

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Asylum Support Appeals Project	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Tower Hamlets	
Contact person: Ms Hazel Williams	Position: Director
Website: http://www.asaproject.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1105625
When was your organisation established? 01/01/2004	

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Reducing Poverty
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More people accessing debt and legal services More Londoners with improved economic circumstances
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To reduce the destitution amongst asylum seekers by providing them and the agencies who support them with expert advice and representation on asylum support.
When will the funding be required? 01/04/2016
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £45,000 Year 2: £45,000 Year 3: £45,000 Total: £135,000

Aims of your organisation:

We aim to reduce destitution amongst asylum seekers by protecting their legal rights to food and shelter.

Main activities of your organisation:

- Providing free legal representation at the Asylum Support Tribunal (Tribunal) to over 600 destitute asylum seekers a year, challenging Home Office decisions to refuse or withdraw support.
- Disseminating our legal expertise to organisations working with asylum seekers through an Advice Line and training. We also run two networking groups: the London Destitution Advice Network (LDAN) and the Asylum Support Advice Network (ASAN) - a national network of advisors, made up of 204 different organisations and over 400 advisers.
- We challenge the unlawful asylum support policies and procedures that leave thousands of asylum seekers destitute, by influencing policy changes through lobbying the Home Office and through pursuing strategic litigation.
- We have a specific project on increasing access to support for female asylum seekers through training with women's organisations on legal rights to support, research and most recently a litigation project around the rights of pregnant asylum seekers to access support.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
2	5	11	42

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	2024 with early break clause

Summary of grant request

We are applying for funding in order to reduce the poverty of destitute asylum seekers in London by enabling them to access their legal rights to food and shelter. We will do this by:

- Providing free legal representation and advice to destitute asylum seekers who are appealing a refusal or withdrawal of asylum support at the Asylum Support Tribunal (Tribunal) in East London.
- Providing free face to face and webinar training and information and advice through an advice line on asylum support for advice agencies and organisations who are supporting destitute asylum seekers. This will enable advice agencies to have a better understanding of asylum support law, ensuring that more people can access the support they need.

ASAP is perfectly placed to do this work as we are the only organisation in the UK offering free legal representation and advice at the Tribunal. We have unique expertise and over ten years' experience of specialising in this area and we are well respected and utilised by other agencies. We have a very high success rate. Last year we represented 674 asylum seekers and won support for 64.5% of them.

Destitute asylum seekers are some of the most marginalised people in our society today. They are not allowed to work or access mainstream benefits and many cannot go home. The British Red Cross, who has the largest destitution service in London, assisted 1380 destitute asylum seekers last year. We know that the figure could be much higher as many live "underground" in fear of their lives.

When asylum seekers are refused asylum support by the Home Office they can appeal this decision to the Tribunal. There is no legal aid provision for this so without our free representation they would have to navigate the complicated and often intimidating court system all on their own. Independent research by the Citizens Advice Bureau confirmed that our representation increases the chances of success at appeal by 30%.

The advice sector is also in need of our expertise in the area of asylum support. Due to a reduction in Government funding for advocacy and asylum support advice, smaller grass roots organisations are under increasing pressure to expand to fill the gap. We have many more queries to our advice line and requests for training as advice workers who are new to this area grapple with the complexities of asylum support law.

ASAP is committed to involving our service users in the running of our organization. We are currently recruiting for replacement service-user Trustee, our previous person having resigned after 4 years. We gather quarterly feedback from all the asylum seekers we advise or represent at the Tribunal, which we use when reviewing and developing the service.

We value diversity and welcome staff and volunteers from all backgrounds. Our staff team represent a diverse cross section of society, with 7 staff members from Uganda, Hong Kong, United States, Poland and France speaking 7 languages. All staff are trained on how to implement our equality and diversity policy in the workplace.

ASAP depends on its team of 40 volunteer advocates, who are solicitors and barristers offering their time for free on a rota basis. They go through a two day training course, observation and rigorous assessment by our legal team before being admitted to the scheme. We provide ongoing support through regular file reviews, observations, legal updates and post hearing de-briefs with ASAP's Co-ordinator.

ASAP's green policy, sets out clear actions to ensure we protect the environment, e.g. offering staff season ticket loans for public transport, recycling our waste and buying from ethical fair trade suppliers.

