors the adherence to standards of human rights, undertakes legal interventions and advocacy activities, and pursues research and educational projects. The Center also undertakes activities aimed at preventing and tackling human and child trafficking by organising social campaigns and offering legal aid to the victims. Since 2003 the HNLAC has become an implementing partner of UNHCR in Poland and is involved in regular provision of free legal aid in refugee centers, detention centers, monitoring of access to refugee procedure and the non-refoulement principle.

HNLAC lawyers provide free legal aid to people at risk of social exclusion and discrimination, including the poor, victims of domestic violence, foreigners and refugees. Since the establishment of the Center, a total of over 10,000 people have benefited from free legal aid in the form of individual consultation. The Center seeks to meet the huge public demand for reliable and free information and legal aid. People who benefit from the advice of the Center are those who cannot afford to get help from commercial law firms and, due to their situation, require a special kind of support. HNLAC acts on the belief that a fundamental condition of human rights is that those people who need it most should have easy access to

information about their rights and obligations and the ability to take advantage of free legal aid.

## Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka (Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights)

[www.programy.hfhr.pl](http://www.programy.hfhr.pl)

Email: [uchodzczy@hfhr.org.pl](mailto:uchodzczy@hfhr.org.pl)

Provides free legal assistance to refugees and aliens in Poland. The assistance includes legal advice on application for refugee status, legalisation of stay, administrative, family, labour and penal law, family reunification as well as representation of cases that risk human rights violation.

The activities of Helsinki Foundation also comprise monitoring the deportation areas and reception centres, publication of a series of brochures and leaflets informing about the Polish law and procedures pertaining to foreigners and refugees, and participation in a legislative process.

## Polskie Forum Migracyjne (Polish Migration Forum)

[www.forummigracyjne.org](http://www.forummigracyjne.org)

Email: [info@forummigracyjne.org](mailto:info@forummigracyjne.org)

The Polish Migration Forum runs an online information service for migrants, equips Polish libraries with migration-related reading, and runs various projects and activities to support the education of migrants and refugees (training teachers, conducting information meetings for Polish parents, and running multicultural projects in schools for Polish and refugee children, amongst others).

The **PFM Helpline** welcomes legal queries online via its website. **The Helpline** offers an opportunity to ask question on asylum and migration and to receive an answer via the website.

## Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (SIP) (Association for Legal Intervention)

[www.interwencjaprawna.pl](http://www.interwencjaprawna.pl) Email: [biuro@interwencjaprawna.pl](mailto:biuro@interwencjaprawna.pl)

The Association for Legal Intervention was established in 2005. Our mission is helping and giving legal advice to people, whose rights and freedom are threatened. We provide free legal and integration counseling to foreigners, including forced migrants – asylum seekers and recognized refugees, and we represent them during the administrative procedures. On the basis of our research and monitoring, we create recommendations for authorities

regarding necessity of introducing legislative changes concerning foreigners' protection and integration actions directed to them. We also organize trainings for people, who in their works deal with foreigners – police officers, office workers, social workers and we publish articles and books concerning cultural and legal aspects of foreigners' functioning in Poland. In March 2009 we have opened The Information Center for Foreigners, which helps immigrants legally living in our country.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/poland-pro-bono-directory#sthash.zXti6mXZ.dpuf>

PORTUGAL:

## Conselho Português para os Refugiados

[www.cpr.pt](http://www.cpr.pt) Email: [geral@cpr.pt](mailto:geral@cpr.pt)

Conselho Português para os Refugiados provide legal advice, help with finding housing and accessing social allowances. They also undertake training and professional integration services (especially with Portuguese language courses).

ROMANIA:

## Consiliul National Roman Pentru Refugiati / Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)

[www.cnrr.ro/](http://www.cnrr.ro/) Email: [office@cnrr.ro](mailto:office@cnrr.ro)

The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) is a non-governmental organisation, founded in 1998 in Bucharest, Romania. CNRR is the main partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in regard to the implementation of the assistance programs offered to asylum seekers and refugees. CNRR has been a Member of ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles) since 1999. CNRR is ELENA (European Legal Network on Asylum) coordinator in Romania.

