

Destitution Project Leaflet

What is the Destitution Project?

The Children's Society's Destitution Project supports babies, children, families and young people who are destitute as a result of the asylum process.

We define destitution as the lack of regular access to basics such as food, medicine and a place to live. This affects children in a number of ways; the lack of resources or opportunities to play and interact with other children can have a negative impact on children's development, and living in overcrowded and sometimes unsafe conditions leaves children vulnerable to exploitation.

Who is it for?

Asylum seekers or refugees who are under 18, or who have or are expecting children, and who have no statutory support or who are about to have support withdrawn.

What do we do?

The project offers:

- Advocacy and help with accessing legal advice and financial support.
- A grant-giving scheme in partnership with other local agencies.
- Access to a resource centre in partnership with The Children's Society Shop in Handsworth Wood to provide practical items for destitute children and families.

How you can make a referral.

The project accepts both self-referrals and referrals from professionals.

Please contact the project for a copy of our current referral form.

How you can help

There are various ways of getting involved:

- **donate** practical items such as nappies and toiletries to distribute to destitute families. Please contact us for a current list of items needed.
- **interpret** communications for clients. If you are fluent in community languages you could offer valuable assistance with interpretation.
- **volunteer** on a weekly basis at our resource centre in partnership with a local church.

Please contact the project for more information.

For more information

Please contact Andy Jolly or Mohammed Shazad at:

The Destitution Project, The Children's Society, Unit 614/ 5f, The Big Peg,
120 Vyse Street, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B18 6NF

Tel. 0121 236 3968 Fax. 0121 233 4647 andrew.jolly@childrenssociety.org.uk

The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK. We intervene, prevent, rescue and provide ongoing support for children trapped in a vicious circle of fear and harm; a vicious circle driven by violence, neglect, poverty or discrimination, which destroys lives and wrecks community living.