

Refugee Family Reunion – Rosie’s Story

Rosie is a mum with two daughters and a son. She has been separated from them for three years.

‘I claimed asylum on the day I arrived in the UK. My claim was refused, I appealed the decision and was finally granted asylum. It was only when I was granted refugee status that I was told I could apply for my children to come and join me in the UK. At first I got in touch with a private solicitor. Six months later I realised the work was not finished and the applications were not ready. It took me several months to find out about Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit. When I got in touch with them I had to wait before someone was able to take on my case. It was very hard for me, I could not do the application on my own. I felt lonely and depressed. I miss my children and I am missing out on their childhood. They should be with me and I should be looking after them, I want my children to be allowed to join me so we can be a family once again. I do not think they are safe. My friends who live close by tell me that my children are not very clean and wander out on their own.’

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) helped Rosie apply for her children to join her in the UK. Despite having mentioned them in her asylum interview, and providing birth certificates and photographs, the application was refused. The Entry Clearance Officer said

‘I have carefully studied your application and accompanying documents but there is no satisfactory evidence of the relationship you specify.’

Rosie is now appealing the decision with DNA evidence to show that she is the mother of her children. In the meantime they remain separated.

For more information on GMIAU’s refugee family reunion policy work contact amanda@gmiau.org