

Gift Aid Declaration

Details of donor

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

.....

.....

Post Code

I want **Asylum Link Merseyside** to treat

*the enclosed donation of £ as a Gift Aid donation

*the donation(s) of £ made on/...../..... as (a) Gift Aid donation (s)

*all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations

*all donations I have made for the six years prior to this year, (but no earlier than 6/4/2000) **and** all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

*delete as appropriate

Signature

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).

Please return the form to the Administrator, Asylum Link Merseyside, St Anne's Centre, 7 Overbury Street, Liverpool, L7 3HJ.

What does destitution mean

Many people show real signs of desperation as they journey through the UK Asylum system. We decided to ask people what they felt and how they coped. Here are some of their responses.

"You look at me now but you don't see me. It's not me you see but something else. Inside I died"

"I work as an interpreter and sometimes when I translate things, I know the caseworker is not going to believe it because it is so bad they can't imagine it." "When I think where I've come from I know I am so lucky. Listening to other people's cases I get a burning inside because it is so sad and I know how hard it is."

I hate myself; this is no life. They keep telling me to leave my accommodation but where will I go? I can't live on the streets. If I could get a job then no



problem but no one wants to give us jobs because they get in trouble. Every time they arrest me and I get out they say you are free to go, and I say 'I am not free'. I have no money, I can't do anything. In prison at least they feed you and you can make friends. When you have no help you have to steal things just to eat. I wish they would put me in prison and then I wouldn't have to live like this. I've been waiting here for 4 years, for nothing.



On arrival in Liverpool it was difficult to have a place to stay. After a month Asylum Link offered me a room. I have been destitute since 2003; no one respects you while you are homeless and people treat you badly. I only find solace in the Church as no one looks down on you. At Asylum Link I do feel a bit of comfort as people actually see me as an individual rather than 'Asylum Seeker'

Asylum Link Merseyside



Welcome, Support and Friendship for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

St Anne's Centre, 7 Overbury Street
Liverpool, L7 3HJ

Tel: 0151 709 1713(34fax)

info@asylumlink.org.uk
www.asylumlink.org.uk



The Destitution Roadshow

An hour long presentation on Destitution and its effects within the Asylum Process

Charity No. 1095180 A Company limited by guarantee,
Company No. 4468629
Registered Office: Business Accounting Services,
111 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TF

Destitution Services

We provide a lifeline for destitute people through a range of services:

- Food - each week we give away around 40 bags of food
- Toiletries - we distribute soap, shampoo, razors and other items
- Emergency Housing - providing short and longer term accommodation for the homeless
- Cash grants - £25/week for 20 weeks
- Clothing - access to second hand clothes
- Access to a shower
- Access to a washing machine
- A postal address
- Temporary bag storage
- Advice, Advocacy and Casework

What can you do to help

We rely heavily on donations of food from churches, schools and individuals. Donating food helps reach more people and makes our money go further and we always look for:

Tinned tuna, corned beef, tomatoes and chick peas; rice, sugar, tea, coffee, cooking oil and peanut butter.

Toiletries are also something we distribute and shampoo, soap, razors and shower gel are always in demand. (Lever Bros kindly donate toothbrushes and toothpaste)

Clothes are always welcome especially in the winter and any clothes not given out, get recycled.

Some people host for us, giving shelter to people for a night or a weekend.

Becoming a member, setting up a standing order or giving an individual donation, all helps us carry out work which is desperately needed.

Why should we help?

Asylum Seekers are one of the most disadvantaged groups in our society. Destitute Asylum Seekers have:

- no permission to work
- no support
- no housing
- no entitlement to education
- no entitlement to secondary health care

We work to re-engage people with the system and reinstate their support.

Almost everyone has an opinion about Asylum Seekers but very few people have ever met one. If you would like to help or find out more, please get in touch.



What is the Roadshow?

It is a mixture of video presentations, Q&A and personal testimony from Asylum Seekers and people working with them, explaining how and why asylum seekers find themselves in this situation and what can be done to help them out of it.

An hour in length, the Roadshow gives people the opportunity to ask questions directly and experience an Asylum Seekers perspective, without the filter of the tabloids or politicians.

The Roadshow is free of charge although donations are welcome

Standing Order and Membership

ToBank

Address

.....

.....

.....

Post Code

Please pay The Co-operative Bank, PO Box250, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT, sort code 08-92-99, for the credit of Asylum Link Merseyside, account no. 65105157 the sum of

£.....(amount in figures)

.....(amount in words)

commencing on the (date)

and thereafter every

.....(frequency) until you

receive further notice from me/us in writing.

Please quote the reference

(to be completed by ALM) and debit my/our

account number

sort code accordingly. Please

cancel any previous standing order in favour of

Asylum Link Merseyside. A standing order of £12

or more per year confers membership unless

otherwise stated.

Signature(s)

.....

TitleName.....

Address

.....

.....

Date

Please return the form to the Administrator, Asylum Link Merseyside, St Anne's Centre, 7 Overbury Street, Liverpool, L7 3HJ.