

## Quick Guide to Helping with an Asylum Claim

### **WARNING!**

There *are* things that you can do to help, but you cannot provide 'immigration advice' unless you are regulated. If you do, you would be committing a criminal offence.

In order to provide immigration advice, you need to be trained and supervised. If you are interested in becoming trained, you can find out more about free training through Refugee Action's [Frontline Immigration Advice Project](#). There is a great need for people who are trained at Level 2 of OISC (the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner), which is casework level, and offers significant support to the work of immigration solicitors.

What exactly is 'immigration advice'? How does it differ from simply sharing information? Refugee Action's workshop at the NACCOM Legal conference in 2017 provided the answer to that and other queries about staying on the right side of legality. You can find the presentation [here](#).

You may find that you are asked for help by someone whose asylum claim has been turned down. If so, make sure you understand what type of refusal it is. Is it a refusal of their initial claim, or of their appeal? (See the section on the [Asylum System](#)) Do they still have a solicitor, and is the solicitor still willing to continue on their case? If the answer to that is yes, then you may be able, with the consent of the asylum seeker, to clarify the situation with the solicitor, and allay any fears. Changing solicitor is never easy, as legal aid work is not well paid, and there are not enough legal aid solicitors. Unless there is a good reason to change, it's better to stick with the one who is dealing with the claim.

If the person you are helping is a Christian convert, or seeking asylum on the basis of persecution for their Christian faith, then [Helping Christian Converts with their Asylum Claim](#) will take you through the very practical ways you can support them.