CNRR provides social assistance services and legal counseling through its specialized departments to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. CNRR's research and documentation centre ROCCORD specializes in providing COI (Country of Origin Information) for all parties involved in the asylum procedure. All these services are offered free of charge. At the same time, CNRR promotes the interests of refugees and asylum applicants by collaborating with governmental and non-governmental institutions, and by initiating advocacy, awareness raising and fund raising campaigns. CNRR also has a long and fruitful



experience in working with volunteers regularly organizing social and judicial clinics as well as summer schools for students on migration and asylum issues.

**Specialized legal counselling for asylum seekers in Romania.** CNRR provides legal counselling for asylum seekers throughout the entire asylum procedure, training for lawyers and interpreters involved in the asylum procedure.

## Forumul Român pentru Refugiați și Migranți / Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA)

<http://arca4refugee.wordpress.com> Email: [office@arca.org.ro](mailto:office@arca.org.ro)

ARCA aims at defending and promoting the universal human rights, especially the rights of refugees, of persons granted subsidiary protection and other migrants. ARCA also aims at developing a network of organisations and institutions working to answer adequately to refugees' needs. ARCA works on the monitoring integration of refugees and advocates for improving legislation and practice in the migration field. ARCA also provides social services, legal assistance and assistance on citizenship procedure.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/romania-pro-bono-directory#sthash.GxV1v9Rl.dpuf>

### SPAIN:

## Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR)

[www.pear.es](http://www.pear.es) Contact person: Nuria Díaz  
Email: [nuria.diaz@pear.es](mailto:nuria.diaz@pear.es) - See more at: <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/spain-pro-bono-directory#sthash.xVC4i6az.dpuf>

The Spanish Commission for Refugees (CEAR) is a non-profit organization founded in 1979. Its character is volunteer, humanitarian, independent and plural. CEAR was founded based on strong ethical values, such as justice, solidarity, freedom, equality, plurality, transparency and coherence. The defense of these values is our essential motivation to carry out our tasks.

Our mission is to defend and promote Human Rights and the complete development of refugees, stateless persons and migrants who are in need of international protection and/or exposed to social exclusion.

CEAR articulates its work through two essential strategic guidelines:

- Social Intervention Model (Legal Department, Sheltering Department, Social Department, Training and Employment Department).
- Advocacy/Social Impact and Participation Model (Impact, awareness and management of knowledge; Social networks and movements; International strategy; Intercultural coexistence; Volunteer work and social participation)

These strategies are complementary and mutually dependent. They have been designed to defend the right to access asylum and Human Rights; to help eradicating the causes behind coerced movement; to defend inclusive migration policies that respect Human Rights; to promote universal citizenship for all individuals, access to all their rights and the opportunity to enjoy them completely; to encourage critical-thinking and committed citizenship towards the building of a more equal planet where intercultural coexistence is possible.

## Centro Hispano-Africano/FUNDESO

Manuel Marañón, 13, 28043 Madrid      Tel: +34 91 759 01 62

A cultural and educational reference for both the African population along with other nationalities in Madrid. This center offers a variety of services and activities, from judicial advice to language courses, job search, and other integration oriented activities.

## COMRADE - Comité de Defensa de los Refugiados, Asilados, e Inmigrantes en el Estado Español

[www.comrade.es](http://www.comrade.es) Email: [admon@comrade.es](mailto:admon@comrade.es)

Provides support and legal guidance to all those who come to the headquarters of our organisation, or doing telephone inquiries from other parts of the State. Legal advice is focused on the following areas: information on obtaining work permits and residence permits, family reunification, getting the Spanish nationality, administrative appeals against refusals, withdrawal of removal orders, asylum applications .

