No Recourse to Public Funds – NRPF

A Guide for Professionals

This factsheet must be read and followed through by attending the recommended webinar that will focus on a case study and outline the barriers faced by women from ethnic backgrounds.

No recourse to public funds (NRPF) is an immigration condition that can be attached to many types of time-limited leave to be in the UK.

Who are "subject to immigration control"?

Someone will be subject to immigration control if they:

- Need leave to remain or enter the UK but do not have it.
- Have leave to remain enter the UK which is subject to the NRPF restriction.
- Leave to remain or enter as part of an immigration appeal.
- Leave to enter or remain as part of a maintenance undertaking.

How does the NRPF condition impact families and children?

Please watch this short video from Project 17 that will provide an outline of the impact of NRPF on families who may be destitute. Watch here

Who is affected by NRPF?

The NRPF condition affects people who are subject to immigration control —that is, people who don't have a British citizenship. This include people who are residing in the UK under immigration status such as:

- Spouse visa
- Student visa
- Work permit

Or those who are:

- Asylum seekers
- Undocumented immigrants
- Have overstayed their temporary visa

This list is not exhaustive

NRPF and Migrant Women affected by abuse:

The most vulnerable female who is subject to NRPF – is a female who is "undocumented". The term illegal is not used because the female may have rights, she has not accessed such as putting in an application to the home office.

Professionals must develop a culture if inclusivity and recognise the barriers women may face in coming forward for help.

A person may be undocumented because they may have been:

- Smuggled into the UK
- Not given a chance to make themselves known to the authorities.
- Had documentation taken away from them.
- Lack of knowledge.
- Faced significant harm and abuse as a result of being trafficked or exploited.

The NRPF condition prevents migrant women from accessing the social security safety net that exists to protect the most vulnerable in our society. One of the restrictions that NRPF places on migrants is financial and housing support.

Without this safety net, migrant women who depend on their perpetrator to pay for food and accommodation might struggle to leave the relationship and support themselves and their children. This means they are often forced to decide between staying with the perpetrator or facing poverty and street homelessness.

In many cases, women can be denied refuge accommodation if the refuge is funded by the government. This leaves migrant women with NRPF with limited options for safe accommodation.

The only exception is when it comes to children (under age 18) and vulnerable adults (that is, a person over 18 years who is unable to take care of or protect herself). By law, local authorities have the duty to protect these groups when they face destitution and homelessness. Local authorities have the power to support the child or vulnerable person and their family regardless of the NRPF condition**.**

Issues faced by individuals and families who have the NRPF condition:

- No right to work (if the right to work has expired or if there is a restriction on the visa to work, such as a visitor visa.
- No welfare safety net
- Homelessness/inadequate housing
- No money
- Vulnerable to exploitation and abuse
- Reliant on charity, friends, family
- Reliant on local authority under s.17
- Unable to afford childcare
- Unable to afford legal advice
- Risk of domestic violence or harmful relationships
- Fear of authority.

Support options for women who are experiencing sexual abuse or domestic abuse who are NRPF:

1. If in immediate danger, please contact 999.
2. Locally you can contact Portsmouth City of Sanctuary – portsmouthcityofsanctuary@gmail.com
3. Contact Stop Domestic Abuse
4. You can contact Southall Black Sisters

Supporting NRPF – Undocumented Women

Some women have leave to remain (visa) and it may have the condition of NRPF – No recourse to public funds.

You may work with women who have no visa. This may be because they had previously leave to enter the UK but this has expired.

This may also be a woman who has entered the UK via boat or lorry and has not made themselves known to the authorities.

Undocumented women can get support from –

- Portsmouth City of Sanctuary
- They can seek immigration advice from Citizens Advice Portsmouth.
- If you suspect the female may be trafficked you can contact the police who are first responders and they can refer into the NRM.

Portsmouth City Council in partnership with:

VISTA

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary