



# Stories of Hope



## Finding Asylum



These stories are from people in the asylum process.

We are sharing them so you know there is hope.


So you know you can make it.

And so you know you are welcome here.


THE  
**Poverty Truth**  
Community








I UNDERSTAND THERE IS FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.  
I WAS HIDING FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS.



BUT IF YOU DON'T SEEK  
YOU CAN'T FIND.


NO APPLICATION.  
NO TALKING TO ANYBODY.  
NO SPEAKING TO ANYBODY.

I SAW A LIGHT IN SCOTLAND, I SAW HELP, I FOUND HOPE.




YES, THERE ARE BARRIERS, BUT SOMEHOW SOMEHOW  
WE GET THROUGH IT.

AND IF YOU DON'T ASK,  
YOU WILL NOT KNOW.



ONE WAY OR THE OTHER,  
THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BETTER  
IF WE HELP OURSELVES.



THE ONLY TIME NOTHING HAPPENS FOR YOU IS WHEN YOU ARE DEAD.  
SO THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE.

AS A CHILD IN AFRICA  
I HAD TO LEAVE  
SCHOOL IN PRIMARY 6



FURTHER EDUCATION  
WAS NOT AN OPTION  
FOR ME.

I AM NOW LIVING IN  
SCOTLAND AND HAVE APPLIED  
FOR ASYLUM

Scottish  
City  
College




SINCE BEING HERE,  
I HAVE BEEN  
ATTENDING COLLEGE

IMPROVING MY  
LITERACY SKILLS.

IT IS NOT EASY,  
BUT EDUCATION  
IS THE BEST  
HOPE TO MOVE ON.






I AM AN ACTIVIST,  
A MUM,  
A RESIDENT OF GLASGOW.

WHEN I ARRIVED, I WAS IN A B&B,  
IT WAS A ROOF OVER MY HEAD,  
BUT A VERY POOR PLACE TO LIVE.




MANY TIMES I WENT TO  
THE HOUSING OFFICE  
TO ASK FOR HELP  
TO COMPLAIN ABOUT  
THE POOR STANDARD OF  
HOUSING.

AND I WAS ALWAYS ASKED TO LEAVE  
BEFORE I SPOKE.



I WAS MOVING WITH A PRAM FROM ONE PLACE TO  
THE OTHER JUST FIGHTING FOR THIS HOUSE.



Meet  
YOUR  
COUNCILLORS

I WANTED THE  
LAW TO TELL ME  
WHAT I WAS  
ENTITLED TO,  
SO THAT I HAD  
THE STRENGTH  
TO CHALLENGE  
WHAT I WAS  
BEING TOLD

THE NEXT TIME I WENT TO SPEAK TO THE HOUSING OFFICE, I BROUGHT AN ALLY.



A GLASGOW WOMAN, WHO HELPED ME, CAME WITH ME AND INSISTED WE GOT TO SPEAK TO THE MANAGER.



BECAUSE SHE WAS THERE, WE GOT TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE.

AND TOGETHER WE HAD RESEARCHED WHAT I WAS ENTITLED TO.



I WAS MOVED TO BETTER ACCOMMODATION.



AND NOW I HELP OTHERS WHO ARE IN THE ASYLUM PROCESS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS.



I LEFT AFRICA BECAUSE I WAS PERSECUTED FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN.

I EXPERIENCED TERRIBLE THINGS. TORTURE AND LOSS.

HERE I HOPED TO FIND SAFETY.

I MADE FRIENDS HERE, BECAME PART OF A COMMUNITY AGAIN.

WHEN MY ASYLUM APPEAL WAS OVERTURNED AND I WAS DEPORTED..

...THAT COMMUNITY CAME TO MY AID, CAMPAIGNING FOR ME.

I GOT TO COME BACK. I AM LIVING IN LONDON NOW.

ABLE TO START AGAIN.

IT MAY SEEM SAD, WE ARE ALREADY RUNNING FROM WARS TO ESCAPE TO A BETTER PLACE — AND HERE WE STILL SEE PEOPLE BEING TREATED DIFFERENTLY.



WHEN YOU GET ON THE BUS, YOU SEE PEOPLE PAYING, JUST HANDING THE MONEY



BUT WHEN IT GETS TO YOUR TURN IT FEELS DIFFERENT. THE DRIVER SEEMS CROSS, HE ASKS YOU HOW MUCH AND WHERE YOU ARE GOING.



THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW, THERE IS A DIFFERENCE, THIS IS A WHITE PLACE.

I DON'T KNOW... I DO NOT LIKE TO USE THE COLOUR OF MY SKIN AS A REASON FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHAVIOUR.



I HAVE BEEN ON THE BUS, THEY DO IT TO OTHERS TOO. NOT EVERYONE. BUT THEY DO IT ALL THE TIME TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.



MAYBE SOME PEOPLE JUST HAVE A BAD DAY.

## WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU ARE IN THE ASYLUM PROCESS

MEET WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS.



GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY. BE PART OF IT. CREATE ALLIES.



GET AN EDUCATION.



THERE ARE LOADS OF COURSES YOU CAN ACCESS TO USE YOUR TIME WISELY.

VOLUNTEER.

YOU WILL MEET PEOPLE, GAIN NEW SKILLS AND SHOW YOUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE.



AND YOU MAY FIND NEW FRIEND AND ALLIES TOO.

All of these agencies have been effective in supporting and signposting members to the help they have needed.

[Bridging the Gap](#): Building relationships across diversity.  
Greyfriars Centre, 270 Ballater Street, G3 OYT.  
Tel: 0141 418 0241

[Govan Community Project](#): Building hope.  
Pearce Institute, 840 Govan Road, Glasgow, G51 3UU.  
Tel : 0141 445 3718  
Email : home@govancommunityproject.org.uk

[Glasgow's No 1 Baby & Family Support Service](#):  
Practical help for anyone in need; clothing/shoes/educational materials/household goods/textiles.  
Tel : 07512 145068 / 0141 230 6856  
Email : gnonebfss@gmail.com

[Maryhill Integration Centre](#):  
Bringing migrant and local communities together.  
Tel : 0141 946 9106/07856 795250  
Email : hello@maryhillintegration.org.uk

[Refuweegee](#): Welcoming and embracing new arrivals.  
Support packs : 0752064838  
Email : enquiries@refuweegee.co.uk

[Scottish Refugee Council](#): Helping refugees in Scotland.  
Facebook @ScottishRefugeeCouncil  
Twitter @ScotRefCouncil  
Tel : 0808 196 7274

[Unity Centre Glasgow](#): Practical support and solidarity.  
22 Ibrox Street, G51 1AQ.  
Tel : 0141 427 7992  
Email : info@unitycentreglasgow.org



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**THE**  
**Poverty Truth**  
Community

The Poverty Truth Community is an initiative of  
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