BRR Training

“I learnt a great deal more about the process of applying for refugee status and some of the challenges and frustrations of the process. Getting the opportunity to hear personal stories was a real privilege and was very moving and thought provoking.” A medical Student talking part in BRR training session as part of their Disability Disadvantage and Diversity Module

Bristol Refugee Rights (BRR) is a medium sized charity that has provided a broad range of quality services for asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol for over ten years. As a human rights organisation we also campaign for changes to the asylum system and do outreach events to raise awareness of the issues. We run a Welcome Centre in St Paul’s open three days a week and every year we work with approximately 500 people who are seeking asylum or were recently granted their refugee status, our members. We have a staff team of 12 and over 120 volunteers. Our main projects are BRILL-teaching English, AID- Advocacy and Information Desk, Early Years Project, VOICE-public speaking and interpreters, and Main Hall a hub which offers food, arts, social space and free shop. We aim to be member led and work in partnership with many other local organisations.

Training packages can be adapted from 1.5 hours to 2 days.

Depending on the time available, activities will draw on the existing knowledge of participants and involve a range of delivery including quizzes, presentation and scenarios.

We can bring trained refugee and asylum seeker speakers along to give first-hand testimony and take part in interactive Q & A sessions.

We can offer workshops to support your organisation to work through equalities issues around asylum seekers and refugees and how you can make your services more accessible/appropriate for asylum seekers and refugees

Fees are negotiable. Please contact us to discuss your training needs: info@bristolrefugeerights.org; Tel: 0117 914 5480
Our current staff expertise includes:

- Legally trained
- Refugee background
- Working with interpreters
- Cross cultural awareness
- Volunteer management
- Service user engagement
- Facilitation skills
- Project management
- Working with vulnerable adults
- Early years provision
- Campaigning, public speaking and event planning
- Creating warm, welcoming spaces
- Training people from a range of backgrounds
- Advocacy
- Education
- Training vulnerable people to speak out and tell their stories safely
- Knowledge and understanding of trafficking issues and particular issues facing LGBT asylum seekers and refugees

Issues that we could cover include:

1. **Setting the context**
   - What/who is a refugee?
   - Where do people come from; how many people come to the UK/Bristol
   - What are/is unaccompanied minors, Syrian Resettlement and trafficked people.

2. **What happens when you claim asylum in UK?**
   - Overview of the asylum process
   - What statutory support do people get and how can they get it

3. **What happens when people are given their Leave to Remain?**
   - Housing
   - Support for integration, education, training
   - Family reunion

4. **What happens if you are refused?**
   - Understanding destitution and detention
   - Forced removal; voluntary return

5. **Overview of local services**
   - Healthcare and Mental Health
   - Solicitors/legal
   - Community care and Social Services

6. **Life in the UK**
   - Permission to work/volunteering
   - English classes
   - Signing support

7. **Health and wellbeing**
   - Common mental health issues
   - People with trauma

8. **Human stories**
   - Case studies, thinking through, impacts on health and wellbeing and support needs for a range of typical asylum seeker stories, including possibility of speakers of refugee background

9. **Putting knowledge into practice**
   - Role plays and advice for working with people in distress
   - Safe working practices, boundaries, safeguarding and vicarious trauma.

10. **Dignity and human rights**
    - Overview of organisations and places to get more information about migrant rights, relevant campaigns

11. **Diversity awareness/breaking down barriers to accessing services**
    - how you can make your services more accessible/appropriate for asylum seekers and refugees
    - how to avoid preventing people from accessing what they are entitled to

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