

Seeking Refuge?

A handbook for asylum-seeking women

Every year millions of people across the world are forced to flee their homes to escape persecution. Some of those people will seek refuge by making a claim for asylum here in the UK. Many asylum-seeking women arrive in the UK having experienced sexual violence, such as rape or torture, or other forms of violence, such as domestic abuse or forced marriage. Some will have problems getting legal advice or accurate legal information about the asylum process and how cases are decided.

Seeking Refuge? explains, in clear and accessible language, the law that determines who is entitled to protection in the UK and how the asylum system works. It aims to provide asylum-seeking women with the legal information and support they need to apply for asylum.

“Seeking Refuge? is a fantastic resource. It is essential reading for asylum-seeking women and all those who support them in their struggle to live lives free from violence and abuse.”

Nalini Varma, Comic Relief Trustee

“Women need to know what their rights are. We need good information and advice. In this book there is everything you need to know. When you read it, you will understand what your rights are and who to contact for help.”

An asylum-seeking woman

“The asylum system in the UK is not gender-sensitive. This makes it difficult for women to disclose their experiences when they claim asylum and means that their experiences are not always interpreted appropriately. This handbook provides essential information to help women to overcome these barriers.”

Debora Singer, Asylum Aid

Rights of Women aims to achieve equality, justice and respect for all women. Rights of Women advises, educates and empowers women by:

- Providing women with free, confidential, legal advice by specialist women solicitors and barristers.
- Enabling women to understand and benefit from their legal rights through accessible and timely publications and training.
- Campaigning to ensure that women's voices are heard and law and policy meets all women's needs.

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Seeking Refuge? can also be downloaded free from our website and alternative formats are available on request.

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