

# Education & Employment

Information for people (adults) from abroad who have experienced human trafficking and/or exploitation, on your rights and support in Scotland.



## Have you experienced human trafficking or exploitation?

Being trafficked or exploited can have a long-term impact on you and affect many parts of your life. You may also find it difficult to adjust to living in a new country or place. But you are not alone. There is help for you to start recovering from your experiences and help you settle into your new life.

**JustRight Scotland can give you advice and information on any of the issues discussed in this factsheet connected to your trafficking and/or exploitation.**

You can find us at:

[bit.ly/JustRightScotland](https://bit.ly/JustRightScotland)

## EDUCATION

Access to education courses and funding for education in Scotland will depend on the type of permission you have to stay in the UK. Courses can range from improving your English skills, to learning a trade, studying towards a career, and going to university. You may also be eligible for financial support as a student. Speak to Student Services at the education institution (e.g. college, university) you want to go to about what courses you can take and what funding you can get while you are studying.

You can find a list of colleges in Scotland at:

- ▶ **Colleges Scotland**  
[www.collegesscotland.ac.uk](http://www.collegesscotland.ac.uk)

and a list of universities in Scotland at:

- ▶ **Universities Scotland**  
[www.universities-scotland.ac.uk](http://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk)

You may need extra support and help to get the best out of your education. Contact Student Services at the education institution you want to go to/are going to, to discuss what help and support is available to you.

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is where you spend time doing unpaid work to help the community. Usually, people volunteer with charities. Volunteering can help you develop the skills and experience needed to get a job. It can also help you build your confidence and help you learn important life skills.

You can find out about volunteering opportunities at:

- ▶ **Volunteer Scotland**  
[www.volunteerscotland.net](http://www.volunteerscotland.net)

## EMPLOYMENT

If you are looking for work and need help to improve your skills and/or with your CV, you can get advice and assistance from:

- ▶ **Skills Development Scotland:**  
0800 917 8000  
[www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk)
- ▶ **My World of Work:**  
[www.myworldofwork.co.uk/employed](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/employed)

You may also be able to access Fair Start Scotland – an Employability Service which helps people living in Scotland to find work. You can ask to be referred to Fair Start Scotland by your Jobcentre or you can contact them directly. You can find your local Fair Start Scotland provider at:

- ▶ **Fair Start Scotland:**  
0800 804 8104  
[www.mygov.scot/help-find-job](http://www.mygov.scot/help-find-job)

Your local authority/council may also be able to tell you what Employability Services are in your area. You can check their website for more information or visit:

- ▶ [www.employabilityinscotland.com](http://www.employabilityinscotland.com)

If you are looking for work, you can find jobs advertised at:

- ▶ **Jobcentre Plus:**  
[www.gov.uk/find-a-job](http://www.gov.uk/find-a-job)
- ▶ **My Job Scotland:**  
[www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk)

There are also employment agencies in your area and online where you can find what jobs are available. If you are a Refugee, you can also get advice on employability from:

- ▶ **Scottish Refugee Council:**  
0141 223 7979  
[www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)
- ▶ **Bridges Programme (Glasgow):**  
0141 558 9749  
[www.bridgesprogrammes.org.uk](http://www.bridgesprogrammes.org.uk)

If you are working you have rights as an employee. If you are having problems at work or how your employer is treating you, you can get free information and advice from:

- ▶ **your local Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS)**  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland)
- ▶ **My World of Work:**  
[www.myworldofwork.co.uk/employed](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/employed)
- ▶ **Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) (for employment rights):**  
<https://www.acas.org.uk/>
- ▶ **Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)**  
(if you are a trade union member): <http://www.stuc.org.uk/>

## ASYLUM SEEKERS

### Volunteering

If you are an asylum seeker, you are allowed to volunteer by helping a registered voluntary or charitable organisation, an organisation that raises funds for either of these types of organisations, or a public sector organisation.

It is important to make sure that the volunteering role does not amount to unpaid work, or job substitution. In particular:

- ▶ you cannot receive any payment, other than reasonable travel and meals costs actually incurred (not an allowance for the same).
- ▶ there should be no contractual obligations on you, and you should not have any contractual entitlement to any work or benefits.
- ▶ you are not volunteering in a role that would normally be done by a paid employee.

### Employment

If you are an asylum seeker, you will not have permission to work. There are very limited situations where you may be able to apply for permission to work. Speak to your solicitor about whether you are eligible to apply.

More information on the right to work can be found here:

- ▶ [www.justrightscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Factsheet-Information-for-Asylum-Seekers-with-Permission-to-Work.pdf](http://www.justrightscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Factsheet-Information-for-Asylum-Seekers-with-Permission-to-Work.pdf)

### Education

If you are an Asylum Seeker, access to education will be limited. Speak to your local college about what courses you can access. For advice and information, you can also contact:

- ▶ **Scottish Refugee Council:**  
0141 223 7979  
[www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)
- ▶ **British Red Cross:**  
0141 331 41709  
[www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refuge](http://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refuge)

Last updated 28 October 2022



**Foundation  
Scotland**



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Funded by Foundation Scotland from the Response Fund

For more information about JustRight Scotland and for information for people from abroad who have experienced human trafficking and/or exploitation, on your rights and support in Scotland visit:  
[www.justrightscotland.org.uk](http://www.justrightscotland.org.uk)