COMRADE also offers social assistance and advice on accessing education, housing, healthcare etc as well as psychological counselling.

## ONG Rescate Internacional

[www.ongrescate.org/](http://www.ongrescate.org/) Email: [rescate@ongrescate.org](mailto:rescate@ongrescate.org)

Provides legal advice and practical help to asylum seekers.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/spain-pro-bono-directory#sthash.xVC4i6az.dpuf>

SWITZERLAND:

## Swiss Refugee Council

[www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/](http://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/) Email: [info@fluechtlingshilfe.ch](mailto:info@fluechtlingshilfe.ch)

The Swiss Refugee Council OSAR is a non-governmental, politically and religiously independent organization. It is the umbrella organization of Swiss NGOs supporting asylum seekers and refugees. OSAR also organizes training courses for lawyers and for the professional staff of legal advice centers.

See website for contact information regarding legal queries. OSAR will answer queries directly or direct you to the relevant NGOs or authorities but OSAR does not handle individual cases of asylum seekers.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/switzerland-pro-bono-directory#sthash.5z5RrhdZ.dpuf>

UNITED KINGDOM:

## The AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe)

[www.airecentre.org](http://www.airecentre.org) Email: [info@airecentre.org](mailto:info@airecentre.org)

The AIRE Centre's objective is to promote awareness of European law rights and assist marginalised individuals and those in vulnerable circumstances to assert those rights. The Centre provides specialist written advice to lawyers or other agencies in the voluntary sector and, in a few specific cases, may advise individuals directly. Members of the team meet with national and European bodies, policy makers and decision takers; litigate before the European Court of Human Rights and intervene in cases before the domestic courts. The AIRE Centre also carries out training and drafts reports and other publications.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/probono/united-kingdom-pro-bono-directory#sthash.VE1gZOci.dpuf>

## Asylum Aid

[www.asylumaid.org.uk/](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/) Email: [info@asylumaid.org.uk](mailto:info@asylumaid.org.uk)

Asylum Aid is an independent, national charity who work to secure protection for people seeking refuge in the United Kingdom from persecution and human rights abuses abroad. They provide free, accessible, high-quality legal services to asylum-seekers with a particular

focus on the most vulnerable and excluded. They lobby government and campaign for an asylum system based on inviolable human rights principles, and work with refugee and other community-based organisations, helping to enhance their legal services and learn from their experiences.

## Asylum Welcome

[www.asylum-welcome.org/](http://www.asylum-welcome.org/) Email: [office@asylum-welcome.org](mailto:office@asylum-welcome.org)

Asylum Welcome provides free, confidential information, help and guidance for refugees, asylum seekers and immigration detainees in Oxford and Oxfordshire. This includes information on social, education, legal and health services provided by the various government bodies and other agencies, detention visiting schemes, English classes, advocacy programmes and support of those who are destitute.

## ATLeP - Anti Trafficking Legal Project

[www.atlep.org.uk](http://www.atlep.org.uk) Email: [info@atlep.org.uk](mailto:info@atlep.org.uk)

ATLeP is a network of solicitors, barristers and specialist practitioners who advise, represent and support victims of trafficking and other vulnerable people in the UK. Set up to share expertise, exchange resources and help develop good practice within the legal and welfare sectors in assisting vulnerable clients, ATLeP provides comprehensive legal training on gender and trafficking issues and maintains a website of materials to support casework and practice.

## Bail for Immigration Detainees

<http://www.biduk.org/> Email for general enquiries: [enquiries@biduk.org](mailto:enquiries@biduk.org)  
Email for bail casework: [casework@biduk.org](mailto:casework@biduk.org)

Bail for Immigration Detainees' vision is of a world in which there is no immigration detention. While it exists it believes it should be judicially sanctioned and time-limited. The organisation provides legal advice and representation to people held in prisons and detention centres under immigration powers to enable them to secure their release from detention and gathers evidence from its research and casework to influence detention policy and practice.

