



# Greater Manchester IMMIGRATION AID UNIT

## **About Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit and the post of Immigration Solicitor/IAA Level 2/3 and IAAS Senior Caseworker.**

GMIAU is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to provide immigration legal advice, representation, and support, to people in the north west, and to campaign for improvements in the treatment of people in the immigration and asylum system.

We are looking to recruit a qualified solicitor or IAA level 2/3 advisor who is also an IAAS Senior Caseworker to strengthen our legal team, based in Manchester, to ensure people in the North West have access to high-quality immigration legal advice and representation. We hold legal aid contracts in immigration and public law.

GMIAU's vision is that everyone facing immigration challenges has access to justice. We know that getting a free, specialist, qualified legal advisor is extremely difficult. It is estimated that less than 50% of people claiming asylum will get a legal aid lawyer to represent them in their claim for protection. The north west is one of the largest asylum dispersal areas in the country but has the largest legal aid deficit in England and Wales, despite having the third-highest provision. <https://justice-together.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/No-Access-to-Justice-Report-2025.pdf>

### **Our Values**

- We are not silent when we see injustice.
- We make sure we have the knowledge and expertise we need to succeed.
- We value and maximise the talents and humanity of immigrant communities.
- We will always treat people with dignity and respect.
- We campaign for improvements in immigration law and policy.
- We take on difficult cases and we don't give up easily.

### **Our Strategic Objectives**

1. To provide high quality immigration legal advice and representation to those most in need.
2. To develop additional services where required to respond to the needs of the people we work with
3. To work with others in strategic and operational partnerships to ensure we have greater impact
4. To be a credible voice influencing local and national strategies and policies
5. To be an effective, efficient, resilient, sustainable, well-resourced organisation.

GMIAU is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. We are passionate about the work that we do and we are committed to providing the best possible service to people in need. We represent adults and children in immigration, asylum, nationality, and human rights. All our services are free.

### **Staff at GMIAU**

There are currently 40 members of staff at GMIAU.

1. The legal team is comprised of a Senior Solicitor, Supervising Solicitors, Supervising Senior Caseworkers, Solicitors, IAAS Advanced and Senior caseworkers, IAA level 2 caseworkers, and legal trainees.
2. We have a destitution team who help people secure accommodation and support
3. We have a policy team who lead on our influencing work, campaigns, and communications.



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4. We also have a small team of administration and finance assistants.

We run a number of projects to support people who are homeless and destitute, people fleeing domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds, and children and young people. We take social work students on placement, and we have approximately 20 volunteers at any one time. We are governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees.

## **Services**

### **Legal Casework:**

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

We have a Public Law solicitor and hold Legal Aid Agency contracts in immigration and asylum and public law.

### **Information and Advice:**

We provide immigration advice to people who contact us through our website. If we can't take on a case we will provide advice and guidance to help someone work out what they can do next. We have a range of written materials on our website to update people on new legislation and its potential impact, as well as on subjects such as detention, fresh claims for asylum, and children and young people's rights

### **Homeless and Destitution Support Services**

Including asylum support appeals, helping people secure accommodation and support.

### **Community Outreach sessions:**

We run advice sessions in the community to meet the needs of particular groups of people.

### **Training:**

We provide training to voluntary and statutory agencies across the region.

You can find further details about the work we do on our website [www.gmiau.org](http://www.gmiau.org)

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