



Advice Birmingham



IMMIGRATION/ASYLUM ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION IN BIRMINGHAM

This factsheet covers only local voluntary-sector agencies which assist, or may soon be assisting, clients in **regularising their immigration status**. It does not include those agencies (e.g. the British Red Cross) which only assist clients with support-and-accommodation issues connected with their immigration status. The OISC column indicates the level at which agencies are regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner – see Appendix for more details.

	Immigration?	Asylum?	OISC	Legal Aid?	Charges?	Drop-ins?
ASIRT	Yes	Yes	2	No	None	No – 'phone/email referrals
Salman Mirza @ Birmingham Asian Resource Centre	Yes	Yes	3	No	None	Fridays starting 10 a.m.
Birmingham CAB	Yes	Yes	1	No	None	Yes for initial contact
Birmingham Community Law Centre	Yes	Yes	3	No	None	Wednesdays 2-4 p.m
Freshwinds	Yes	Yes	3	No	Sometimes*	Outreach surgeries
Hope Projects	No	No				None (but may be starting soon)
Lifeline Options	Yes	Yes	2	No	None	Yes
Migrant Help	No	Yes	1	No	None	No – 'phone/email referrals
Refugee Action	Vol. return	Vol. return	2	No	None	Yes

* Social Enterprise service

There is a map showing the location of these and other agencies at <http://www.hope-projects.org.uk/asylum-agencies-map>. For more information on the agencies, see the next page.

For local Legal-Aid providers, see the GOV.UK list at <http://goo.gl/txNp0W> (a Google-shortened link). That list is not always up to date.

More information on local agencies currently providing immigration/asylum advice and representation

ASIRT

97 Walford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham B11 1NP
tel. 0121 772 6233, email admin@asirt.org.uk, <http://www.asirt.org.uk>

Salman Mirza @ Birmingham Asian Resource Centre

110 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 2QS
tel. 07758 191798, text-messages and WhatsApp only

Birmingham CAB

Gazette Buildings, 168 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6TF
tel. 08444 77 1010 (or 0300 330 0650 if you are using a mobile), information helpline, 9.30 - 16.30 Monday to Friday
See <http://www.bcabs.org.uk/page/view/visit-us> for local bureau opening times

Birmingham Community Law Centre

97 Walford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham B11 1NP
tel. 0121 773 6233, email admin@birminghamclc.org.uk, <http://birminghamclc.org.uk/>

Freshwinds

Prospect Hall, 12 College Walk, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LE
<http://freshwinds.org.uk/>

Lifeline Options

505b Big Peg, 120 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham B18 6NE
tel. 0121 359 5435, fax 0121 233 9927, email lifelineoptions@yahoo.co.uk, <http://lifelineoptions.org.uk/>

Migrant Help

3 Stone Road, Birmingham B15 2HH
tel. advice 0808 8000 630; support application 0808 8000 631, email mhl@migranthelpline.org, <http://www.migranthelp.org/>

Refugee Action

2nd floor, Cobalt Square, 83 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8QG
tel. 0121 201 3070, fax 0121 523 3044, http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/in_your_area/birmingham

Appendix: OISC levels

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is responsible for regulating immigration advisers by ensuring they are fit and competent and act in the best interest of their clients. The OISC regulates advisers at three levels:

- Level 1: Advice and Assistance
- Level 2: Casework
- Level 3: Advocacy and Representation

Area of work: Asylum and Protection

Level 1 - Initial advice and Assistance

No work on applications permitted. (Limited assistance within the immigration Rules only) The only assistance permitted is:

- Notifying the Home Office of a change of address;
- Extension of Temporary Admission;
- Applications for permission to work;
- Travel document applications for someone granted Humanitarian Protection/Exceptional Leave to Remain settlement (protection route) applications

Work NOT permitted

- Enforcement (Bail/ Detention/ Removal/Banning Orders)
- Illegal entrants, overstayers, removal or deportation from the UK
- Family reunion
- Lodging notices of appeal and substantive appeals work including making representations to or appearing before courts or tribunals
- Judicial Review

Level 2 - Casework

- All aspects of asylum applications and related Human Rights Act (HRA) applications, Case Resolution/Legacy Cases and Active Review. Lodging Notices of Appeal and Statements of Additional grounds
- Family reunion
- Representations to the Home Office, on illegal entry, overstayers, removal and deportation cases, applications for temporary admission, applications for Chief Immigration Officer (CIO) bail

Work NOT permitted

- Substantive appeals work including making representations to or appearing before courts or tribunals
- Applications for Immigration Judge bail
- Judicial Review

Level 3 - Advocacy and Representation

- All aspects of asylum applications and related HRA applications, Case Resolution/Legacy Cases and Active Review. Lodging Notices of Appeal
- Family reunion
- Representations to the Home Office on illegal entry, overstayer, removal and deportation cases. Representations to the Home Office, applications for temporary admission, applications for CIO bail, applications for bail before and Immigration Judge
- Substantive appeals work, including representation at First-tier and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) hearings, specialist casework

Work NOT permitted

- Judicial Review

Area of work: Immigration

Level 1 - Advice and Assistance

- Basic applications that are within the Immigration Rules, including immigration employment documents and under the Points Based System

Work NOT permitted

- Enforcement (Bail/ Detention/ Removal/Banning Orders)
- Lodging notices of appeal and substantive appeals work including making representations to or appearing before courts or tribunals
- Illegal entrants, overstayers, removal or deportation from the UK
- Judicial Review

Level 2 - Casework

Discretionary and complex applications. Out-of-time applications, concessionary policies, lodging Notices of Appeal and Statements of Additional Grounds. Representations to the Home Office, applications for temporary admission, applications for CIO bail

Work NOT permitted

- Substantive appeals work including making representations to or appearing before courts or tribunals
- Applications for Immigration Judge bail
- Judicial Review

Level 3 - Advocacy and Representation

- Discretionary and complex applications. Out-of-time applications, concessionary policies, lodging Notices of Appeal and Statements of Additional Grounds.
- Representations to the Home Office on illegal entry, overstayer, removal and deportation cases. Representations to the Home Office, applications for temporary admission, applications for CIO bail, applications for bail before an Immigration Judge
- Substantive appeals work, including representation at First-tier and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) hearings, specialist casework

Work NOT permitted

- Judicial Review

See http://oisc.homeoffice.gov.uk/how_to_become_a_regulated_immigration_adviser/guidance_on_competence/summary_of_oisc_levels/