

INDEPENDENT ASYLUM COMMISSION

This is our chance to say what we think about the UK asylum system.

The Commission wants to hear from:

- ◆ asylum seekers & refugees
- ◆ those working with asylum seekers & refugees
- ◆ those having evidence of abuses of the asylum system
- ◆ those with evidence of asylum seekers' rights being breached

The Food Group have organised a MEETING to talk about it on

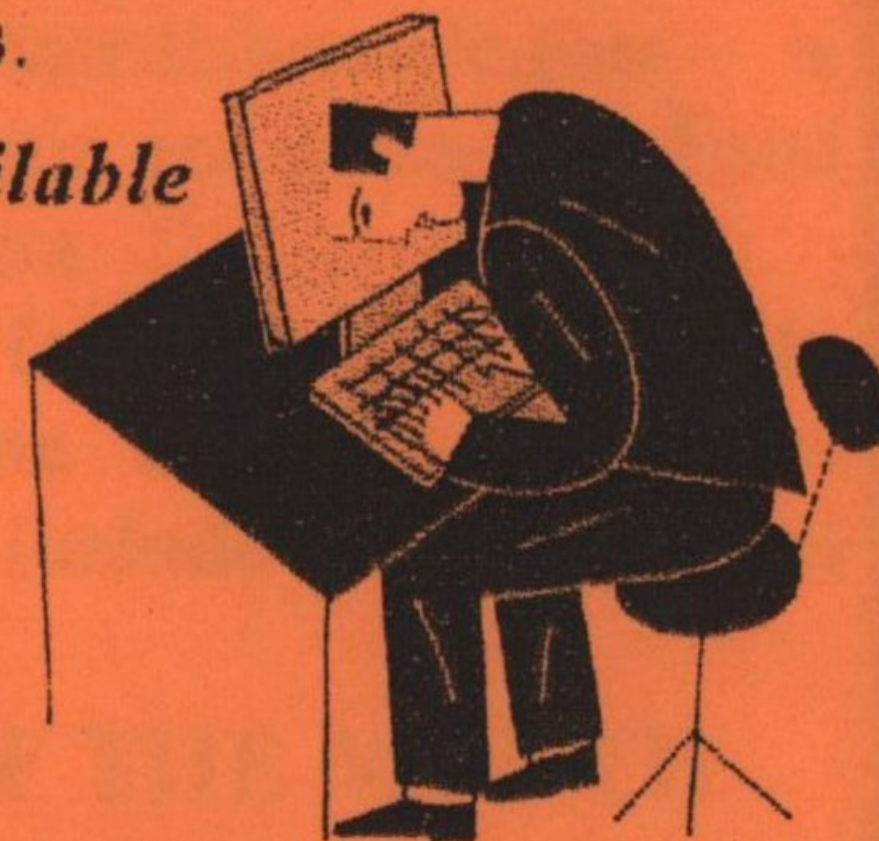
Saturday 17th FEB
at 12.45 - 1.30 p.m

Please bring ideas, experiences and concerns

NEED HELP USING THE INTERNET?

Email is a good way of keeping in touch with family and friends around the world. If you need help getting an email address or you need help using the computer why not ask one of our volunteers.

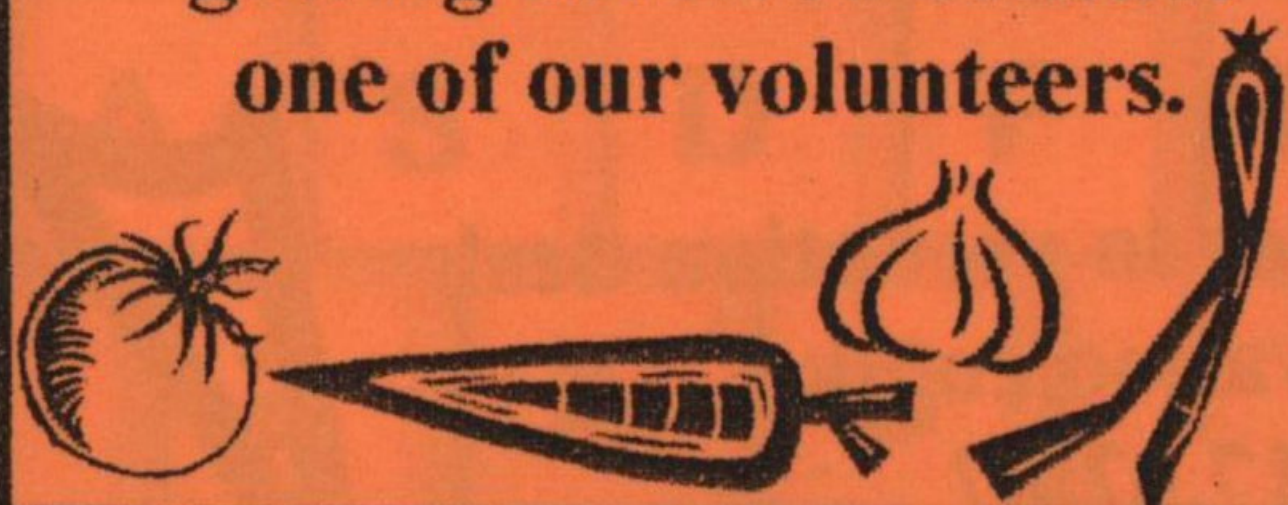
*Help Available
Every
Saturday
Between
12.45pm
and
1.30pm*



