
[#16daysofActivism](#): the migrant to asylum to refugee to citizen housing transition journey

We are part of the Rosa led [#16daysofActivism](#) action thinking what needs to change to tackle gender-based violence. Rosa, the UK fund for women and girls wrote a blog about this, access it [here](#) saying their grantees work tirelessly with women and girls across the UK who are victims and survivors of gender-based violence, so for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, we asked them: what big-picture changes need to happen to tackle the problem in the UK?

For Baobab the big picture is about change to the system structure to make seeking protection or migrating abroad a clear process woman can navigate. This will mean that they aren't left in exploitative situations relying on others for basic needs.

We have started making some transition image processes from this document – (which is a work in progress – contact us for any suggestions on improvements please!), to try to help women to understand, our contribution to the 16 days of activism is to publish [Part 1](#), we are going to get this translated into different languages and add more elements to the story as time passes.

1. [Emergency contact no](#) in UK for hospital, Fire, Ambulance 999, non-emergency police 101, non-emergency health 111
2. Always ask for interpreter where English is not first Language, if you don't understand interpreter ask for another one.
3. If you need help as a survivor of modern slavery contact [Salvation Army](#)
4. If your struggling with Domestic Violence contact [Refuge](#) or [Women's Aid](#)
5. If you want asylum information contact [Refugee Council](#) or [Refugee Action](#)
6. Search for local women's organisations, for example:
 - a. [Crossroads Women's Centre](#) London
 - b. [Rights of Women](#) London
 - c. [Women for Refugee Women](#) London
 - d. [The Angelou Centre](#) Newcastle
 - e. [Refugee Women Connect](#) Liverpool
 - f. [Baobab Women's Project](#) Birmingham
 - g. [Safety for Sisters](#) Manchester
 - h. [Women Asylum Seekers Together](#) Manchester
 - i. [Refugee Women of Bristol](#) Bristol
 - j. [Women's Resource Centre](#) London
 - k. [Southall Black Sisters](#) London
 - l. [Step up Migrant Women](#) London

7. [Claim asylum – Croydon Home Office](#), walk in or booked appt
 - a. [Screening Interview – check out right to remain page here](#)
8. Asylum Claim Accepted
9. Maybe detained – then refused and face deportation, or a long term stay, get help from:
 - a. [Detention Action](#)
 - b. [Yarlswood Befrienders](#)
 - c. [BID, Bail for immigration Detainees](#)
10. If your destitute & homeless, initial Accommodation IA, section 98 asylum support, anywhere in the UK, often have a few nights at Barry House in London
11. Stay at initial accommodation, centres in Birmingham, Derby, Liverpool, Glasgow, Cardiff, Wakefield,... or local hotels (might stay 1- 6 months), health centres are part of the Initial accommodations, see [Doctors of the World](#) for support
 - a. Local Birmingham help:
 - i. [St Chads Sanctuary](#) – clothes & hygiene items,
 - ii. [BIRCH meet & greet](#) for families
 - iii. [BARA](#) Birmingham Asylum & Refugee Association
12. Can ask for [Refuge accommodation if fleeing domestic violence \(ASAP Factsheet\)](#)
13. Application with [Migrant help](#) (Home Office contracted asylum support help) for -NASS house or subsistence only money support. Or other local agencies, particularly with section 4 in Birmingham these include [Refugee Action Crisis Project](#) & [Baobab Women’s Project](#)
14. Refused housing support- Appeal to asylum support tribunal
 - a. Places that help with appeals in Birmingham: [ASAP](#), [Baobab](#), [Refugee Action](#)
 - b. Possible destitution help from [NACCOM members: Hope, Fatima, birch, CMWH cov night shelter](#)
15. Move out of initial accommodation to NASS home – section 95, may move to different city anywhere in UK
 - [Serco](#)
 - [Clearsprings](#)
16. Asylum Housing provides
 - Home Office briefing, Area briefing, Emergency contact, Sign tenancy agreement sign up
 - Contact for [Migrant Help](#) for all accommodation and well being problems
 - Sign up with a GP
 - Find a local refugee and migrant agency if you don’t get the help you need – ask other asylum seekers, local churches, [City of Sanctuary](#) has lots of contacts
17. Finding a lawyer to represent you (can be in IA section 95 or section 98), think carefully, get recommendations from others, look at google reviews
 - a. [Law Society database](#)
 - b. Look at Right to Remain [find a solicitor advice](#)
 - c. Baobab have a [list of local Birmingham reps](#)
18. Solicitor
 - a. Explains asylum process – also see [right to remain resource](#)
 - b. writes your reason for protection story as ‘witness Statement’,

