

NEED A LAWYER ?

A legally qualified person who can help you with an asylum claim may be called a

- legal representative, or legal rep
- lawyer
- solicitor
- caseworker
- barrister (Barristers usually help only when there is a Court involved)

Are you seeking asylum? Do you have very little money? Then you usually have a right to a **free** legal representative.

Learn as much as you can about applying for asylum

There is detailed reliable information in different languages in:

The Right To Remain Toolkit <https://righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/>

This toolkit includes a page about finding a legal representative:

<https://righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/yourlegalcase/>

To find a free legal representative

- Try Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU): <https://gmiau.org/help-and-advice/services/#referrals>. They usually cannot take new clients, but occasionally they can, and at least they reply quickly.
- Ask our caseworkers if we know of any legal representatives currently taking new clients. (However unfortunately usually we don't).
- Try contacting different legal aid (free) solicitors. There is a list here: <https://find-legal-advice.justice.gov.uk>. Type in your postcode, and tick the box 'Immigration and asylum'
- Try contacting advisers who are not solicitors but are qualified to give free assistance in asylum: <https://portal.oisc.gov.uk/s/adviser-finder>. (For someone to represent you, you need a level 3 adviser). Type in your postcode, choose '50 miles' and 'Not fee charging'.
- Try going to one of the places that offer free legal advice (see next section).



Rossendale Refugee Support Group

Registered charity number 1204240

www.rrsg.co.uk

07350 986104

contact.rrsg@gmail.com

c/o Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

If you do not have a legal representative, you may be able to get free legal advice

It is illegal for unqualified people to advise you about your asylum case or family reunion. RRSG caseworkers and volunteers are not qualified and cannot advise you.

There are legal advice services here:

- Manchester, every Wednesday at Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN), St James Church, 95a Princess Road, Moss side, M14 4TH, 9am-4pm.
You don't need an appointment, but you should **arrive as early** as possible (around 8am) as there is limited capacity.
- Accrington, every two months, at Maundy Relief, .
Ask us for details of the next date.
- Telephone, from Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit advice line: 0161 740 7722.
This is open Mondays AND Fridays from 9:30am to 1pm, and on Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

If you are not eligible for legal aid because you have been refused, appealed, and then been refused by the Courts, you may be able to

- Get advice from the charity Revive in Manchester. <https://www.revive-uk.org/advice-services/immigration-advice/>
- Get advice from a barrister by applying here : Advocate: Finding free legal help from barristers (weareadvocate.org.uk)

If you are considering paying for a private lawyer

You can search for one here: <https://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk> (As your 'legal issue' select 'Immigration', then enter your location).

Be careful to choose wisely. It can be a good idea to choose a lawyer **accredited** by the Law Society to provide asylum immigration advice.

It is a good idea to get a letter setting out what they are providing in return for your money (a letter of engagement)