



Leeds Refugee Forum

Advocacy for Migrant
Communities in Leeds



Leeds Refugee Forum

Migrant Experiences in Leeds

Leeds Refugee Forum is a refugee-led organisation that supports Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Leeds.



Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds



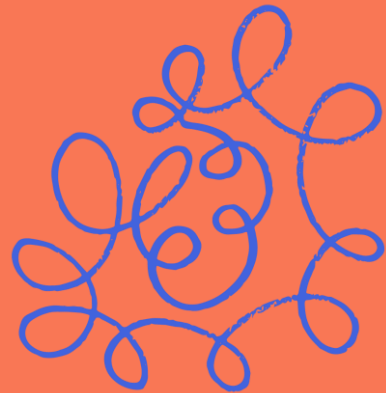


Leeds Refugee Forum

Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds

Advocacy Service

- Supports clients to access services and engage with organisations.
- Operates at a time when our ESOL and wellbeing classes also run so that people who are accessing these groups can speak to us.
- Trained advocacy staff and volunteers can help clients overcome both language and cultural barriers to accessing services.
- Strong links with both our Refugee Community Organisations and other organisations supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Leeds.





Leeds Refugee Forum

Advocacy Support Fund from Advonet

Active recruitment of staff and volunteers, targeting those with languages spoken by clients.

Funded 3 part-time members of staff. 6 volunteers include Tigrinya, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani and Farsi.

Developed skills and confidence of staff and volunteers.

Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds



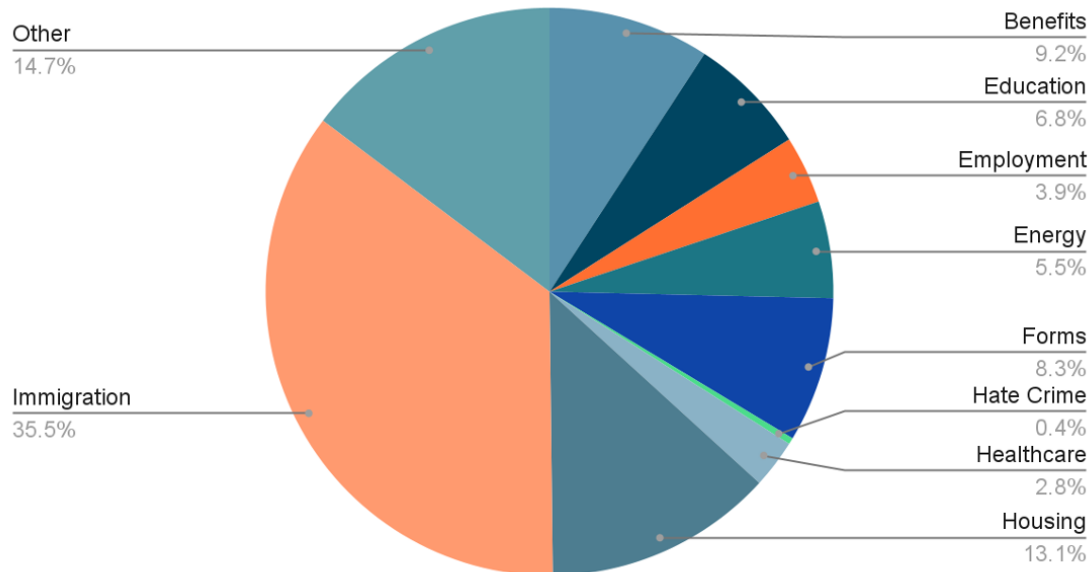


Leeds Refugee Forum

Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds

544
appointments
in 2024 (370
in 2023)

Advocacy appointments by category



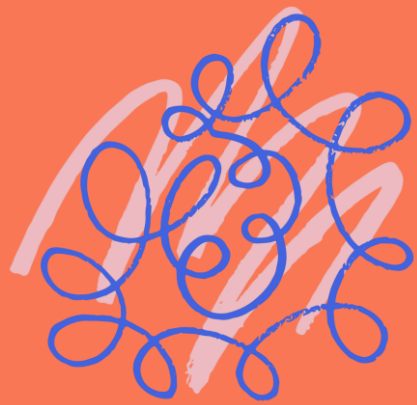


Leeds Refugee Forum

Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds

Challenges

- . Retention of volunteers, especially those with community languages
- . Maintaining up to date information
- . Keeping up to date on changing government policies and processes in relation to migrants.
- . Ongoing effects of the 'hostile environment'





Leeds Refugee Forum



Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds

Meki's story

Meki came to us as a client in 2023 when he needed support understanding a letter.

Meki says of LRF “This is like my second home!” He really appreciated the help and support, so much so that he now volunteers with us to support others from his community.

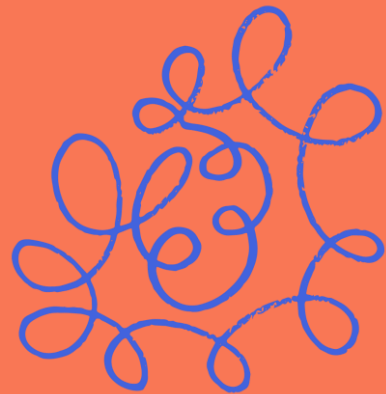


Leeds Refugee Forum

Advocacy for
Migrant
Communities in
Leeds

What next

- . Developing Self-advocacy at LRF
- . Leeds Volunteer Interpreting Service
- . Kompasi project
- . Refugee Week Events - Theme: Community as a Superpower





Leeds Refugee Forum

Thank you!

One Community Centre, Lincoln Green
ali.mahgoub@leedsrefugeeforum.org.uk