



# Greater Manchester **IMMIGRATION AID UNIT**

## **About Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit and the post of Young People's Support Worker.**

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) exists to advise, support, represent, and campaign with people who are affected by immigration control. We provide expert legal advice on all issues of immigration, asylum, nationality, and human rights.

We are looking to recruit a full-time (35 hours per week) Young People's Support Worker (YPSW). This post sits alongside a team of experienced legal caseworkers who represent children and young people in their claims for protection in the UK.

The YPSW will advocate for and with children and young people who are claiming asylum or who have been trafficked to the UK. This is a crucial post that requires someone with exceptional communications skills who can build trusting relationships with young people and who has the confidence and knowledge needed to assist children and young people throughout the asylum process.

The YPSW will also engage with professionals and services across the region to ensure that we are maximising all opportunities for support for children and young people who are at risk and to look for ways to work together more effectively.

The work includes running a regular group for young people with the possibility of setting up new groups as and when the need is identified or requested.

There is an expectation that the YPSW will contribute towards raising the profile of separated children and young people and be a passionate advocate of the needs and hopes of children and young people who are in the UK on their own.

GMIAU is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. All our services are free.

### **Our Objectives are:**

To provide free, confidential, independent information, advice, support, representation, and advocacy services to communities most affected by immigration controls;

To assist people who are on a low income (or none) trying to obtain entry/leave to remain in the UK for themselves and/or for family members;

To liaise and develop links with other agencies dealing with immigration, asylum and nationality issues. This includes asylum, domestic violence, trafficking, forced labour, and FGM;

To promote access to justice for those subject to immigration control;

To provide support to individual and national campaigns;

To provide training on asylum, immigration and nationality issues.

### **Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit**

1 Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 4QS

Tel 0161 740 7722 | Fax 0161 740 5172 | Email [info@gmiau.org](mailto:info@gmiau.org) | [www.gmiau.org](http://www.gmiau.org)

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Registered Charity No. 1123908 | List of directors open to inspection at above office.



## Staff at GMIAU

There are currently 30 staff including a team of experienced immigration legal advisors. We have a social worker who supervises student social workers on placement. We run the service ASHA to assist people who are homeless and destitute. We have a refugee family reunion project to reunite families who have been separated. We also have a number of projects to support people who are newly arrived and seeking asylum, and refugees. We have approximately 20 volunteers at any one time and we are governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees.

## Services

### Legal Immigration Casework:

We carry out Casework and Representation including judicial review and appeals in the Higher Courts. We have offices in Manchester and one in Liverpool.

### Outreach sessions:

We run advice sessions in the community to meet the needs of particular groups of people, including WAST (Women Asylum Seekers Together), Safety 4 Sisters, and George House Trust (people with HIV). We also run workshops for people who are destitute and their supporters, and we advise people in prison and detention.

### Refugee Family Reunion:

Since the cuts to legal aid in 2013 we have set up an innovative service which aims to make sure that refugees can bring their immediate family to the UK under the family reunion immigration rules. Each year this service reunites families who have been separated by persecution, war and conflict.

### Children and Young People:

We provide advice and support to children and young people who are seeking protection in the UK and who are without parents or family members. We run a monthly 'All 4 One' group.

### Families with No Recourse to Public Funds:

We work with families and local authorities to provide immigration advice and representation to resolve outstanding immigration matters that are preventing the family from becoming independent through the right to work or access benefits to which they are entitled.

### ASHA:

We provide asylum support and housing advice to people who are destitute or at risk of destitution.

### Training and Speakers

We also provide training and speak at public events to raise the issues that most affect the people we work with.

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## **Job description**

**Post:** YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORT WORKER

**Accountable to:** DIRECTOR

**Salary:** £24,964.

**Hours:** 35 per week.  
This post will require some evening and weekend working (Saturdays).

## **Purpose of the post**

The main purpose of this post is to act as an independent source of support for unaccompanied or separated asylum seeking children and young people. The children and young people can range in age from 14 – 21. This post sits alongside a team of solicitors and legal caseworkers who represent children and young people in their claims for protection in the UK.

## **Main responsibilities**

The main responsibilities of the post are to:

1. Provide one-to-one support and advocacy to young people who have claimed asylum and/or have been trafficked to the UK. This includes, but is not limited to, advocating for their rights and entitlements to ensure access to safety, education, healthcare, social activities and additional support where necessary.
2. The post holder will also support children and young people who have 'leave to remain' – as refugees or through other circumstances – and who need support to settle, to access education and employment, and become independent.
3. Plan and deliver a varied and engaging programme of bi-weekly group activities.
4. Develop professional links and work effectively with Children's Services, schools, and other statutory and voluntary services to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people.
5. Promote the service and provide occasional training and awareness raising workshops to external services/professionals.
6. To contribute to the development of inter-agency best practice and understanding of the needs and experiences of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people.
7. Manage referrals and maintain accurate records of all one-to-one and group work activity.
8. The post holder may be required to act as an appropriate adult at age assessment and immigration interviews.

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9. Work within GMIAU's child protection and safeguarding policies.

### **The experience and skills we're looking for**

To be successful in this post, the applicant will:

1. Have knowledge of the UK asylum system and an understanding of the Modern Slavery Act.
2. Have knowledge of the UK care system, including Leaving Care, and the processes and assessments that unaccompanied asylum seeking children go through.
3. Have an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each agency involved with unaccompanied asylum seeking children and the rights, entitlements and experiences of children in the asylum system.
4. Have experience of working one to one with vulnerable children and young people. This could include work with children from abroad and children whose first language is not English.
5. Have excellent communications skills and be able to establish trusting, confident, professional relationships with children and young people.
6. Be self-motivated, someone who can work on their own and as part of a team, and who is willing to be supervised and accountable for their work.

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## Person Specification

### POST: Young People's Support Worker

1	EXPERIENCE	Criteria	Assessment
1.1	Experience of working with young refugees / people subject to immigration control.	<b>It is essential to have ONE of the qualities in this section</b>	Application and interview
1.2	Experience of organising activities for young people.		
1.3	Experience of working with young people and providing support to young people who are 'at risk'.		
2	KNOWLEDGE		
2.1	Knowledge of the UK asylum system and an understanding of the Modern Slavery Act.	Essential	Application and Interview.
2.2	Knowledge of the UK care system, including Leaving Care.	Preferable	Application and interview.
2.3	Knowledge of the rights, entitlements and experiences of children in the asylum system.	Essential	Application and interview.
3	SKILLS AND ABILITIES		
3.1	Proven skills in establishing trusting and professional relationships with young people.	Essential	Application and interview
3.2	Advocacy skills and the ability to help young people to communicate their wishes and needs.	Essential	Application and interview.
3.3	Good understanding of the Children Act 1989 and its application to children and young people.	Essential	Application and interview.
3.4	Excellent written and verbal communication skills.	Essential	Application and interview
3.5	Self-motivated and willing to be work under supervision.	Essential	Application and interview
3.6	Ability to work well as part of a team.	Essential.	Application.
3.7	Ability to maintain accurate and up to date records.	Essential.	Application.
4	GENERAL		
4.1	Commitment to working with young refugees and those subject to immigration controls	Essential	Application and interview
4.2	Demonstrate an understanding of equality and anti-discriminatory principles and be willing to follow GMIAU's equality and diversity policy in all situations.	Essential	Application and interview
4.3	Willingness to work in line with GMIAU's confidentiality policy	Essential	Interview
4.4	Willingness to operate procedures as set down in the GMIAU Office manual	Essential	Interview
4.5	This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS.	Essential.	Application.

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