do you want to grow your own vegetables ?

This year the food group is looking at getting one or two allotments so that you can grow food for yourself.

If you're interested in getting involved contact one of our volunteers.



Hosted by the Clarion Choir

Valentine's Cabaret

☞ Poetry ☞ Music ☞
☞ Singing ☞ Disco ☞

**Saturday 10th
February
at The Place**

Melrose Street, Sherwood

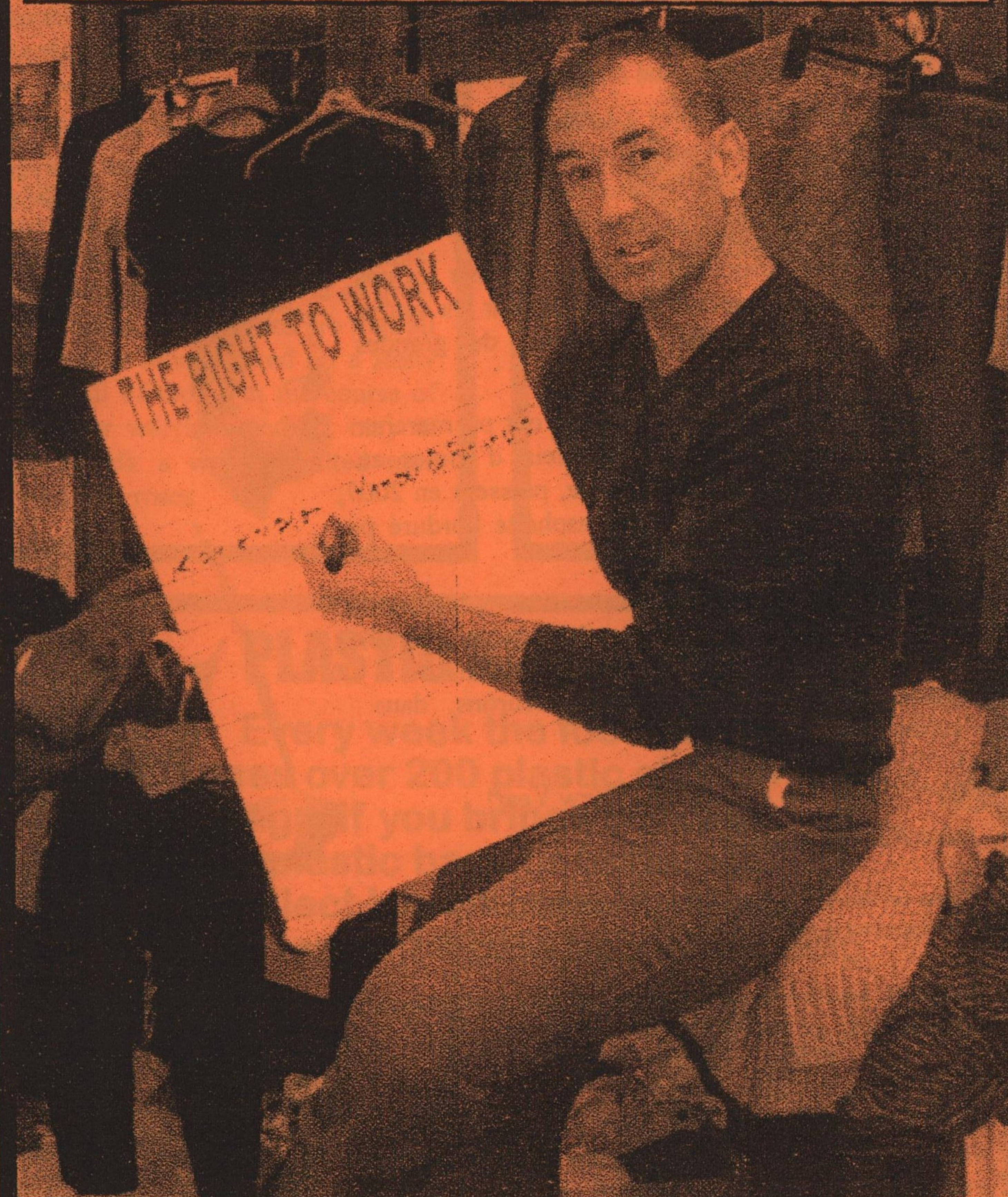
from 7.30 'till late

Free to Asylum Seekers

*If you'd like to perform a
short set call Maggie on
0115 9622115*

TUSHAURIANE

NEWSLETTER OF NNRF FOOD GROUP ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2007



Alan Simpson, Member of Parliament for Nottingham South signing the Food Groups Petition for the Right to Work for Asylum Seekers.

Bien aimés frères et soeurs de la Communauté Congolaise de Nottingham

Bien aimés,

Maintenant que nous sommes arrivés aux festivités marquant la fin de l'année 2006 et le début de l'année 2007, nous voulons d'abord dire merci à Dieu pour le souffle de vie qu'il continue à nous donner.

Nous disons ensuite merci à la maison Refugee Forum pour l'aide tant soit peu qu'elle ne cesse de donner aux frères et soeurs dépourvus des moyens, n'ayant pas la possibilité et l'autorisation de travailler. Ses sollicitudes à notre faveur sont connues de tous. Qu'elle trouve ici l'expression de notre reconnaissance.

Cette année qui touché à son fin a été pour les uns une année de paix et de benediction, pour les autres, par contre, elle a été une année de grandes difficultés.

Nos voeux sont que tous ceux qui ont pu marcher dans un chemin rocailleux et plein d'épines au cours de cette année qui s'achève, puissent en 2007, marcher dans un chemin bien asphalté borduré par des fleurs roses.

