

# BRR Newsletter – Summer 2017

## About our Members 2016/17

10,774 visits

Male 67%

Female 33%



391 new members

from 39 countries



79 = average number of members per session

Top 6 new member countries



## The local picture about refugees

Bristol City Council are continuing to work on developing their Strategy for Refugees. It was on hold for a little while as there was some restructuring in the Council and other work had to take priority. However, they are working on it again now and we hope to have a version that can be shared publicly soon. Bristol City Council has recognised that the strategy needs to demonstrate what they will be doing to improve the lives of refugees which is a positive step forwards.

Bristol City of Sanctuary has been working with Bristol Amnesty International to develop a partnership around shared values and goals. It's a pioneering partnership which it is hoped will be replicated in other parts of the country and will have significant benefits for the campaign for better treatment of those seeking sanctuary as we draw upon each other's strengths and pool resources to have greater impact.



- Asylum applicants account for less than 0.5% of all passenger arrivals in the UK
- Between 2012-14 on average 36% of asylum cases were granted initially, but this proportion rose to 49% after appeal.
- In the year ending March 2017, there were 9,634 grants of asylum or an alternative form of protection to main applicants and their dependants, and an additional 6,245 people newly provided with protection and support under a resettlement scheme the UK.
- For more statistics, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### Bristol Refugee Rights

T: 0117 914 5480

W: [www.bristolrefugeerights.org](http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org)

E: [info@bristolrefugeerights.org](mailto:info@bristolrefugeerights.org)

Email: [info@bristolrefugeerights.org](mailto:info@bristolrefugeerights.org) to sign up to our quarterly newsletter or sign up via our website

### Bristol Refugee Rights

is supported by Bristol City Council, Quartet Community Foundation, The Henry Smith Charity, Big Lottery Fund, Lloyds Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Church Urban Fund, New Beginnings, John James Foundation, Swan Mountain Trust  
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### APPG report

In our last newsletter we told you about a visit we had received at the Welcome Centre from Thangam Debbonaire MP Bristol West and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees as part of the All Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into Refugees Welcome.

The Report has now been published. You may have seen some of the key findings of the report featured in news headlines including:

- condemnation of the two tier system for refugees
- a call for a Minister for Refugees to be appointed

The report made lots of recommendations aimed at improving the system for asylum seekers and refugees.

### BRR in the news:

The work of BRR has been making the news recently - you might have heard us on Ujima talking about our Early Years Project and promoting our crowdfunding campaign. The Bristol Cable also featured our joint project with Borderlands - Pride Without Borders. See Facebook for more information on BRR in the media.

### Ongoing reaction to changes to Refugee Leave:

You may remember that in our March 2017 newsletter we reported that the government had announced that they were changing refugee leave, making it harder for refugees to settle in the UK. Read more about this at: <https://thebristolcable.org/2017/05/refugee-return-policy-insult-geneva-convention/>

## Campaigns

Against Borders for Children have launched a campaign to stop the Department for Education collecting Country of Birth and Nationality data from 8 Million pupils aged 5-19 years in England by end of 2017. You can find out more about the campaign and how you can support it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om8B7D6Aeho>

### Destitution Campaign:

The Scottish Parliament Equality and Human Rights Committee has recognised the detrimental impact of the government's policy of enforced destitution. The report made a number of recommendations with the aim of reducing the impact of destitution in Scotland. It has been welcomed by a charity based in Glasgow who support asylum seekers and refugees.

Locally, the refugee voluntary sector in Bristol, continue to work with Bristol City Council to encourage them to ensure that asylum seekers, and asylum seeking families in particular are protected from the most negative impacts of changes to asylum support being introduced by the Immigration Act.

## Fundraising

BRR is a registered charity, so we rely on fundraising to keep services running.

At the moment our funding for the Asylum Support Project comes to an end at the end of June 2017. We need **£20,000** to keep the Asylum Support Project running for the rest of 2017/18.

We also need **£5000** to continue to run Pride Without Borders.

Our Crowdfunding has ended now but you can still watch the video (it's on our Facebook page) and donate to keep our Early Years Project open.

### We need your help to keep BRR's vital services running!

We appreciate all of the support we are given but we especially welcome regular donations as they help us plan for the future. If you would like to support us, visit [www.bristolrefugeerights.org](http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org) to find out how



We are constantly amazed and humbled by the amazing support we receive from our staff, volunteers, Trustees and supporters. We want to say **THANK YOU**, once again, to all those who support us.