- c. reads through if with interpreter – if you don't understand or don't agree don't sign it!
 - d. Sign & submitted to Home Office
- 19. Find a local college, adult education network and support networks, learn and practice English, relax your mind, [City Of Sanctuary ESOI resources](#) or [Refuge Study](#)
- 20. Ask for help with trauma or bad memories from your GP, or [Freedom from Torture](#) local gender based violence services like [RSVP](#) in Birmingham or NHS funded [healthy minds](#)
- 21. Substitutive Interview Home office
 - Long 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 hour interview about why you're here, why you need help
 - Give scan, picture taken, signature
 - Decision might take 1 month – 2 years for decision (if over 6 months ask for answer, if over 1 year can ask for right to work)
- 22. Get a positive response (Refugee Status) or humanitarian protection from Home Office [36% of claimants](#) or after court appeals [56% of asylum applications](#) or negative decision
 - a. Positive 5 years residence, Refugee travel document, family reunion rights
 - b. Negative expected to leave the UK, made homeless but there are options to keep support:
 - i. [Section 4 Asylum Support](#) – if sick too sick to travel, no route to go to birth country, if your going home but homeless, have a Judicial review pending, or your submitting a fresh claim for protection
 - ii. Charities help homeless people with No Recourse to Public Funds – See local [NACCOM members: Hope, Fatima, birch, CMWH cov night shelter](#)
 - iii. Churches, communities, night shelters, refuges, community organisations all help with destitution, but there are also many risks see [Women for Refugee Women](#) research
 - iv. Get legal Advice if submitting a [Fresh Claim see Right to Remain](#) ideas, for local [Birmingham advisors](#) see Hope Projects, Brushstrokes, RMC, ASIRT, Birmingham Community Law Centre, or any legal aid provider
- 23. Get 30 months discretionary leave on private or family life basis (Article 8 ECHR)
 - a. 30 months, high renewal fees
- 24. All document & ID Card sent out Lawyer, within 15 days,
 - a. Can be delay on biometric card – follow up via solicitor or MP
 - b. [Apply for child benefit](#) within 3 months of getting grant letter, will then be backdated to child date of birth, if more than 3 months after grant of status only backdate 3 months from application date, for maternity benefit advice see [Maternity Action](#)
 - c. Apply for benefit [Universal Credit](#) get benefits help from Refugee Migrant Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Birmingham Settlement, [Nishkam Centre](#),
- 25. Asylum Support give 28 days to move out the asylum support accommodation- often not enough time see [Red Cross Reports](#)
- 26. Apply for temporary housing from the local council you were granted asylum in see [Homeless Link working with Refugees](#) guidance. In Birmingham:
 - a. [Birmingham City Council Homeless Hub](#)
 - b. [Refugee and Migrant Centre](#) have local council contract for move on help

- c. Families usually get priority need hotels and hostels, single people get supported people accommodations, for example St Basils, YMCA, Spring Housing, Ashley Housing, MIND, Sofia House
27. Apply to go on the local council housing register for social housing – in [Birmingham](#), visit [CRISIS Homelessness Charity](#) or look into [Shelter Private Rented Factsheet](#)
 - a. If your [eligible](#), get put in '[band according to need](#)'
 - Usually get a bidding number and you can bid on suitable properties each week, get placed in queue depending on band, and length of time on register
 - One offer of accommodation only, can refuse & appeal if you don't take this, but may get taken off the housing register if not good reason, [Shelter](#) recommend taking accommodation and appealing for suitable property, councils are getting tougher on allowing people back on the register after refusing a property
 28. Move into the permanent house, landlord should show you:
 - a. Around the property
 - b. Explain Escape Routes
 - c. Main Switches & Power supply
 - d. Water main switches
 - e. The Gas/ Electricity meter & provide them the latest meter reading
 - f. Provide them with housing officer contact details.
 - g. Sign Legal tenancy Document
 - h. Assign them to organization for further help, Most council properties are empty of furniture, including carpets, sometimes paint,
 - i. Cheap furniture, Local welfare & charity grants
 - ii. Support register the a GP and schools
 - iii. Housing benefit, Council Tax, The rent if you are Universal Credit, housing Elements is always never going to cover the Rent (4 weeks not paid)
 - iv. Learn how to take a meter reading, [look after my bills](#)
 - v. Find a cheap gas and electric supplier - [uswitch](#)
 - vi. Apply for help with water bills, in Birmingham it's the [Big Diff Scheme](#)
 29. After 5 years for some people, including Refugees, see [Richmond Chambers blog](#) or 10 years legal residence apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain - Some general information on the [free movement blog](#), always consult a qualified rep for specific legal queries.
 30. After 10 years legal residence, (6 years for refugee, 5 refugee status and 1 as ILR) you can consider applying to be a [British citizen by naturalization](#), seek legal advice.
 - a. Life in the UK test
 - b. English Language Test
 - c. Birmingham Places that Help for free: [ASIRT](#), [Brushstrokes](#), [RMC](#)
 - d. Nationally check our [community law centres advice](#).
 31. Go through the [ceremony to become a UK Citizen](#)
 32. [Apply for passport](#)