

Women's Asylum News

e-bulletin for the Women's Project at Asylum Aid

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Women's Asylum News. In this issue you will find:

- "I felt like I was on my own in there and everyone was against me", Debora Singer discusses the experiences of women in asylum appeals, and how we can make the system fair for women
- Asylum Aid publishes its key report on women's asylum appeals
- Dr. Nora Honkala discusses her research on Forced Marriage claims by women seeking asylum at the Upper Tribunal
- Protection Gap Advocates' offer help for women seeking asylum, now in multiple languages.

'I felt like I was on my own in there and everyone was against me'

This is how a woman seeking asylum in the UK describes her asylum appeal.

In her [latest blog](#), Debora Singer MBE, Senior Policy Advisor at Asylum Aid, provides new insight on what is happening to women in the asylum appeals system. Following a three year study of women's experiences, Debora explains some findings which you might find rather surprising.



Asylum Aid report finds that a fair system for women fleeing sexual violence is within reach

Asylum Aid and NatCen have launched [their new report](#), which shines a light on what's

happening to Women in the UK who have suffered gender based violence and had their initial claim for protection refused.

The study found that, according to judges, lawyers and the appellants themselves, the asylum appeals system exhibits examples of good practice already in place, although the application of this is not consistent. The report argues for greater sharing of judges' best practice and the introduction of practical measures such as providing childcare and pre-tribunal visits for women to familiarise themselves with the court.

Get the [full report here](#) as well as a video discussing the findings.

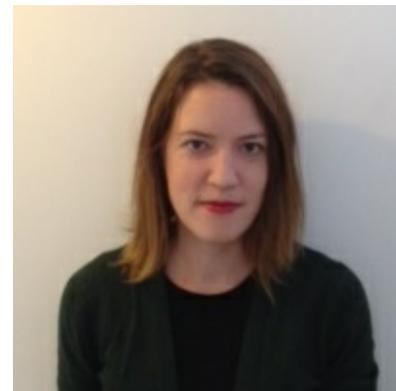


Forced Marriage Claims by Women Seeking Asylum at the Upper Tribunal

Nora Honkala is a Lecturer in Law at City, University of London.

In her guest blog, Nora discusses the experiences of women who have been forced to seek protection in the UK whose case involves forced marriage and how they are treated in the asylum appeals system.

Nora explains why we need a more gender-sensitive approach to protection, and discusses options for building a system which would be more effective in protecting women facing forced marriage and other forms of gender based violence.



[Read the full blog here.](#)

Information is power: help for women seeking asylum now in multiple languages

Women who seek asylum have rights - they can ask for a female interviewer and female interpreter. They can ask for childcare in advance of their interview too.

'From Us to You' is a short video made by our Protection Gap Advocates, a group of women who have sought asylum, to inform women of what they need to know before their interview. The video is now available in multiple languages. [Watch it here and tell others!](#)



Free courses and workshops

Asylum Aid is part of Migrants Resource Centre. We continue to provide legal advice and representation on immigration and asylum. We also run a variety of free courses and workshops to help migrants and their families. Find out how we can help:

- Free English classes for all levels
- Free computer and IT classes for all ages and abilities
- Free career, employment and health advice in many languages

www.migrantsresourcecentre.org.uk



Help us to support women seeking protection from persecution in the UK. Your donation means we can provide a woman with a specialist lawyer who can understand her experience.

