

# Finding Immigration Advice and Information

This page is for migrants and for people assisting migrants. It tells you how to search for regulated immigration advice, and where to find specialist help and information.

Before you go to an immigration adviser, we recommend reading our leaflet on [“Instructing a Legal Representative.”](#)

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## Free Advice

Legal aid provision has collapsed and there are not enough legal aid advisers to help everyone who needs advice. However, it may still be possible to find free immigration advice.

### Legal Aid Providers

You may qualify for legal aid if you are an asylum seeker, a victim of trafficking, a victim of domestic violence, a separated child or you are in immigration detention. Legal aid may be the best option if you can find it, because it can also pay for interpreters, document translation and expert witness reports, where these are required.

- Go to the “Find a legal aid adviser” page on GOV.UK:
  - <https://find-legal-advice.justice.gov.uk/>
- Type in your postcode or a partial postcode (e.g. “NW1”)
- Check the box for ‘Immigration or asylum’
- Press the green ‘Search’ button
- If you cannot find anyone nearby, try typing in the name of neighbouring towns or cities

### Non-fee charging IAA Advisers

Many charities provide free immigration advice. However, they may have limited capacity and some only do very limited work. You may have to try several organisations before finding someone who can help.

- Go to the “Adviser Finder” page on GOV.UK:
  - <https://portal.immigrationadviceauthority.gov.uk/s/adviser-finder#>
- Type in your postcode or the name of your town/city
- Select the level of advice you need under ‘Type of Advice’ (see ‘IAA Advisers: which level do I need?’ below)
- Select ‘Not Fee Charging’ under ‘Fee Charging or Not Fee Charging’
- Press the green ‘Search’ button
- If you cannot find anyone nearby, click ‘Back to Search’ and adjust the ‘Maximum distance from Location’

### IAA Advisers: which level do I need?

If you are looking for an IAA adviser, you need to find one at the right level:

- **A Level 1 adviser** can help you with visit visas, student visas, work visas, 5-year route family visas, EUSS applications for settlement or from ‘joining family members’ and nationality applications. They cannot help with appeals or bail applications.
- **A Level 2 adviser** can help if you are an asylum seeker, if you are on a 10-year family or private life route, if you have a complex EU Settlement Scheme application, or if you have no lawful status and need to regularise your stay. They cannot help with appeals or bail applications.
- **A Level 3 adviser** can help you with appeals and bail applications.

# Specialist Advice and Information

Note: this information may not be up to date. Please e-mail [raltg@refugee-action.org.uk](mailto:raltg@refugee-action.org.uk) to tell us if something is not up to date. We will not answer requests for advice.

## Asylum Seekers

**Right to Remain Toolkit** (<https://righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/>)

Note: not advice – information only, available in multiple languages

## Women

**Rights of Women** (<https://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-advice/immigration-and-asylum-law/>)

Immigration and asylum law line: 020 7490 7689

- Mondays 10am – 1pm & 2pm to 4pm
- Thursdays 10am – 1pm & 2pm to 4pm

EU Settlement Scheme advice line: 020 7118 0267

- Tuesdays 11am – 1pm
- Wednesdays 11am – 1pm

Professionals' Advice Line: 020 8138 8028

- Operates fortnightly on Friday mornings – check website for dates and opening hours

Rights of Women also have advice lines for family law, criminal law and sexual harassment at work. For further details see: <https://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-advice/call-our-advice-lines/>

## Children

**Coram Children's Legal Centre** (<https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/>)

You can request advice by e-mail only on: [immigrationadvice@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@coramclc.org.uk). Coram also have a legal aid contract so may be able to take on some cases involving children.

## LGBTQI+

**Rainbow Migration** (<https://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk/en>)

There is an online form that asylum seekers can fill in to request help. There is also information available on asylum and on partner visas.

## EU Nationals and their Family Members

**The AIRE Centre** (<https://www.airecentre.org/eussadvice>)

Advice line: 0207 831 4276

- Monday to Friday, 10:30am to 6pm

Email advice: [info@airecentre.org](mailto:info@airecentre.org)

## Victims of Trafficking

**Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU)** (<https://atleu.org.uk/adviceline>)

There is a referral form to request help: <https://www.atleu.org.uk/legal-help#referralform>

## Immigration Detainees

**Bail for Immigration Detainees** (<https://www.biduk.org/>)

Advice Line: 020 7456 9750

- Monday to Thursday, 10am to 12pm

**AVID** (<https://www.aviddetention.org.uk/>)

## Prisoners

**Prisoners' Advice Service** (<https://www.prisonersadvice.org.uk/>)

Advice Line: 020 7253 3323

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30
- Tuesday Evening 16.00-18.00

E-mail: [advice@prisonersadvice.org.uk](mailto:advice@prisonersadvice.org.uk)

Address: Prisoners' Advice Service, PO Box 46199, London EC1M 4XA

## Fee Charging Advice

You may not be eligible for free advice, or you may be able not be able to find it. You have the option to pay for advice. It can be very expensive, as you will also need to pay for things like interpreting, and expert witness reports if these are required.

A good fee charging adviser should tell you if you can get legal aid from another provider for your case. If they fail to do this, they may be breaching their professional duties.

Some Legal aid providers can take fee-paying clients who are not eligible for legal aid. You can use the “Find a legal aid adviser” page above to find one. Legal aid advisers must pass exams in immigration law, so you can be a little more confident they know their stuff!

## Solicitors

You can find solicitors using the Law Society’s “Find a solicitor” page (<https://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/>)

- Type in your postcode or the name of your town/city
- Select the immigration category that best meets your circumstances under ‘Area of Practice’
- Press the green ‘Search’ button
- You can also use this site to check whether the solicitors at a firm have any immigration accreditations
- If you want to check a firm’s regulatory record you can do this on the Solicitor’s Regulation Authority website: <https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/register/>

## Fee charging IAA Advisers

You can use the “Adviser Finder” above to find fee charging solicitors as well. Just select ‘fee-charging’ instead of ‘not fee charging.’

## Direct Access Barristers

Barristers specialise in going to court and are normally instructed by solicitors. However, ‘direct access barristers’ can be instructed by you directly.

- Go to the Bar Council’s direct access portal (<https://www.directaccessportal.co.uk>)
- Click on the button labelled “Submit your enquiry to find a barrister”
- The website will guide you through the process

## Online Advice

Seraphus Solicitors offers an online service through the Free Movement website (<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/legal-advice/>.) Free Movement is a news site that is widely read and respected by immigration advisers.