Mei's life is changed: *"As a refugee in Scotland, I now have a new life free from violence and fear"*

Mei was forced into prostitution when she arrived in Scotland. She was able to make a claim for asylum and find safety and a new home here. Her application was supported by Article 3 and Article 4 of the Human Rights Act.

Mei* was 35 years old when she borrowed money from loansharks to pay her abusive husband's gambling and drug debts. When she could no longer pay the loansharks back, she was sent from China to the UK to work to pay off these debts.

When she arrived, she believed she was going to work in a restaurant, but soon she realised this was not the case. She was met by two men who assaulted her and forced her into prostitution. Mei was moved around England repeatedly, and her traffickers threatened and assaulted her to make sure they could control her. Mei was encountered by police, but she was too scared that her traffickers would hurt her, so she didn't tell the police what was happening to her.
She was sent to an immigration detention centre in England, where she claimed asylum because she was so scared if she was sent back to China she would be re-trafficked or killed by the loansharks.

She tried to explain what happened to her, but she wasn't believed and her asylum claim was refused. Mei was about to be returned to China when her lawyers raised a challenge against her return in court and managed to get her released from detention. Soon after she was released, Mei was found by her traffickers and forced into prostitution again. This time she was sent to Scotland. She was found by police in a raid. She received help and was able to get a lawyer.

She met with JustRight Scotland's legal team. A new claim for asylum was made on the grounds of her human rights, including Article 3 which prohibits torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, and Article 4 which prohibits slavery and forced labour. While waiting for a decision on her claim for asylum, Mei bravely gave evidence in a court case against her traffickers. They were all found guilty.

Mei is now a recognised refugee, and she is now starting a new life in Scotland.

The Human Rights Act ensures that we access justice for #AllOurRights when people are not treated fairly. Read more about Article 3 here and Article 4 here. Share your story or read other stories in the "Our Stories, Our Rights" campaign here.

*To protect the confidentiality of the people involved, identifying information has been changed.