**The Refugee Survival Trust needs help to support refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland**

The UK asylum system is one that regularly forces people into destitution. The Refugee Survival Trust ([www.rst.org.uk](http://www.rst.org.uk/)) has a clear **vision**: **that all asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland receive just and respectful treatment and support appropriate to their needs**. RST aims also to raise awareness of the problems and contribute to the development a better system.

RST provides small emergency **Destitution Grants** when state Asylum Support fails. Last year we made 831 grants supporting 1377 people, including 390 children. This costs around £6,000 monthly. We provide small one-off [**Access to Education and Employment Grants**](http://www.rst.org.uk/what-we-do/access-to-education-and-employment-grants) which help overcome barriers to study or work. We offer one-day[**bus passes**](http://www.rst.org.uk/what-we-do/bus-pass-fund-pilot-project)to asylum seekers with additional vulnerabilities who need to travel some distance to important appointments.

RST also manages and finds funding for the multi-agency [**Destitute Asylum Seeker Service**](http://www.rst.org.uk/what-we-do/destitute-asylum-seeker-service-dass)(DASS) in Glasgow. DASS holistically provides advice, accommodation and legal assistance to **refused asylum seekers,** to find a route out of destitution while they prepare a new asylum claim or consider how to resolve their situation. In its second year 191 people used the service, with RST directly providing accommodation services costing around £30,000.

RST uses statistics and reports on our work to advocate publicly for improvements in policy and strives to increase awareness in the community the plight of asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. We offer volunteer speakers (including refugees) to inform interested groups.

RST is a small charity helped enormously by volunteers and funding is always a challenge. One-off contributions from faith groups and generous individuals continue to be a key part of funding our work.

At a time when refugees and asylum seekers face increasing stigma and marginalisation, RST’s unique work makes a real difference. We hope you might consider helping us, or encouraging others to do so.

Produced by Mick Patrick

Refugee Survival Trust