***\*box to be deleted before sending submission\****

*This form has been developed by Asylum Matters and Refugee Action to assist organisations who would like to respond to the Home Office’s 2018 review of support rates. We have suggested issues that you may want to touch upon, but feel free to remove any of these which you feel are not relevant to your organisation, or to add any additional points you may have. Please do include information from your organisation’s experience, including specific case studies where possible. Please also feel free to remove the suggested recommendations, should you feel that these do not reflect your organisation’s views.*

*Please note that this review is of both Section 95 and Section 4 as the Home Office is proposing to harmonise the two levels.*

*If you decide to contribute to the review, please ensure that you send your response by close of business on* ***31 August 2018****, to* Garey.Lennox2@HomeOffice.gsi.gov.uk *or to Asylum Support Policy Team, 7th Floor, Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 3RR.*

*We’d also appreciate hearing from you if you’ve made use of this template - please email* *emma@asylummatters.org* *and* *HannahC@refugee-action.org.uk* *to let us know.*

*Many thanks!*

Organisation’s name

Date

**Submission on the 2018 review of asylum support rates**

*Enter a description of your organisation here.*

This submission for the 2018 review of asylum support rates sets out the inadequacies of current asylum support rates, using evidence from the vulnerable people that *[your organisation’s name]* works with every day.

Our overall recommendations for the review of asylum support rates are:

* Asylum support rates should be raised to more realistically reflect the needs of asylum seekers and at a minimum set rates at 70% of income support rates;
* The August 2015 support rate changes should be reversed so that the specific needs of children and families can be better met;
* Whilst communication and travel are included within the review of support rates, we recommend that they are considered as an essential need and are raised accordingly;

**Insufficient funds for Essential Living Needs**

**Food and non-alcoholic drinks**

*Please use this box to talk about any problems that people in receipt of asylum support have fulfilling their dietary requirements*

*Use a specific case study example/examples where possible. We have suggested some questions below to guide you but you don’t need to answer them all.*

*Do they face challenges in bulk buying food as expected by the HO: i.e. can weekly food supplies be carried home in one trip, is there room to store food supplies in shared houses, space in freezers, etc?*

*Please indicate an approximate proportion of your service users who use food banks, and how frequent this is.*

*Do they sacrifice other items to ensure they can purchase adequate food?*

*What is the impact on individuals’ physical health as a result of subsisting on low levels of support for lengthy periods? Do you have any examples where poor nutrition has led to a deterioration in health?*

**Clothes**

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| --- |
| *Please use this box to talk about any problems that people in receipt of asylum support have in buying adequate clothing, such as:**Do they face challenges in ensuring seasonally appropriate clothing?**How do individuals put aside money to be able to buy more expensive items like coats or shoes?**Please indicate how many of your service users access clothing banks or charities for clothes.**Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.* |

**Travel**

|  |
| --- |
| *Please use this box to talk about any problems that people in receipt of asylum support have in accessing public transport such as:**Are the individuals you support accommodated in more urban or rural areas and how close are the shops, services and facilities that they need to access? Can you give examples, including approximate distances for example to GPs, places of worship, supermarkets?**In which other circumstances do people need to use public transport and how do they find the income to fund this?* *Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.* |

**Communications**

|  |
| --- |
| *Please use this box to talk about any problems that people in receipt of asylum support have in accessing the means of communication, such as:**Are individuals able to buy calling credit? Do individuals sacrifice other items to be able to afford this?**How does limited access to communication methods impact on individuals’ ability to pursue their asylum claims (ie no access to wifi, limited calling credit, no provision for costs such as faxing, photocopying, scanning or translating)?**Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.* |

**Toiletries and household cleaning items and non-prescription medicines**

|  |
| --- |
| *Please use this box to talk about any problems that people in receipt of asylum support have in buying these items.**Do individuals ‘shop around’ to find where these items are the least expensive?**Are there additional cleaning items which should have been made available by accommodation providers that individuals need to purchase?**Is there a minor ailments scheme in your area?**Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.* |

**Additional needs**

*Please explain in this box the things that asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support struggle to buy, with the exception of the items already listed above.*

*Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.*

**Time spent in receipt of support**

*Use this box to explain if/how the length of time that a person seeking asylum has been in receipt of support impacts on their health and well-being and child development.*

*Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.*

**Children and families**

*Please use this section to talk about problems specifically faced by families on asylum support, such as:*

*What is the impact on families in receipt of Section 4 not being entitled to free school meals?*

*Is there an impact in the school holidays when school dinners are not provided to children who are on Section 95?*

*Do parents struggle to buy school uniforms? Does your local authority have a School Uniform grants scheme?*

*Are there schools in your area which has specific uniform codes, where generic uniforms are not allowed?*

*Do parents struggle to fulfil their children’s educational and recreational needs? e.g buying appropriate items for school, toys and paying for social activities. How does this impact on child development?*

*Can parents/mothers afford to buy nappies, baby toiletries and milk formula (if required)?*

*Are there challenges in buying clothes for babies and children?*

*Are sacrifices made to enable parents to buy any of the above?*

*Are pregnant women able to fulfil their specific dietary needs?*

*Use a specific case study example/examples where possible.*