

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 Barton Hill open two days a week and every year we work with approximately 800 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 services for asylum seekers include providing advice, teaching English, an Early Years Project, a legal literacy scheme, LGBTQI+ support, complex needs casework and more. We aim to be member led and work in partnership with many other local organisations.

Example Training Package 1:

Understanding who is an asylum seeker/refugee

2 hours

- What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee
- Issues faced
- What does it feel like

Example Training Package 2:

Understanding Asylum

1 day

- The global and national context
- Overview of the asylum process
- Understanding asylum support
- What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee
- What is signing and detention
- Understanding destitution
- Mental health and asylum seekers/refugees

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 Steve to discuss your training needs:

steve@bristolrefugeerights.org; Tel: 07526354736

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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