

STOP PRESS! - Parliamentarians launch refugees inquiry

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Parliamentarians launch "Refugees Welcome?" inquiry

This is a special bulletin from the Refugee Council's Advocacy Network with some exciting news.

A cross-party committee of politicians has launched a new inquiry into the experiences of refugees in the UK. The inquiry is being held by the [All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) on Refugees](#) and will consider the experiences of refugees who have claimed asylum in the UK, as well as those of refugees who have arrived in the UK through other paths, such as resettlement.

Over the last year, much of the discussion in parliament has focused on how many we should help and who they should be. This inquiry will shine a much needed spotlight on what actually happens to

refugees once they arrive here.

In particular, the inquiry will focus on the integration of new refugees, including success in finding employment, securing accommodation and, where appropriate, help with English language skills.

As part of the inquiry, the panel is really keen to hear from refugees about their experiences in the UK, and also from organisations who work with and support refugees.

This is a great opportunity for refugees and organisations who work with refugees to tell parliamentarians what is working, and what isn't working, about the support the Government and other agencies provide.

The deadline for submitting evidence is 1 October 2016, and more information about how to do this is available on the Refugee Council website.

[Click here for more information about the inquiry](#)

At the end of the inquiry, the panel will publish a report with recommendations that reflect what they've been told. These recommendations will be for people who make policy that affects refugees in the UK. While the recommendations won't be binding on the Government, it's an important chance to influence how refugees are talked about in parliament.

We know that while some organisations are used to submitting evidence to parliamentary committees, for others it's a bit more unfamiliar. If you would like any help or advice about how you might go about collecting and submitting evidence, please do get in touch with Jon Featonby, our

Parliamentary Manager. You can get in touch with Jon by email at jonathan.featonby@refugeecouncil.org.uk. Jon is also the best person to contact if you have any questions about the inquiry or the work of the APPG more generally.

You can also follow updates via the APPG on Refugees twitter account, [which you can see here](#).

About the Refugee Council Advocacy Network

We aim to provide a direct link between the Refugee Council's Advocacy Team and other individuals and organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. [Read more about the Advocacy Network](#) and share with others who you think may be interested in joining.



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