**Destitution Support Team Volunteer**

Many individuals become destitute during the process of seeking refuge in the U.K. Asylum seekers do not usually have a right to work during their application period.

When an asylum seeker receives a decision on their claim, positive or negative, it can result in them being made homeless. With a positive decision they lose access to asylum seeker support, and may not receive the necessary documents to access work, housing or mainstream benefits for months.

A negative decision may result in a person losing access to asylum seeker support and housing. In these circumstances, many people need to find fresh evidence to support their claim. 1 in 3 negative decisions are overturned at appeal and still more are able to reach a positive decision with fresh evidence. Both groups need support to survive everyday life during hard periods.

To try and support them, Bristol Refugee Rights runs a mini-food bank and toiletries for asylum seekers and refugees with no access to government support.

**We are looking for someone who:**

* Has good people skills
* Welcomes the opportunity to work as part of a diverse volunteer team at BRR
* Can stay calm under pressure and work well with others
* Is helpful, patient and has a positive approach to resolving problems
* Shares a commitment to BRR’s ethos and values and recognises the importance of working within our policies and procedures

**Volunteers need to be:**

* Available Thursday between 9.15 am and 3.15pm
* Able to make 6 months commitment to the role
* Committed to attending training and occasional meetings

**Volunteers will get from this role:**

* To play a key part in a vibrant and supportive community
* Work with Asylum Seekers and Refugees from around the world
* Knowledge of other services that exist to support ASR’s in Bristol
* A rewarding experience of working with people in extremely difficult circumstances

**What we provide:**

* An induction and ongoing relevant training for your role
* Regular volunteer meetings and support
* References after a suitable period of volunteering experience
* Training in the UK Asylum process and other informal training opportunities
* Expenses payments for costs incurred whilst volunteering