



The [Lift the Ban](#) campaign - a coalition of over 300 organisations across the UK - have organised an [open letter](#) to be delivered to the Government from Local Councillors from all corners of the UK, to send a strong message that the ban on work for people seeking asylum must be lifted for the benefit of local communities.

Campaigners, organisations and members of the public are encouraged to write to their Local Councillors and ask them to add their signatures. [We don't advise taking this action if your local authority is particularly hostile to people seeking asylum.](#)

How to contact your local councillor(s): First, identify your local council. Depending on where you live you may have two or even three councils who look after your services. You can find which are your local councils here: www.gov.uk/find-local-council. This should take you to your local council(s) website which will have a 'find your councillors' section with the email addresses for your local ward councillors.

Asking your council(s) to pass a motion: This is a statement of support or commitment to action that is proposed by an individual councillor and voted upon by the full council. The Lift the Ban coalition has a [template motion](#) that councils up and down the country have used. If your councillors agree to table a motion, do get in touch with us at lifttheban@asylumatters.org and we can share more resources such as a template local press release and tips on campaigning around council meetings.

Combined Authorities and metro/regional mayors: The third bullet point 'ask' in the template letter to local councillor(s) below is only for if you are in a Combined Authority area and have a Metro/Regional Mayor. The list of Combined Authorities can be found [here](#) and the list of Metro/Regional Mayors can be found [here](#). Lift the Ban has also developed a statement for Metro/Regional Mayors to add their names to, which can be viewed [here](#).

Engaging with local universities: Lift the Ban is also supported by several universities, who are major employers as well as research and educational hubs. You can ask your local universities and higher education institutions to back the campaign by sending them [this form](#) to join the Lift the Ban Coalition, or by asking them to sign the Lift the Ban academics' statement of support for Lift the Ban by using [this form](#).

Template letter to email your local councillor(s):

Dear Cllr <XXXXXXX>,

I am writing to you as my local ward councillor on behalf of the Lift the Ban [coalition](#) to inform you about the campaign to grant people seeking asylum the right to work and ask that you support it.

People seeking asylum in the UK can only apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year. Even then, the few people who are granted such permission are rarely able to work in practice because their employment is



restricted to the narrow list of highly specialised professions included on the Government's Immigration Salary List (such as "skilled classical ballet dancer").

This means that people are essentially banned from working while they can wait often years for a decision on their asylum claim. Instead they are left to live on just £7 per day (or just £1.42 per day for those in catered accommodation), struggling to support themselves and their families, while their talents are wasted and their integration set back.

This also means huge missed opportunities for our local and national economy. Research by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research shows lifting the ban could boost the UK economy by £1 billion. The London School of Economics puts the benefit at £1.2 billion within five years. Allowing people to work, instead of forcing them to remain on Government support, would boost our high streets, fill workforce gaps, and create economic ripple effects across our local area.

The Lift the Ban coalition, made up of over 300 non-profit organisations, think tanks, businesses, trade unions, local authorities and faith groups, is calling on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum full working rights after six months of awaiting a decision on their claim.

I am asking **XXXXXXX** Council and you as my local councillor(s) to actively support this campaign. To do this, it would be wonderful if you could:

- **Add your signature to the Lift the Ban Local Councillors' letter to Government** calling for people seeking asylum to be granted full working rights after six months of awaiting a decision on their claim, by filling out this simple form:
<https://forms.gle/P5F5iiVxixR8UKNdA>
- **Table a supportive council motion**, for which you can find a template motion that has been passed by many local councils across the UK here:
<https://liftheban.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Lift-the-Ban-Template-Council-Motion-August-2025.docx>
- ***ONLY IF YOU'RE IN A COMBINED AUTHORITY AREA* Write to the Metro Mayor of the Combined Authority** and ask them to support the campaign by contacting liftheban@asylummatters.org to sign the Metro Mayors' Lift the Ban statement

More information can be found at <https://liftheban.co.uk/> and in the recent Time to Lift the Ban report here:

<https://liftheban.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/FINAL-Time-to-Lift-The-Ban-Report-12p-p-A4-V3-DIGITAL-ACCESSIBLE.pdf>

You can also contact liftheban@asylummatters.org with any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

<YOUR NAME & POSTCODE>