

042

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: <p style="text-align: center;">Asylum Aid</p>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Islington	
Contact person: Mr Wayne Myslik	Position: Chief Executive
Website: http://www.asylumaid.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 328729
When was your organisation established? 20/06/1990	

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? <p style="text-align: center;">Reducing Poverty</p>
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More Londoners with improved economic circumstances Fewer Londoners experiencing food poverty
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. Provision of legal advice to address the underlying insecure immigration status of destitute asylum seekers as a means to resolving their homelessness.
When will the funding be required? 01/08/2014
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £30,000 Year 2: £30,000 Year 3: £30,000 Total: £90,000

Aims of your organisation:

Asylum Aid is an independent, national charity working to secure protection for people seeking refuge in the UK from persecution and human rights abuses abroad.

We advocate vigorously for asylum rights in the UK by:

- > providing free and accessible legal representation, of the highest professional standard, to the most vulnerable and excluded asylum seekers;
- > lobbying and campaigning for an asylum process based on inviolable human rights principles, ensuring that what we say is firmly rooted in the work we do; and
- > working co-operatively with our peers, combining and collaborating to strengthen our joint impact.

We are wholly independent of Government, and are widely cited as a model of what can be achieved with limited resources and on a politically contentious issue, given clarity of purpose, a credible evidence base, and a passionate commitment to standing up for asylum rights, without fear or favour.

Main activities of your organisation:

Highly regarded for the rigour of our legal representation and the authority of our work with government, Asylum Aid is a prominent and respected voice on protection matters in the UK and Europe.

Our Legal Team provides expert legal representation - at every stage of the UK asylum process and in the higher courts - to a vulnerable client group, with particular focus on women seeking protection from gender related violence, unaccompanied children, people at risk because of their sexual orientation, stateless persons and those who are refused protection and are destitute, but whose refusal of protection is legally challengeable. Our approach is empathetic, holistic and thoroughly professional and, as a result, we consistently achieve success in over 85% of the cases in which we provide representation. Our legal work also provides a solid evidence base that informs and gives credibility to our critique of the UK asylum system, as well as our proposals for asylum system reform.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
14	1	11	1

Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
Leased	We have a 10 year lease.

Summary of grant request

When asylum seekers are refused protection they struggle to obtain legal advice, particularly since 2007 when funding for diagnostic work was removed from Legal Aid. This project aims to unlock the problem of homelessness for destitute failed asylum seekers by addressing their underlying insecure immigration status. The project is particularly innovative as it identifies a solution outside the scope of traditional homelessness advice as the decisive factor in resolving what otherwise would be an insurmountable problem. It also identifies and addresses the barriers homeless asylum seekers face accessing legal advice.

Asylum Aid's experience is that a high proportion of asylum seekers become destitute because they have not had their cases adequately determined. NGOs providing support repeatedly tell us that accessing competent legal representation is the biggest problem their service users face in trying to re-access accommodation and support. This led Asylum Aid to pilot a project providing legal advice outreach surgeries to homeless asylum seekers at Red Cross and the Notre Dame Refugee Centre who assist with immediate support needs. The aim was to address the issue of homelessness by identifying the underlying substantive need for legal representation to resolve their insecure immigration status as the route back into accommodation, as well as assessing the scale of the problem. Through running this pilot it was discovered that a substantial proportion of destitute asylum seekers have grounds for challenging the refusal of protection and, consequently should be entitled to accommodation and welfare support. For example, during the pilot phase we found that a staggering 86% of the people we advised merited immediate legal intervention on their cases, either because they had grounds for further representations (44%), still had a claim pending that had never been satisfactorily determined (17%), or that their cases justified further legal investigation (25%).

Because asylum seekers fear being returned to their countries of origin, if they are unable to access further legal advice to help resolve any unmet legal needs, the only option they face is to live in the shadows as destitute asylum seekers. This can make them more difficult to reach than other homeless people and multiplies their disadvantage and vulnerability when compared to other disadvantaged groups in society. Our experience of providing legal assistance to this marginalised and vulnerable group provides evidence that many have reasonable grounds for protection that have neither been properly presented, owing to the scarcity of competent, specialist, publicly funded legal advice, nor adequately determined by the UK asylum authorities. Homelessness is therefore a direct consequence of these failings.

This project seeks to ensure destitute asylum seekers are able to overcome barriers to access legal advice and representation and by doing so, resolve their insecure immigration status, access accommodation and overcome their destitution, thereby improving their economic circumstances and enable them to tackle food poverty.

