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ENSURING ACCESS

In Scotland, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), to ensure that vulnerable and more marginalised people are provided with the information and support they need to regularise their immigration status.

The COSLA-IOM partnership is funded by the Scottish Government to deliver practical assistance to vulnerable or at-risk individuals such as EU citizens and their family members who need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, including **looked after children, elderly people, care leavers, Roma community, homeless people, and survivors of domestic violence**. Within this partnership, we are also working to support other groups of people who are **destitute or at risk of becoming destitute** to regularise their immigration status, and to provide them with information and support.

As part of these projects, IOM works with a wide range of clients, this includes **vulnerable EU nationals, resettled refugees, survivors of domestic violence and people with NRPF** (No Recourse to Public Funds) who need support to remove their NRPF condition attached to their immigration status.

Immigration advice and support will be provided to overcome barriers to access, such as **physical or mental impairment, language and literacy barriers or lack of documentary evidence**, which prevent the individual from regularising their immigration status.

ABOUT IOM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is part of the United Nations system, as a related organization.

IOM supports migrants across the world, developing effective responses to the shifting dynamics of migration and, as such, is a key source of advice on migration policy and practice. The organization works in emergency situations, developing the resilience of all people on the move, and particularly those in situations of vulnerability, as well as building capacity within governments to manage all forms and impacts of mobility.

In the UK we play key a role in the resettlement of refugees, we help migrants and refugees to better integrate, we assist receiving communities to recognize and support the positive contributions that they can make.

We partner with central and local authorities, academia, civil society and other stakeholders to respond to a dynamic migration picture impacted by, among other things, the UK's departure from the EU.

www.unitedkingdom.iom.int

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

IOM is working in partnership with COSLA to support vulnerable individuals with their immigration status. The project aims to provide direct support to address the barriers people face in completing their applications and to raise awareness.

IOM is working with **local authorities and third sector organisations** in Scotland, to provide additional capacity to help support vulnerable individuals in their care.

The **direct support** provided includes help with language interpretation, IT and technical requirements and evidence gathering.

IOM's OISC-certified staff provide **qualified immigration advice** and direct face-to-face assistance to individuals submitting applications.

Safeguarding is a priority throughout and IOM is working with local authorities and partner organisations to help meet individuals' wider support needs where possible.

All immigration advice provided is completely free and **confidential**, and no case outcomes or personal data is shared unless with the explicit informed consent of the individual.

PROJECT PARTNER IN SCOTLAND



COSLA, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, is the voice of Local Government in Scotland. COSLA provides political leadership on national issues, and work with councils to improve local services and strengthen local democracy.

The Migration, Population and Diversity (MPD) team within COSLA works specifically on migration issues. We work with a range of key partners including the UK Government and Scottish Government to ensure that migrants are welcomed and integrated into Scotland and the demographic needs of the country are met.

Website: www.cosla.gov.uk

KEY ACTIVITIES

Individuals who are at-risk or in vulnerable situation are informed and aware of their immigration and the application requirements:

- Support key stakeholders and service providers already working directly with vulnerable groups, including local authority staff,
- Provide an effective referral pathway for specialised legal advice and support.

At-risk individuals are supported to regularise their immigration status:

- Provide qualified one-to-one immigration advice and follow up support on individual cases
- Advice and assistance to obtain evidence to support their applications
- Provide technical support/on-line access to complete applications
- Interpretation support
- Provide second tier advice to local authorities

LOCAL AUTHORITY AND SUPPORT ORGANISATION STAFF
WHO WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT IOM
SUPPORT AND THE REFERRAL PROCESS PLEASE CONTACT:

Email: immigrationadviceUK@iom.int

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Under this partnership we cover all regions and Local Authorities in Scotland.

