

Education

Stakeholder Views

Education can liberate and empower those fleeing persecution from a lifetime of trauma, persecution and fear, and by ensuring those seeking refuge enjoy fair access to education and necessary support, we can in turn improve their life chances and the success of our wider society as a whole.

NUS Scotland believes that access to education should not stop at a border, and is proud to take part in the New Scots Strategy and help work toward outcomes that welcome the contribution of asylum seekers and refugees to our education system.

KIRSTY HAIGH, NUS SCOTLAND VICE PRESIDENT (COMMUNITIES)

The New Scots Strategy has acted as a catalyst for improved partnership working amongst providers of ESOL in Glasgow. Partners are working together to ensure that there is adequate information available to refugees and that language learning is available to enhance integration and improve employability skills. As the strategy enters its second year, I am sure that partnership working will improve.

MARGARET GILROY, DIRECTOR OF ACCESS AND CONTINUING LEARNING, GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE

WEA Scotland is delighted to have played a part in the implementation of the Education strand of the New Scots Strategy through the delivery of high quality English language provision at the earliest opportunity, representation on the Education Group and working in partnership to ensure progression routes for our learners. Early intervention in terms of English language provision is crucial to the integration of refugees.

JAYNE STUART, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND



We believe that lives can be transformed through learning. We fully support the New Scots Strategy and its outcomes for education.

Access to education and learning opportunities is a key ambition of our Statement of Ambition for Adult Learning. The importance of English language skills to help with integration is stated in our national English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Strategy for Scotland.

By addressing these specifically for refugees, asylum seekers and their children, the New Scots Strategy supports our aims of reducing inequality in education and ensuring that learning opportunities can be accessed by all.

**ALAN ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC
DIRECTOR, LIFELONG LEARNING
DIRECTORATE, EDUCATION
SCOTLAND**

As an asylum seeker, I have experienced first-hand the barriers which prevent me from accessing education in Scotland and reaching my full potential. Participating in the New Scots Strategy Group allows me to give voice to refugees, asylum seekers and their children by identifying ways to increase participation in Scottish higher education and full-time further education.

**ARAM MOHAMMED, NUS SCOTLAND
ASYLUM SEEKER OFFICER**

The course is good to push me, to keep me continuing. If I just stayed in the hostel, I would just give up.

**ERITREAN REFUGEE, HOLISTIC
INTEGRATION SERVICE**