How this project meets the Trust's principles of good practice:

- > We encourage service users to provide feedback and the information we gather is used to improve and develop the service.
- > We prioritise work with the most vulnerable and excluded asylum seekers and directly through outreach provision and the availability of qualified interpreters, ensure that our services are accessible. We have a detailed, comprehensive equal opportunities policy and are geared up, operationally, to deliver our advice services on an outreach basis.
- > We value and support our volunteers by giving them clear roles and activities to undertake and ensuring they are adequately trained, supported and supervised.
- > Some of the steps we have taken to reduce our carbon footprint include: tax efficient bicycle purchase scheme; electronic dissemination of reports; office material recycling.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Not applicable.

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **No**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

We will provide face-to-face advice to 120 destitute asylum seekers per annum at outreach surgeries. An initial assessment of the case based on the papers will take place in advance of the appointment ensuring the face-to-face meeting is effective in identifying and addressing any unmet advice needs.

Following the appointment, the case will be prepared for referral, or if needed, further work will be undertaken to establish merits before the decision to make a referral is taken. Asylum Aid will aim to directly take on as many cases for full representation as capacity allows .

Where we lack the capacity then we will facilitate active referrals to key trusted legal representatives with whom we have established referral pathways.

The Development Manager will produce a bi-annual performance review, specifying the take-up and outcomes of the service, which will be used for internal monitoring and to inform our engagement with Government on asylum policy as UKBA (now UK Visas and Immigration) corporate partners.

We will share the learning generated through our direct casework to identify barriers to accessing legal advice, as well as inform a better understanding of how legal advice is funded and the implications this has on the quality of advice provision, with peer organisations and advice providers.

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

Destitute asylum seekers/irregular migrants are able to benefit from access to comprehensive legal advice.

Destitute asylum seekers are able to access good quality legal representation as a direct result of the project.

Any barriers to accessing accommodation are removed for cases that are provided with legal representation.

Wider improvements to asylum process and decision-making take place as a result of the evidence generated through this project.

The triage model is promoted as a good practice example of a viable route to legal advice and representation that can be replicated.

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

We have a fundraising strategy that aims to diversify our funding across trusts, individual donors, and earned income. We are also identifying new partners to further develop innovative solutions to provision of legal triage, diagnostic and outreach services for homeless asylum seekers in London.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

120

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

London-wide (80%)

Several NW London (20%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

16-24

25-44

45-64

65-74

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

A range of ethnic groups

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

31-40%

Funding required for the project

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Triage Advisor salary/NI/Pension	38,073	38,573	39,073	115,719
Management: project coordination, monitoring and evaluation, reporting	9,845	9,845	9,845	29,535
Running costs (rent, stationary, photocopying, etc.)	21,143	21,143	21,143	63,429
Operational costs	9,285	9,285	9,285	27,855
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	78,346	78,846	79,346	236,538
---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	----------------

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	12,000	0	0	0
London Housing Federation	7,000	0	0	0
Evan Cornish Foundation	7,000	0	0	0
St John Southworth Fund	3,000	0	0	0

TOTAL:	29,000	0	0	0
---------------	---------------	----------	----------	----------

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Cripplegate Foundation	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Donations from May sponsored walk and Radio 4 appeal	10,000	0	0	10,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	20,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Triage Advisor salary/NI/Pension	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
Management: project coordination, monitoring and evaluation, reporting	8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000
Running costs (rent, stationary, photocopying, etc.)	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Operational costs	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Finance & capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000
---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2013
-----------------------	---------------------	-------------------

Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	796,919
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	359,395
Other sources	2
Total Income:	1,156,316

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	953,612
Governance costs	25,711
Cost of generating funds	75,281
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	0
Net (deficit)/surplus:	101,712
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	301,590
Net Movement in Funds:	403,302

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	2,765
Investments	0
Net current assets	511,180
Long-term liabilities	110,643
*Total Assets (A):	403,302

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	0
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	403,302
*Total Reserves (B):	403,302

* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.

Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?
21-30%

Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	0	0
London Councils	59,562	59,562	59,562
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	201,967	235,039	273,701

Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
Sigrid Rausing Trust	150,000	150,000	0
Comic Relief	47,500	110,000	122,000
Unbound Philanthropy	58,956	75,000	75,000
Trust for London	32,000	33,000	35,000
Barrow Cadbury Trust	35,542	35,500	29,500

Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes Full Name: **Wayne Myslik**

Role within **Chief Executive**
Organisation: