

CASE STUDY- supplied by Suffolk Refugee Support Forum

A 21-year-old asylum seeker came to the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum a few months ago. Members of his family had been killed by the Taliban in Afghanistan and he had been imprisoned and mistreated by them before fleeing the country. This gentleman had severe burn scarring to his feet and legs as a result of the mistreatment. He was undergoing skin graft surgery in the UK when he came to our charity. His claim for asylum had, at this point, been rejected by the Home Office and all support stopped.

He had approached a legal advisor with some fresh evidence that had not been available during his initial claim for asylum. The legal advisor submitted a fresh asylum claim to the Home Office based on this new evidence. Until the claim had been acknowledged, however, the young man was unable to apply for or receive any statutory support to which asylum seekers are usually entitled.

He was staying with a friend but was not feeling very comfortable, as he was not made to feel welcome by some other occupants of the house. He had no money or means to support himself and was living solely on his friend's goodwill.

He came to the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum asking for help. We were unable, due to lack of funds, to provide this gentleman with substantial help, but gave him a little money to buy some food, for which he was grateful.

His fresh asylum claim has now been acknowledged by the Home Office, and he is currently being housed and supported by them until his case is decided.

A destitution fund would have enabled us to help this young man at a very vulnerable time in his life.

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