



# Why Are We Waiting?

At Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU), we understand how difficult it is for you to have to wait for lots of things right now. Unfortunately some waiting cannot be avoided.

This a guide to help you understand **why** you are waiting for these things.

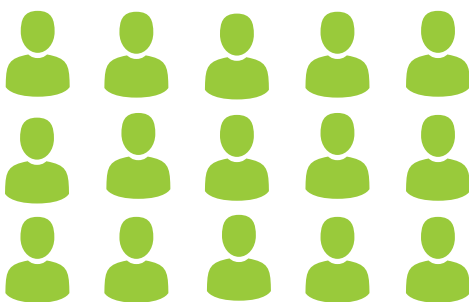
We have a phrase here – ‘good things come to those who wait’. So we hope that good things will come to you!

## Waiting for a caseworker / solicitor / lawyer:

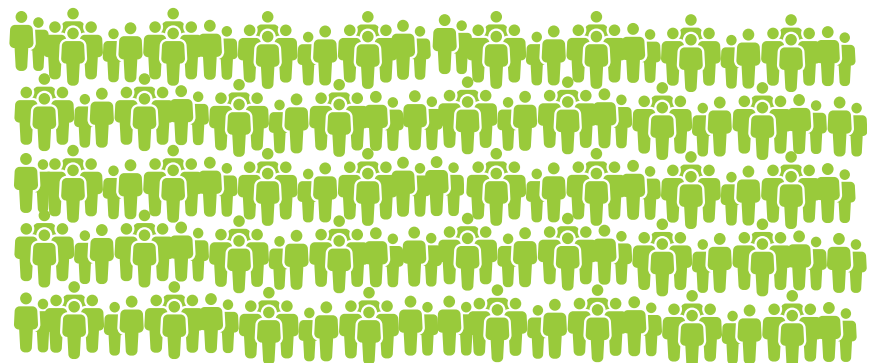
We want to help as many of you as we can. There are lots of people who need our help. As well as helping young people who are seeking asylum, we help even more people with other immigration needs.

At GMIAU, we only have 15 caseworkers who work on young asylum seekers’ cases. There are hundreds of children and young people like you who are claiming asylum and need our help.

### Caseworkers:



### Young people seeking asylum:



Some children claiming asylum are close to reaching the age of 18. It is important for us to open their cases first, even if they have not been waiting very long. This is because, after turning 18, your legal rights change. For example, 18 year olds are not automatically entitled to a caseworker with them at their asylum interview.

# Waiting for a decision

Waiting for a decision is normal. The Home Office can take a long time deciding cases. Everybody has to wait for their decision. Once everything in your case has been submitted, we need to give the Home Office a reasonable time to make that decision before we can chase them.

In general, your caseworker should allow the Home Office around 3 months to make a decision or invite you for an interview. Your caseworker will be chasing the Home Office at regular intervals, and if they take too long, there are different ways to prompt the decision. Your caseworker will be doing all they can to ensure you receive your decision as soon as possible – you are in safe hands!

## Ideas for whilst you are waiting:

- Attend groups for young asylum seekers like GMIAU's All4One group.
- Focus on your studies: learning English can help your understanding and integration.
- Hobbies such as football, cycling, sports.
- Learn about the asylum process.
- Speak to friends.
- Speak to trusted adults.
- If you can, it can help to write down what happened to you (in your home country and on your journey) whilst this is fresh in your memory. You can write this in your own language.



*If you want to contact GMIAU with any questions, your social worker or personal adviser should help with this. You can also email us at [info@gmiau.org](mailto:info@gmiau.org).*