## British Afghan Women's Society

[www.britishafghanwomen.org/](http://www.britishafghanwomen.org/) Email: [baws\\_uk@yahoo.com](mailto:baws_uk@yahoo.com) or [info@britishafghanwomen.org](mailto:info@britishafghanwomen.org)

British Afghan Women's Society have two OISC registered advisors available to operate advice surgeries in various immigration and nationality issues. They also offer social support and training courses for employment in areas such as catering and child care.

## Coram Children's Legal Centre

[www.childrenslegalcentre.com/](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/) Email: [info@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:info@coramclc.org.uk)

## MIGRANT CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Email: [mcp@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:mcp@coramclc.org.uk)

The Migrant Children's Project offers free initial legal advice on all issues affecting migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children, young people and families including: immigration, asylum and nationality law, support and accommodation, age assessment, education, work and training, and health care.

## Electronic Immigration Network

[www.ein.org.uk/](http://www.ein.org.uk/) Email: [info@ein.org.uk](mailto:info@ein.org.uk)

EIN is a specialist provider of information on UK immigration and refugee law via the internet. EIN also contains information on immigration/asylum issues and caselaw from the EU and selected documents from other English-speaking jurisdictions.

The Public Site contains general resources and links for asylum seekers and immigrants, students, journalists and others with an interest in immigration and asylum.

## Embrace UK Community Support Centre

[www.embraceuk.org](http://www.embraceuk.org) Email: [post@embraceuk.org](mailto:post@embraceuk.org)

Embrace UK Community Support Centre provides advice and information on housing, immigration and welfare rights, advocacy services for women, minors and unaccompanied young people, and information, advice and counselling on any health related issues. They also provide business support and organise cultural activities including Amharic and English lessons.

## Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

[www.gdwg.org.uk/index.php](http://www.gdwg.org.uk/index.php) Email: [info@gdwg.org.uk](mailto:info@gdwg.org.uk)

The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group was set up in 1995 when the UK Immigration Service began to detain people at a small holding centre near Gatwick Airport. The following year, Tinsley House Detention Centre was built. GDWG's volunteers visit and befriend asylum seekers and immigration detainees at Tinsley House and Brook House. The group believes that each detainee has a right to be treated with respect and compassion, whatever the outcome of their case, and work to improve conditions, inform policy and challenge negative images of asylum seekers.

They network with other organisations who help detainees, such as the Association for Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) and Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID), and are participating members of the Asylum Rights Campaign.

## Hackney Community Law Centre (HCLC)

<http://www.hclc.org.uk> Email: [admin@hclc.org.uk](mailto:admin@hclc.org.uk)

HCLC is a charity employing solicitors and paralegals to provide free and independent legal advice and representation to people living, working or studying in the London Borough of

Hackney and neighbouring boroughs. They offer advice and assistance with 1) Asylum claims, 2) Asylum support (NASS), 3) Asylum and human rights appeals, 4) Applications for further permission to remain in the UK, 5) Domestic violence, 6) Victims of trafficking, and 7) Judicial Review.

## The Hackney Migrant Centre

[www.hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk/](http://www.hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk/) Email: infohackneymigrantcentre.org.uk

The Hackney Migrant Centre, which opened in April 2008, provides advice services through partnership arrangements with visiting professionals from different agencies. Their immigration advisors come from Refugee and Migrant Justice. Their welfare/housing advice comes from the Undocumented Migrants Advice Project run by Praxis. The Hackney Migrant Centre also has a lawyer from the College of Law who offers her services on a pro-bono basis. Additionally, the Hackney Migrant Centre offers weekly drop-in for advice and social activities, medical advice and help in accessing NHS health services, as well as a nutritious meal and English classes.

## The Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)

[www.iasservices.org.uk/](http://www.iasservices.org.uk/) Email: ias@corkgully.com or info@iasservices.org.uk

The Immigration Advice Service. They are a team of specialist immigration lawyers with over 30 years combined experience of providing advice on immigration, asylum and citizenship cases at all levels.

## Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

[www.jcwi.org.uk/](http://www.jcwi.org.uk/) Email: info@jcwi.org.uk

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) is an independent national voluntary organisation campaigning for justice and combating racism in immigration and asylum law and policy. The JCWI provides free legal advice and casework, training courses for legal practitioners and a range of publications.

## Justice First

[www.justicefirst.org.uk](http://www.justicefirst.org.uk/) Email: justice.first.limited@unicombox.co.uk

Justice First Limited was established in 2006 to work with people in the Tees Valley who are seeking asylum. Our core activity is to assist people whose appeals have been rejected to re-engage with the legal system and to avoid destitution. When an appeal is turned down financial support is withdrawn and the asylum seeker is faced with the bleak alternatives of accepting deportation or 'going underground.' Justice First seeks to help people remain within the legal framework of our country and to advise on the further options available.

## Lambeth Law Centre

[www.lambethlawcentre.org](http://www.lambethlawcentre.org) Email: admin@lambethlawcentre.org

Lambeth Law Centre enables local people in Lambeth and the surrounding areas to understand their legal rights and enforce them. Through our work we aim to achieve social change for a fairer and more equal society. They provide advice and assistance with 1) Applying for asylum, 2) Asylum and Article 3 appeals, and 4) Fresh asylum claims. They can also take on certain cases involving domestic violence and for victims of trafficking, whilst providing some, more limited, advice on immigration and nationality.

## Manuel Bravo Project

[www.manuelbravo.org.uk/](http://www.manuelbravo.org.uk/) Email: office@manuelbravo.org.uk

The Manuel Bravo Project was set up to provide free legal advice to asylum seekers looking to appeal against a negative first decision or submit a fresh claim for asylum and who cannot obtain legal aid.

Within the Manuel Bravo Project paid and voluntary Immigration Caseworkers work directly with their clients by preparing their bundles and representing them in court wherever possible.

Qualified non-immigration Legal Teams from other firms working pro bono for Manuel Bravo prepare their clients for their Full Hearing with the help of Case Coordinators, Researchers, Hosts, Translators and Court Support volunteers to assist in the process.

## Migrant Legal Action (formerly the Afro-Asian Advisory Service)

<http://www.aaas.org.uk/index.htm> Email: info@aaas.org.uk

Migrant Legal Action was formerly known as the Afro-Asian Advisory Service as it was established in 1978 to help East-African Asians who arrived to the United Kingdom as evacuees. Since then they have expanded and they help people of all nationalities.

They provide services such as: free, independent advice and representation on matters relating to nationality law and immigration directly to members of the public and a support and a referral service to other suitable agencies should an individual require more specialist advice. They have also given advice on matters relating nationality law and immigration for local Members of Parliament for the benefit of their constituents.

## The Migrants' Law Project

[www.themigrantslawproject.org/](http://www.themigrantslawproject.org/)

Islington Law Centre, 161 Hornsey Road, London, N7 6DU

Email: sonalg@islingtonlaw.org.uk or katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk

The Migrants' Law Project is a legal and public legal education project, hosted by Islington Law Centre, which aims to improve the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers through the use of public law. The MLP provides legal advice and support to organisations working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and aims to enable those organisations, through advice and training, to negotiate more effectively with the government and other relevant public bodies.

## Poppy Legal

<http://www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/about-eaves/our-projects/poppy-legal>

Email: frances.trevena@eavesforwomen.org.uk

Poppy Legal is a new initiative from Eaves under the umbrella of the Poppy Project. They are a team of women with extensive experience in providing legal advice to potential and recognised victims of trafficking. Poppy Legal works to increase legal understanding of trafficking through a variety of work: 1) Community drop ins offering free, confidential legal advice to women. 2) Telephone advice line to those unable to reach our drop ins. 3) Work to support other legal professionals through training, advocacy and strategic litigation. Poppy Legal also acts as a referral hub, referring victims of trafficking to legal professionals skilled in representing on issues including immigration, compensation, welfare, housing, and unlawful detention

Telephone drop in service, 020 7735 2062 on Tuesdays 10am-12pm and Fridays 1pm-3pm. Immigration and housing advice drop in at Eaves' head office on Thursdays 2pm-5pm.

