

hope
projects

hope
destitution
fund - appeal



hope destitution fund appeal

The Hope Destitution Fund makes fortnightly cash grants to destitute asylum-seekers in the West Midlands, who are barred from all mainstream welfare benefits and provision for the homeless.

Since 2003 more than £840,000 has been distributed by the Fund.

Currently we support around 40 families and individuals every fortnight. We also work effectively with our partner-organisations to move those we help out of destitution and to regularise their status here in the UK.



On the next page you can read about some of those we have helped in the past.

But now money is tight, and we urgently need your support to enable our work to continue in the future.

Giving to the Fund

Donations to the Hope Destitution Fund can be made through our Web site at www.hope-projects.org.uk, and standing-order forms can be downloaded from there. Or you can send a cheque, made out to 'Hope Projects (West Midlands) Ltd', to Hope Projects, 110 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 2QS.

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Case-studies

M, a Palestinian man, had been staying in a night-shelter, but was suffering from depression and losing the will to live. He was accommodated by Hope Housing and supported by the Destitution Fund.

He applied for UK Border Agency support and accommodation on the basis of an immigration application to the European courts, but his application was refused and an appeal dismissed

The Hope Housing Support Worker found him a solicitor who made an application for Judicial Review. On the basis of this **M** reapplied for UKBA support and accommodation, and succeeded at appeal.

M needed ongoing support from the Housing Support Worker, particularly in understanding and pursuing his asylum case; she attended solicitor-appointments with him and afterwards explained to him what had been said at the appointment,

He also benefited from support from a volunteer at Hope partner the British Red Cross, where he attended therapeutic massage sessions. He could discuss his medical appointments with the volunteer, who attended the appointments with him.

And he joined the Hope Gardeners project, where he found support from other gardeners, improving his language skills and growing food to eat.

F, a Zimbabwean woman with a young baby, was referred to Hope as homeless by the Refugee and Migrant Centre of the Black Country, late on a Friday afternoon, after they had been refused support by the local authority's social services department.

We were able to accommodate them that day, and sought advice on **F**'s case from partner-organisation ASIRT. **F** attended ASIRT's drop-in-advice session the following Thursday; they took up the case with the local authority, and she and her baby were quickly given support and accommodation by social services on the basis of recent case-law relating to children whose fathers are British or have leave to remain here.

S came to the UK two years ago after he was arrested and suffered torture in Iran. He suffers from depression, memory loss, anxiety, suicidal ideation, nightmares and recurring headaches. **S** has had involvement with mental-health services and is on anti-depressant medication. He had claimed asylum but this was refused, and an appeal against the decision was dismissed. **S**'s solicitors then went into administration. Hope partner ASIRT referred **S** to another Hope partner, Freedom from Torture.

Freedom from Torture has helped **S** find new legal representatives to assist him in making a fresh asylum claim once their report on his case is completed.

When **S** was evicted after his asylum claim was refused, he received help from a local family. But some of the family members did not want him at the accommodation and were increasingly hostile. Letters detailing very personal aspects of his life and experience in Iran were opened by members of the family. This information was shared with the wider community and **S** felt increasingly threatened.

S was granted fortnightly cash support from the Destitution Fund, and accommodated by Hope Housing.



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