



# Hay, Brecon & Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees

## **HBTSR Policy on contributing towards legal costs of those seeking asylum**

From time to time HBTSR receives appeals to help by contributing money to meet some or all of the legal costs of individuals or families seeking asylum. It is difficult to make decisions because legal processes are unpredictable, can be very expensive, extend over a long time and may fail to yield a positive result.

This makes this type of hardship different from most of those we attempt to meet which tend to be short-term, finite and deliver a clear and predictable result.

HBTSR originally received a £5,000 donation or grant for 'legal assistance' eg medical reports, assessments etc and we maintain this as a separate fund, aiming to top it up from specific fundraising or general funds when the balance falls below £1,000.

The following guidelines may make it easier to reach a decision in a specific case, but because each case will be very different, we should endeavour to be flexible, sensitive and compassionate:

When we receive a specific request for assistance with legal costs:

- \* we should respond, if possible, where doing so will improve the life of the recipient
- \* we should decline assistance if there is no prospect of success, or at least a delay/stay of execution which would be clearly beneficial to the recipient
- \* we should seek advice from HBTSR members (e.g. Mark & Jeni) who have legal knowledge or experience, and/or from Asylum Justice
- \* we should ask that recipients have explored and exhausted any free facilities available to them (pro bono legal help, etc.)
- \* we should make clear that assistance we provide is for the specific cost and purpose identified and does not commit us to meet further costs in future