



Asylum Matters - Advisory Group Membership

- Purpose:** Asylum Matters is looking for up to three new members to join our Advisory Group and help inform the strategic direction of the project and its advocacy and campaigning work. As a project aimed at facilitating partnerships and joint campaigning action at local and national levels, we are particularly interested in hearing from individuals with local experience of campaigning for change to asylum policy and practice as well as those with direct experience of the asylum system. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who are based in areas where Asylum Matters operates, including in the North West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber, North East and Wales.
- Hours:** The Advisory Group meets on a quarterly basis for 2 – 3 hours, though Advisory Group members may also be asked to participate in additional meetings throughout the year, for example with the Asylum Matters team, to support the development of Asylum Matters' campaigning plans or to review documents and respond to emails. These additional meetings are not likely to take place more than twice a year. Most meetings will be held in London though there is scope to host these in various locations around the UK, depending on the geographical representation on the Advisory Group.
- Remuneration:** This is a voluntary role though we will cover travel and subsistence expenses to enable Advisory Group members to attend meetings.
- Term:** New members of the Advisory Group will serve until the end of 2019, when membership of the group will be reviewed to ensure it reflects the skills and expertise needed to drive forward the project.
- Getting in Touch:** Please send a short letter briefly outlining why you would like to join Asylum Matters' Advisory Group and how you feel you can contribute to the successful development of the project to andrea@asylummatters.org by Friday 23 March.

The Asylum Matters Project

Asylum Matters works in partnership locally and nationally to improve the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum through social and political change. By mobilising and coordinating local, regional and national advocacy work, we aim to increase the impact of campaigns to secure improvements to asylum policy and practice.

Asylum Matters was started in 2017 but incorporated and built on the successful work of the Still Human Still Here coalition and the Regional Asylum Activism (RAA) Project. Still Human was a coalition of more than 80 organisations campaigning to end the destitution of refused asylum-seekers in the UK by facilitating joint advocacy initiatives and working directly with decision-makers. RAA was established to support

asylum matters

local organisations and networks in their regions to campaign effectively and inform and change attitudes about asylum-seekers and refugees.

The merger of RAA with Still Human under Asylum Matters provides new opportunities to reinforce the links between local and national campaigning and increase collective impact. Our mandate is to drive forward and secure the eight goals identified at the [Sanctuary Summit](#) in November 2014 and backed by more than 320 organisations.

Asylum Matters staff currently includes five Campaigns Project Managers and a Research Officer based in the North West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber, North East and Wales, and the Project Director based in London. Asylum Matters is a project, not an organisation, and is therefore hosted by City of Sanctuary, which is responsible for the administration of the project, though Asylum Matters is independent in setting its objectives and remit.

The Advisory Group

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to help inform the strategic direction of the project and its advocacy and campaigning work. The Advisory Group will provide support and guidance to the Project Director in terms of:

- ensuring the strategic plan is responsive to the changing context and needs;
- identifying relevant opportunities and developments, as well as any risks or concerns;
- helping to facilitate links with relevant partners, funders or other stakeholders who could support the project;
- reviewing the project's progress in relation to its plans and objectives;
- ensuring effective operations, budget-management and human resources issues;
- and addressing any issues that may arise with the project.

Existing members of the Advisory Group bring a range of skills and experiences including leading national advocacy campaigns, working in Parliament, co-ordinating UK-wide activities to welcome people seeking sanctuary and funding movements for progressive social change.

We are looking for new members who are passionate about refugee and asylum issues and believe that positive change to the current asylum system is possible through effective advocacy and campaigning. To complement the backgrounds of existing members, we are interested in hearing from people with experience of:

- claiming asylum in the UK;
- campaigning and advocacy on asylum and refugee issues, particularly to influence change at a local or regional level;
- working with a local or regional organisation that supports people going through the asylum system.

We are particularly interested in hearing from people who are based in areas where Asylum Matters operates, including in the North West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber, North East and Wales.