



Domestic Violence and No Recourse to Public Funds

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No Recourse to Public Funds

- The words ‘no recourse to public funds’ do not determine whether a service might be provided by a local authority, rather they indicate what services will not be available.
- The issue in cases involving domestic violence is the effect that domestic violence has had and continues to have on the individual and/or their children.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

- The challenges facing the statutory sector in dealing with destitute people from abroad with NRPF have become increasingly acute as demand for services grows.
- This is a complex area of work that involves a range of legislation including immigration, community care and human rights law.
- No central government funding *
- Lack of statutory regulation and guidance

Survey re: Domestic Violence and NRPF

- A survey of 11 London refuges found that in 2006/07, 223 women with NRPF requested refuge space however only 19 women were accepted for support. This is just 3% of the total 585 women who were provided with refuge space by those providers in that year.
- Of the 19 women accommodated, 16 had children. 9 of them had made an application under DV Rule and a further 6 had applied for leave to remain in the UK under another category.
- Average cost of accommodation for the women accepted was £4165.
- Average length of time in refuge was 7.5 months.
- Of the women supported, 60% funded by SS, 30% by the refuge and 10% 'other'.

Recommendations:

- Access to safe and secure accommodation and support services.
- Options to explore funding – establishing a system that would reduce the financial risks to refuges, local authorities and other agencies.
- Allocated case owners – ensure single point of contact and improve efficiency of case resolution.
- Joint working group to evaluate whether the DVR effectively meets the need and to consider wider needs of all victims of domestic violence who have nrpf.

Domestic Violence

“it is important to have services in place to provide immediate, targeted protection and support, reduce the impact of these crimes and prevent re-victimisation”

Home Secretary ‘Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the Public: An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008 – 2011’

No Recourse to Public Funds

- In March 2008, Government announced new scheme to support victims of domestic violence who have NRPF.
- Basis of the scheme is to provide support for housing and or living costs to those who are homeless because they have fled their family home due to domestic violence.
- Funding would be linked to ILR process and be retrospective – it would be made once the individual had been granted ILR under the Domestic Violence Rule.
- Funding would be a one-off contribution towards housing and living costs for that period.

NRPF Network

The Network aims to:

- **Share** information and good practice amongst local authorities and other agencies working in this area
- **Work** with government departments to raise the practical and policy issues of NRPF
- **Facilitate** reimbursement for local authorities of the costs of providing support to people with NRPF
- **Develop** a strategic response to people with NRPF

NRPF Network

- *The network is committed to working in partnership with other agencies including government departments and the voluntary and community sector to find solutions to the issues that arise with people with NRPF*

Contacts

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