

Country: UK

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No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/ GOs'/ projects offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/ GOs'/ projects working with the elderly and frail
23430 (27900 incl. dependants)	3540 (asylum), 125 (humanitarian protection), 2085 (discretionary leave)	24 + all the mental health and primary care -> 300+	1	2	9 (for migrants, not specifically asylum seekers)

Access to health system: Refugees and Asylum Seekers are eligible for all primary and secondary health care through the National Health Service, as well as free prescriptions. Asylum seekers who are in detention have access to healthcare in the detention centre or in a hospital if needed. This includes access to mental healthcare. Free dental and optician care is also available to asylum seekers and refugees

Legal Access to mental health care: Yes, Refugees and Asylum seekers are entitled to mental health services via a referral from their General Practitioner (family doctor). However it is not always easy for asylum seekers to obtain such a referral.

Systematic assessment of mental health needs: No systematic assessment takes place. Asylum seekers are signposted for registration with General Practitioners and the thoroughness of any initial assessment for registration will depend on the GP practice, and may not include mental health.

Main stakeholders in the asylum system: UK Border Agency, Home Office Asylum Support Agency, NGOs, Dept. of Health

Country specific features: What drew my attention? Asylum only granted for a period of 5 years, then case can be reviewed

Difficulties: Can be difficult to be diagnosed and then difficult to access appropriate treatment. Care for "failed" asylum seekers.