Vivons dans la fraternité, soutenons nous les uns les autres comme les enfants issus d'une même entraille, soutenons également les différentes actions de la maison Refugee Forum et demeurons dans l'espoir.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Fabian Kasongo

(I was so moved typing this out in French that I decided a translation was important for all to read. Konnie.)

Beloved brothers and sisters of the Congolese Community of Nottingham.

Beloved,

Now that we have reached the festivities marking the end of the year 2006 and the beginning of the year 2007, we wish, first of all, to give thanks to God for the breath of life which he continues to give us.

Continued Page 3



From page 2

After that we say thank you to the Refugee Forum for the help however little it may be which it continues to give to the destitute brothers and sisters not having the opportunity and the authorisation to work. Their concern on our behalf is recognised by all. May this be an expression of our gratitude.

This year which is nearing its end has been a year of peace and blessing for some, for others, however, it has been a year of great difficulties. Our wishes are that all those who have walked on a stony road full of thorns in the course of this year which is ending, may in 2007 walk a well asphalted road lined with roses.

No English? No Problem!



MONDAY
3.00 - 4.30pm
At Refugee Forum
www.nenp.co.uk

PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED

Every week the food group uses over 200 plastic shopping bags. If you bring your own plastic bags or better still collect lots of bags from your friends it would be a great help.

