**Destitution Support Team**

**Volunteer**

One of the most shocking aspects of the UK asylum process is that many people seeking sanctuary are made. When an asylum seeker receives a decision on their claim, whether positive or negative it can result in them being made homeless. A positive decision they lose access to asylum seeker support, but may not receive the necessary documents to access mainstream benefits, housing or work for months. A negative decision may also mean a person loses access to asylum seeker support. In these circumstances many people need to find fresh evidence to support their claim while they do so they will usually be unable to access any formal means of supporting themselves. Around 1 in 3 negative decisions are overturned at appeal and still more are able to reach a positive decision with fresh evidence. So these are by no means “bogus” asylum seekers.

To try and support this group BRR runs a mini-food bank as well as having a store of clothing and toiletries for those asylum seekers 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 have a positive approach to resolving problems

**Volunteers need to be:**

* Available Thursday between 9:15 am and 3:15 pm
* 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
* 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