

Please join us for the fifth annual

SLEEP OUT IN SOLIDARITY WITH DESTITUTE REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Friday 13 June 2008 starting at 4.30pm until 8.00am Saturday 14 June

St Philip's Cathedral Churchyard, Colmore Row, Birmingham,

Remember the Dead - Justice for the Living

On Friday 13th June on the eve of Refugee Week, people from many communities will be coming together to protest against British government treatment of asylum seekers and remembering those who died while seeking asylum here due to self-harm, denial of medical treatment, destitution, hazardous working conditions or racist attacks.

The protest has been organised by the West Midlands Anti Racist Campaign (ARC) and West Midlands Activist Network. This is the fifth sleep out that we will be organising to highlight the conditions faced by asylum seekers and refugees in this country.

Remember the Dead

Candlelight Vigil for more than 50 Asylum Suicides

The first part of the protest will be a candlelight vigil in the grounds of the cathedral to remember those victims of British immigration policy who took their own lives and to pledge our determination to stop future abuses.

Refused asylum seekers have their accommodation and meagre benefits taken away, often finding themselves homeless and destitute. Forbidden to work in the UK, they cannot pay for healthcare and are refused treatment on the NHS. They are particularly prone to diseases of poverty and some suffer mental health problems because of their dire circumstances. Untreated, their health can get rapidly worse. Some wrestle with thoughts of suicide. These pressures have driven more than 50 asylum seekers to kill themselves since 2000.

We will be holding the vigil to commemorate their lives, and to pledge our determination to campaign for justice for the living. The ceremony will take place at 4.30pm in the cathedral grounds.

Justice for the Living

Sleep out in solidarity with destitute asylum seekers

This protest against Home Office attacks on asylum seekers will include music, speeches, art, films and food and will start once the vigil has ended. We aim to celebrate all that asylum seekers and refugees are contributing to this country and hope that you can join us!

A growing number of asylum seekers are being refused the right to stay in the UK, because of media witch-hunts and knee-jerk Home Office responses. Refused asylum seekers lose their accommodation and benefits – which are already below the poverty-line, and are left homeless and destitute. We will join with members of the city's many refugee communities in an act of solidarity with those for whom sleeping rough is a daily reality. All asylum seekers, and all those who deplore their treatment by this government, are welcome.

During the evening we will be collecting money for the Birmingham Money Advice & Grants fund, B-MAG, an anti-poverty agency which provides valuable support to vulnerable people.

Food not Bombs will be providing some of the food and drink—and we welcome your donations to share round.

We will be using cardboard boxes for shelter and will be asking for artists to contribute to decorating the shelters during the evening. Don't forget sleeping bags

Even if you cannot stay for the sleep out, please make this a fantastic turnout by joining us for the earlier part of the evening.

JOIN US! Together we can make a difference.

For further information please phone 07878 437 720 or e-mail ARC at arcwestmidlands@googlemail.com

Remember the Dead - Justice for the Living

ASYLUM VIGIL AND SLEEP-OUT

JOIN US! Together we can make a difference

In its 5th year, a vigil and all-night sleep-out in Pigeon Park in protest at the unfair treatment of asylum seekers in Birmingham and the UK

on the eve of Refugee Week

Friday 13 June

4.30pm to 8am

St Philip's Cathedral Churchyard,
Colmore Row, Birmingham

Organised by West Midlands Anti-Racist Campaign (ARC) and the West Midlands Activist Network

4.30pm:

Remember the Dead

Candlelight vigil to remember
50+ asylum suicides

after the vigil:

Justice for the Living

All-night sleep-out in support of
destitute asylum seekers
with music, speeches, art, films,
food and lots more

Even if you cannot stay all night for the sleep-out, please make this a fantastic turnout by joining us for the earlier part of the evening. All asylum seekers, and all those who deplore their treatment by this government, are welcome.



Last year's vigil

For more information please
contact ARC

on 07878 437 720 or

arcwestmidlands@googlemail.com



Kurdish musicians