

Practical Assistance Policy.

BASP's activities are based on welcoming the stranger and seeking justice for those who are seeking asylum.

BASP seeks to alleviate, where possible, the effects of actual or pending poverty, destitution, isolation, ill-health and disadvantage faced by people seeking asylum through the direct provision of practical assistance or through connecting them with the relevant agency in the community.

The direct practical assistance may be in the form of cash, food, housing, employment, migration advice, employment, English teaching friendship and companionship.

The indirect assistance may be through developing networks and understanding of community resources and/ advocating for improved services where gaps or better conditions are indicated.

Implications.

The assistance offered by BASP is constrained by donations received and time available by staff and volunteers. BASP will also seek other sources of assistance which could be tapped for each person/family, where feasible.

Cash will be made available first to those without income support- either through benefits or employment. It will be based on immediate need and with a plan, if possible, for alternative support in the future.

Food and household items are again distributed according to what is donated and assessed need.

Housing. BASP has many ways in which it supports people in housing. It may be donated houses or rooms with oversight by, but no cost to, BASP, it may be housing where rent and utilities are required. BASP will assess its resources, the needs of those seeking help and allocate housing in accordance with this. Where possible the residents will take over responsibility for housing costs when their situation allows it.

Volunteers are essential in providing support, friendship, English teaching, employment assistance – refer to Volunteer Policy.

Legal assistance. Pro bono assistance from migration agents and lawyers are accessed for complex cases where alternative service is not available. On occasion, BASP will pay reduced fees with known lawyers to assist. This is done on a case-by-case basis as assessed by BASP Co-ordinator.

Health- BASP liaises with the key asylum seeker and other health providers for direct provision of medical services. BASP may assist with medication expenses as well as providing support networks through the volunteer program.

Related Documents

Kildare Ministries 'The Living Justice Charter'.