## Refugee Action

[www.refugee-action.org.uk](http://www.refugee-action.org.uk) Email: info@refugee-action.org.uk

Refugee Action provide support to asylum seekers and refugees at all stages of their application process and after. They provide a One Stop Service giving advice on access to asylum support, the asylum application process, welfare benefits, employment and housing. They also advise clients facing problems such as racial harassment, domestic violence and destitution..

## Refugee and Asylum Seeker Advocacy Wakefield District (RASA)

[www.rasa-wakefield.org.uk/](http://www.rasa-wakefield.org.uk/) Email: info-wakefield@nrcentre.org.uk

RASA Wakefield works on a drop in basis providing free and confidential advice and support to asylum seekers and refugees. The organisation assists service users with a wide range of enquiries including National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS), welfare benefits, employment, health, education, housing and immigration to name a few.

## Refugee Council UK

[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/)

The Refugee Council offers free advice and information to refugees and asylum seekers. The Refugee Council can advise on entitlements and the meaning of laws, but cannot give legal advice or representation. However, the Refugee Council can refer clients to qualified legal representatives. Special services are offered for children and unaccompanied minors, as are training programmes and resettlement services.

## Refugee Women's Association (RWA)



[www.refugeewomen.org.uk](http://www.refugeewomen.org.uk) Email: [info@refugeewomen.org.uk](mailto:info@refugeewomen.org.uk)

The RWA aims to empower Refugee Women through 1) Providing advice and guidance on education, training, employment, health and social care, Immigration Level 1, housing, welfare benefits, DV etc...2) Disseminating quality information on issues which matter to them, 3) Organising culturally sensitive customised training programmes, 4) Influencing/Lobbying policy makers, 5) Being committed to refugee women – being consistent and clear about our service provision, not diluting our principles of support to refugee women, and 6) Involving them in our activities at different levels. They also refer or signpost clients to other services when necessary. They work in partnership with other community organisations including partners from Europe (when running transnational projects).

## Tower Hamlets Law Centre

[www.thlc.co.uk/](http://www.thlc.co.uk/) Email: [info@thlc.co.uk](mailto:info@thlc.co.uk)

The Tower Hamlets Law Centre provides free legal advice and assistance. Our services are available to those that live, work or study in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. We also have a range of legal advice and representation services for people living in other London Boroughs. We have a specific commitment to people on a low income and to assist in those areas of law where no Legal Help is available.

## UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG)

[www.uklgig.org.uk](http://www.uklgig.org.uk) Email: [admin@uklgig.org.uk](mailto:admin@uklgig.org.uk)

The UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group is a charity that promotes equality and dignity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people who seek asylum in the UK, or who wish to immigrate here to be with their same-sex partner. Its asylum related activities include supporting LGBT asylum seekers by providing support and information via their helpline and in person; referring to solicitors; organising a monthly support meeting; visiting detention centres and running other social support projects. It also provides training and information on LGBT asylum issues to relevant service providers in the refugee and LGBT community, solicitors and other legal advisers, UKBA staff and the judiciary.

The UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group will ONLY respond to asylum queries of those who are already in the UK. One can attend their monthly asylum legal meetings, where volunteer solicitors will be giving general advice about the asylum process and meet other LGBT asylum seekers as well as speak to the members of their staff in person. Alternatively, one can call their helpline at 020 7922 7811.

- See more at: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/probono/united-kingdom-probono-directory#sthash.FwYagjAo.dpuf>