

A children's human rights approach

What it feels like to be an asylum seeking child

The following resource was co-produced with asylum seeking families and an unaccompanied asylum seeking child, using their direct lived experience, to foster understanding of specific issues that affect asylum seeking children and to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

- We had many good experiences of public services and professionals.
- Having free school lunch and uniform is a big advantage, as is free travel for under 22 year olds.
- Asylum accommodation is of a poor standard, which leads to poor health.
- Families can be waiting on an asylum claim decision for years which causes anxiety and uncertainty.
- As there is no access to public funds we cannot claim any benefits.
- I feel people think we are useless as we are not permitted to work, and this leads to feelings of shame.
- Some people can be unhelpful. They can be disrespectful to people of other races.
- We have very limited personal life and family activities due to costs of classes and travel costs for adults.
- Some people do not understand the difficulties asylum seeking children face.
- As my father does not have the right to work, we have no luxuries, and I cannot join any clubs or go on expensive school trips. We do not get any holidays.
- All children have the right to protection from discrimination. No child should be treated differently due to their background.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

- Children arriving alone in the UK are not always believed when they say that they are children.
- This leads to their children's rights being denied and them being unable to access education.
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking teens are often placed in flats on their own instead of with foster families.
- When English is not a child's first language it is difficult to access rights and understand court proceedings.
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children often have no support network.
- Local authorities still have a duty to support the child.



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