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

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

Subsequently been secured ✓. [Signature]

We are currently in the middle of an application to the Advice Quality Standard. We have submitted documents and have had a desk top review and will have our

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 expert legal representation and advice for 2100 destitute asylum seekers over three years appealing at the Tribunal in East London.

We will provide face to face and webinar training and advice for 210 people from organisations in London advising asylum seekers, to improve their understanding and legal knowledge of asylum support.

We will operate a second tier advice line 3 days a week for advice agencies and organisations seeking information on asylum support in London.

We will manage the London Destitution Advice Network, a network of 245 members from 80 organisations. We will disseminate information on changes in law and policy through the google group and arrange and chair quarterly meetings of this group to share information and updates to better advise destitute asylum seekers.

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.

2100 destitute asylum seekers will be able to access free legal advice and representation at the Asylum Support Tribunal enabling them to have a better understanding of their rights and the Tribunal process and increasing their chances of a successful outcome.

1050 destitute asylum seekers will win successful outcomes at the Tribunal and will be able to access their legal rights to support and accommodation, reducing their poverty.

Advice agencies advising asylum seekers will be better equipped to advise them on how to access asylum support, improving their chances of accessing asylum support and reducing destitution.

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 intend to apply for Trust for London funding once the City Bridge Funding comes to an end. We have previously received Trust for London funding but must now have break from them before re-applying, as we have received their funding for over 7 years.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

1,030

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

Tower Hamlets (100%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

All ages

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?

1-10%

Funding required for the project
What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Solicitor	17,259	17,437	17,609	52,305
Duty Scheme Co-ordinator	38,759	39,185	39,543	117,487
Legal Advisor and Researcher	6,221	6,285	6,348	18,854
Women's Legal Advisor	4,563	4,611	4,657	13,831
Director 50% and Finance and Operations Officer 50%	36,242	41,107	41,420	118,769
Governance costs	2,725	2,739	2,752	8,216
Premises and facilities	13,750	13,819	13,888	41,457
Office running costs	8,875	8,919	8,964	26,758
Service delivery costs including interpreters	5,625	5,653	5,681	16,960

TOTAL:	134,019	139,665	140,863	414,547
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Sigrid Rausing Trust	55,000	35,000	0	90,000
Esmee Fairbairn	40,000	25,000	0	65,000
Comic Relief total 3 yrs £102903 amount shown used on this project only 20%	6,216	7,158	7,205	20,579
Legal Education Foundation £71210 secured for 2 years, amount shown used on this project only	13,291	26,859	27,127	67,277

TOTAL:	114,507	94,017	34,332	242,856
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What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Metropolitan Migration Applying for £60,000 across 3 years, on this project 50% allocated	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Samuel Sebba Trust Applying for £60,000 across 3 years, on this project 50% allocated	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Unbound Philanthropy Applying for £60,000 across 3 years, on this project 50% allocated	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
City law firms Freshfields and Herbert Smith	28,000	28,000	28,000	84,000

TOTAL:	58,000	58,000	58,000	174,000
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How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Solicitor 50%	17,259	17,259	17,259	51,777
Duty Scheme Co-ordinator 40%	15,503	15,503	15,503	46,509
Director 10%	4,750	4,750	4,750	14,250
Premises and Facilities	2,750	2,750	2,750	8,250
Service Delivery Costs including Interpreters	4,625	4,764	4,825	14,214
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	44,887	45,026	45,087	135,000
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Finance details

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

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2015
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	276,475
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	364
Income from charitable activities	8,849
Other sources	0
Total Income:	276,688

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	282,201
Governance costs	2,596
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	284,797
Net (deficit)/surplus:	(8,109)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	0

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	6,849
Investments	0
Net current assets	144,964
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	151,813

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	0
Restricted funds	0
Unrestricted funds	151,813
*Total Reserves (B):	151,813

*** 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?
0%

Organisational changes

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

July 2014 we moved offices from Bethnal Green to East India Docks Asylum Support Tribunal building.

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	13,368	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	0	0

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	55,000	55,000	55,000
Tudor Trust	20,000	20,000	30,000
Trust for London	30,000	25,000	25,000
Metropolitan Migration	0	20,000	20,000
Unbound Philanthropy	0	20,000	20,000

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: **Hazel Williams**

Role within **Director**
Organisation: