

Organisations that can help you:

Your social worker and foster carer (if you have one)

Welsh Refugee Council

welshrefugeecouncil.org.uk

029 20489 800

TGP Cymru

www.trosgynnal.org.uk

029 2039 6974

National Youth Advocacy Service

www.nyas.net/services/our-services-in-wales

0808 808 1001

Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST)

eyst.org.uk

01792 466980/1

Cardiff City of Sanctuary

cardiff.cityofsanctuary.org

029 2048 2478

Swansea City of Sanctuary

swansea.cityofsanctuary.org

07496 172895

Children's Commissioner for Wales

www.childcomwales.org.uk

0808 801 1000

Remember that the police in Wales are here to help you. Don't be afraid to contact them. If it is an emergency, call 999. Otherwise, you can call 101 to speak to the police.

Other guides in this series:

- ▶ **Child First – A Guide to Being Looked After for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**
- ▶ **Child First – A Guide to applying to stay in Wales for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

Find out more about children's rights and the law as it affects children in Wales on the Children's Legal Centre Wales Website

www.childrenslegalcentre.wales

✉ childrenslegalcentre@swansea.ac.uk

☎ 01792 295399

🐦 @ChildLegalWales


Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe
Hillary Rodham Clinton
School of Law | Ysgol y Gyfraith


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Child first

A Guide to Rights and Entitlements for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Information about rights and entitlements if you've come to Wales without your family and you're under 18

This is one of three guides designed to help you. You should read all three of them.

Canolfan Gyfreithiol y Plant
Children's Legal Centre



Your rights in Wales

Wales recognises the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which means that while you're in Wales, you should be able to enjoy life 'as a child'.

While you are in Wales, you have rights, including:

- ▶ The right to somewhere safe to live
- ▶ The right to education
- ▶ The right to medical care
- ▶ The right to be protected from abuse and neglect
- ▶ The right to play and relax
- ▶ The right to your religion and culture

You're not expected to manage on your own – there's help and support here for you.

Medical care in Wales

You're entitled to free healthcare from the National Health Service (NHS) in Wales. You can:

- ▶ See a doctor at a local 'GP' surgery, or have dental treatment.
- ▶ Go to hospital in an emergency (including a dental hospital)
- ▶ Get any medicines a doctor thinks you need, without having to pay

Education in Wales

If you want to continue your education, you will be able to do this.

- ▶ You're entitled to free education in Wales until you're 18.
- ▶ You have to go to school, or be in some other kind of education, until you are 16.
- ▶ You will be supported to learn English and Welsh while you're at school in Wales.

Staying in the UK and Wales

You will need to ask for permission to stay in the UK if you want to stay in Wales.

- ▶ The rules about staying in Wales are the same as the rules for staying in the UK
- ▶ You may be able to claim asylum. If you are successful, you will have refugee status and you will be able to stay in Wales.
- ▶ If you claim asylum but your claim is rejected, you may still get humanitarian protection or be given UASC leave or s.67 leave to remain in the UK.
- ▶ Depending on where your parents are, and how safe it is for you, the UK Government may decide that it's better for you to be reunited with your family.

Our guide **Child First – A Guide to applying to Stay Wales for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children** has more information about this.

Being 'Looked After'

In Wales, we believe that every child needs the support of adults to help them grow and develop.

If you're not with your parents, the **local authority** (also known as the **council**, the organisation that looks after the area of Wales where you live) will provide that support for you through a **social worker** (someone employed by the local authority to help and support children and adults when they need it). This is known as being looked after.

An advocate can help you understand what's going on, and help you express your views about what's happening to you.

The guide **Child First – A Guide to Being Looked After for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children** explains more about this.

Need somewhere to live?

If you're under 18, you will be provided with somewhere to live by the local authority. This could be:

- ▶ In 'foster care' – where you'll live in a 'family' environment, maybe with other children
- ▶ In a 'children's home' – where you will live with a small number of other looked after children
- ▶ In a flat or other accommodation that is suitable for you if you need more independence. You may live with other young people like yourself.

If you have accommodation from the local authority, you are 'looked after' by them.

Wherever you live, you will have support from adults, and should feel safe.

Working in Wales

If you've come to Wales because you want to find work, you will need permission (a visa) to do this. The UK's immigration rules are quite strict and you may find that you can't work unless you've been given refugee status.