**BRING
YOUR
BAGS
BACK**



Alan Simpson Visit

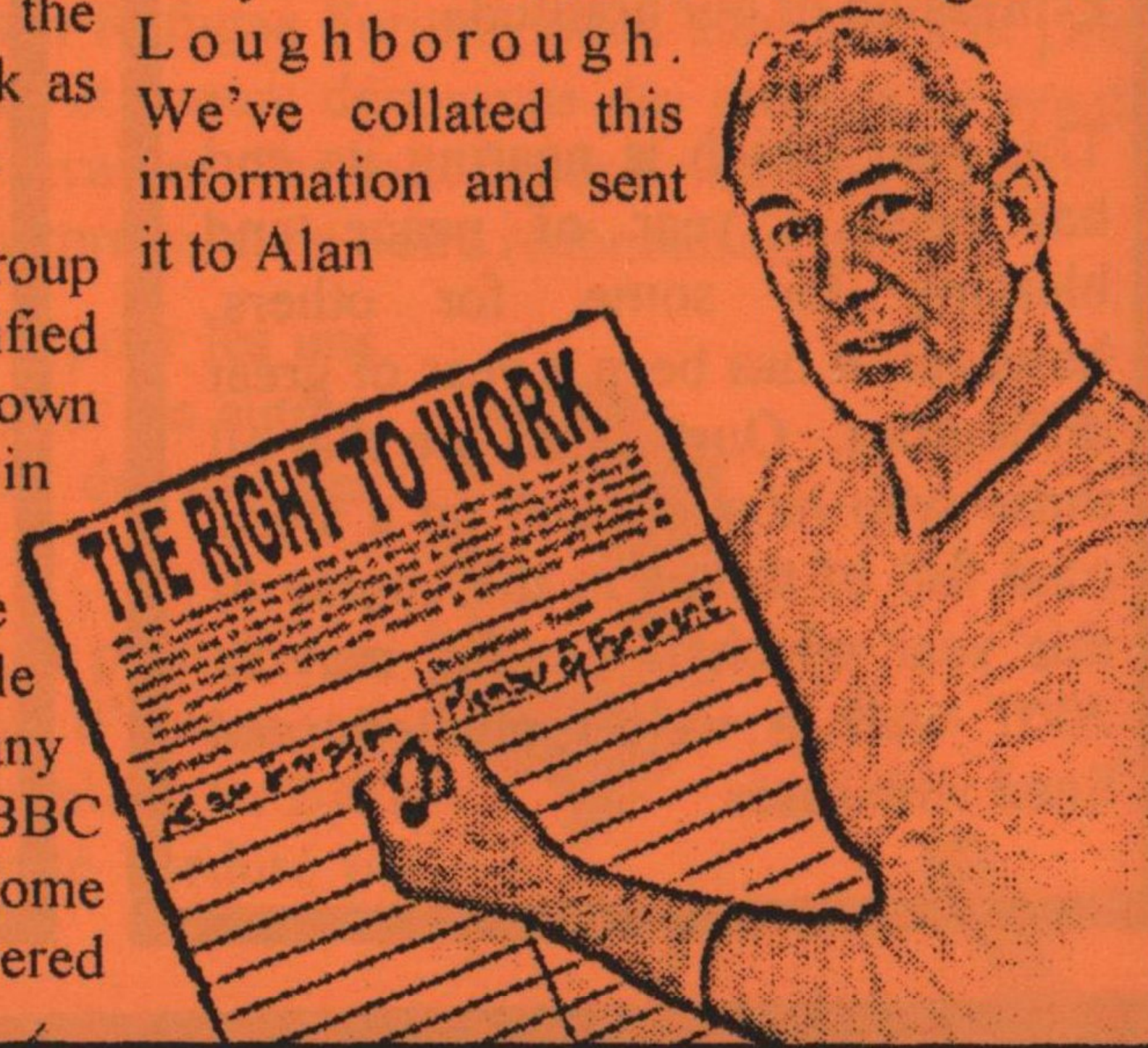
After writing to Alan Simpson, Member of Parliament for Nottingham South, about the move from Nottingham to Loughborough for signing on, he agreed to come and meet asylum seekers at the Square Centre on 11th November to hear their views. There were approximately 30 (mostly asylum seekers) present and with the crucial help of Bahman and Patrick as interpreters, we had a good meeting.

While several members of the group presented their own case, Alan clarified that he could only help his own constituents, those who live in Nottingham South, but was very happy to take general issues to the Minister - particularly that of people who are destitute and not given any financial help for travelling. The BBC has in the meantime asked the Home Office for figures and have discovered

that only 50% of those required to sign are actually signing. (see below)

Alan also expressed interest in housing conditions of asylum seekers and was prepared to take this further if we could provide the relevant information.

Since Alan's visit Bill has asked people to fill in a form giving reasons why they are unable to sign at Loughborough. We've collated this information and sent it to Alan



Asylum seekers miss appointments

From the BBC website

Hundreds of asylum seekers have failed to sign in at a new immigration centre. The centre, which serves the East Midlands, opened in October on the site of a former job centre in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

It was designed to make the asylum system work more effectively but refugee groups said asylum seekers would be unable to afford the bus fare.

Now it has been revealed that 1,233 people failed to keep their

appointments at the centre.

