

The South West Legal Support Trust's grant work helps thousands of people like those listed here, and many others in Bristol and the South West.

For more information see our website: www.swlst.org.uk

Your support and sponsorship is vital.

THE
ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

Supported by



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The South West Legal Support Trust
Charity No. 1141830
Company No. 07539121
Registered office:
6 Arthur Road,
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BRISTOL
LEGAL
WALK

Thursday 14 May 2020
At: 6.00pm
From: Bristol County Court,
2 Redcliff St BS1 6GR

Why are we walking?

A 10km after-work sponsored walk to raise funds for free legal advice charities in Bristol and around the South West.

Please join us in celebrating their work and helping the vulnerable people they support.

Get a team together and join others from the judiciary, law firms, chambers, government departments, in-house legal teams, their friends, family and even a few dogs!

Register at: www.swlst.org.uk

Who do we help?



Adults and children who have been trafficked to the UK to become domestic or sex slaves



People who suffer disability or illness and their carers



Men and women who are working for less than minimum wage



Elderly people who need support to stay living independently



Families living in terrible housing conditions



People who have been unfairly dismissed or who are discriminated against at work

For the poorest and the most vulnerable people in our community, access to justice is out of reach.

Free legal advice makes a huge difference to their lives.

The recession has increased poverty and reduced support services. Meanwhile, funding for advice services has reduced; particularly since the 2013 removal of much of legal aid for humanitarian or social welfare legal advice.

So charity and philanthropy have increased in importance for supporting those in need.

Case study

Sarah, 32, is a single mum with a disabled 8 year old son who has a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. She applied for PIP but was rejected.

“I felt I’d come to the end of the road. But then we were lucky to find out about North Bristol Advice Centre. It was very quick in the court. We were there 15 minutes and got the maximum award from zero. I really feel sorry for people who haven’t got access to support. I don’t think I would have got any money if we hadn’t had the advice.”

Case study

Fatima* was a trafficked woman who had claimed asylum but after a year she had not received a Conclusive Grounds Decision. Fatima was in high support accommodation for extremely traumatised women, with strict curfew rules, which was now hindering her recovery and which she felt mirrored the conditions under which she lived when enslaved. She wanted to move to have asylum support accommodation and to not be labelled as ‘trafficked’. Bristol Refugee Rights assisted her to apply for asylum support, advising her that this would be refused as she was not homeless, but they would then appeal. As a result of their support and her own statement, she was awarded support by the Tribunal.

**Not actual name used.*

In the last year Bristol Refugee Rights have seen an increase in the number of vulnerable young people – particularly Afghans – who tell us they arrived several years ago as Unaccompanied Minors, but who have no paperwork, no English skills, no clear knowledge of where they’ve been living, and whose asylum claims have often been refused as their whereabouts was unknown. Proving destitution and therefore entitlement to support is difficult in these circumstances, and we are concerned about whether this group of young people have been living in exploitative conditions.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure any future grants for this project to date and it is possible that the unique service in Bristol and the surrounding area will have to close in the near future. Partner organisations in Bristol are concerned about this as they do not have capacity to pick up the work that BRR does in the advice team.