



SUPPORTING AND  
EMPOWERING  
REFUGEES

## Note on Refugee Move-On Period and Destitution of Newly Recognized Refugees

HEAR Network event, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

When an asylum seeker is granted refugee status, they are informed that the asylum support they are receiving from the Home Office will cease in 28 days. This is known as the 'grace' or 'move on' period and it is expected that the newly recognised refugee will be able to secure housing and income in this timeframe.

When on asylum support, people are provided with accommodation and receive £5.00 a day in order to cover their essential living needs (buying food and toiletries, clothes, transport, telephone cards etc.). This amount of money is so low that makes it impossible for people to save anything, on top of this people seeking asylum are not allowed to work in the UK.<sup>1</sup>

It is important to distinguish situation that people who get refugee status as a result of making asylum claim in the UK face compared with situation of refugees resettled under one of the resettlement schemes.<sup>2</sup> Resettled refugees in the UK receive a tailored integration package in their initial months and will be provided with accommodation and the key documents they need to access services upon arrival. By contrast, people getting refugee status through the asylum route are left to fend for themselves and find their own way when they as the national programme that used to support newly recognised refugees was abolished by the coalition Government in 2011.<sup>3</sup>

Consequences of two-tier system render refugees further into destitution, make it harder for them to integrate and contribute to their worsening health, including mental health.

**From 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 all individuals (including dependants) over the age of 16, who are issued with a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) will have their NINo printed on their BRP.**

Further reading:

APPG on Refugees - [Refugees Welcome?](#) April 2017

Refugee Council - [Refugees without Refuge.](#) September 2017

<sup>1</sup> Unless they are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for more than 12 months, they can, after this time apply for work. Employment options are restricted to [Shortage Occupations List](#), which includes professions like thermofluids engineer, clinical radiologist, or a professional ballerina.

<sup>2</sup> Currently there are four resettlement schemes operating in the UK: the [Gateway Protection Programme](#), the [Mandate Refugee Programme](#), the [Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement \(VPR\) Programme](#) and [Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme from the Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\) region](#).

<sup>3</sup> The Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES) was funded by the Government and was delivered between October 2008 and September 2011 by voluntary sector agencies across the UK, including the Refugee Council. Refugees that took advantage of RIES were able to access an integration advice service for 6 months and an employment support service for up to 12 months.