Under the old system asylum seekers had to sign in at their local police station.

But figures obtained by the BBC show that more than half the people who were given appointments at the centre did not turn up.

A spokesman for the Immigration Service said those who ignored their appointments would get warning letters. If they failed to turn up again, officials would pay them a visit.

Give Asylum Seekers the 'Right to Work'

Alan Simpson MP is supporting the following motion in Parliament

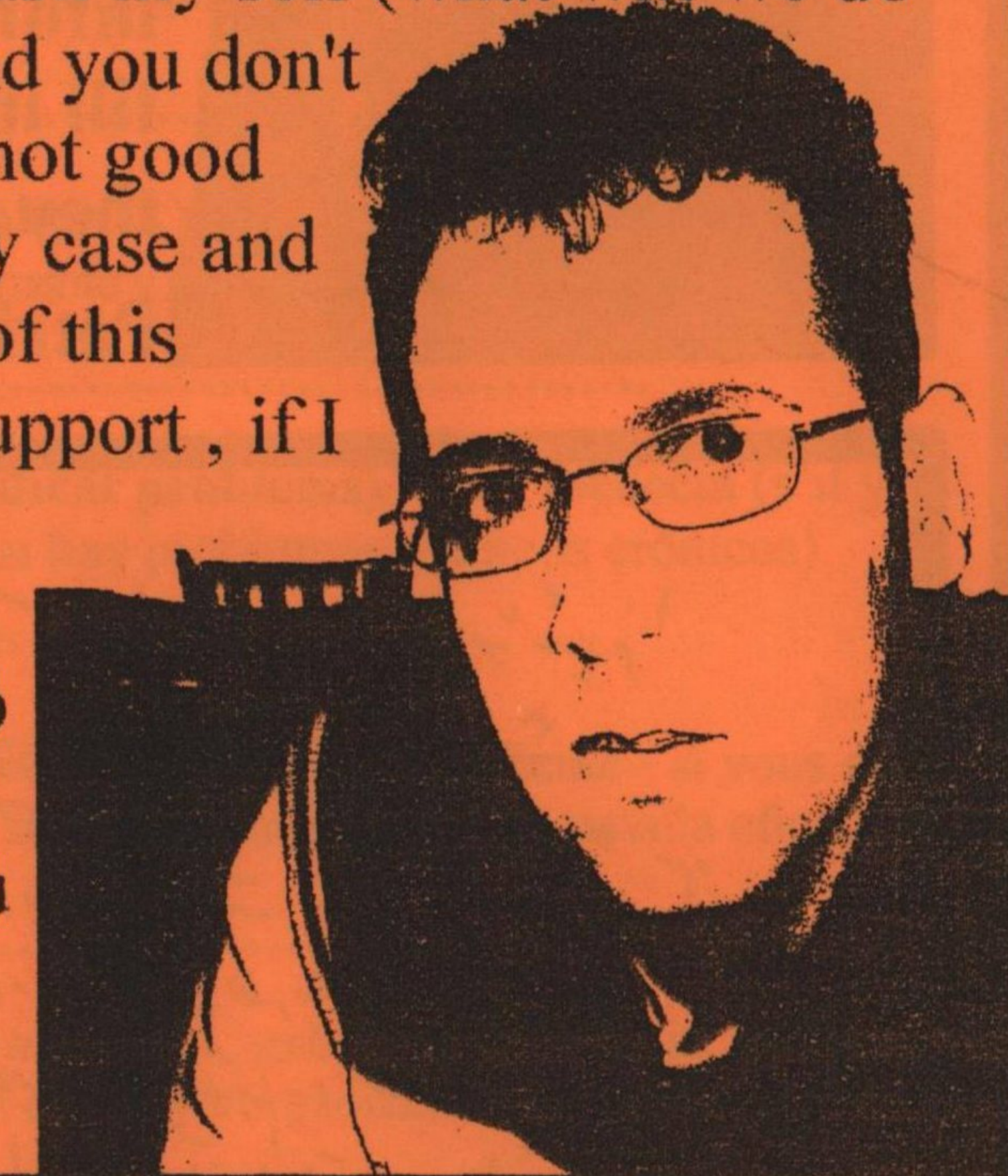
"That this House believes that asylum seekers looking for sanctuary in the UK should be granted the right to work from the day of arrival; further believes that this would afford such vulnerable people dignity as well as the ability to support themselves financially; and notes that this would

also reduce the burden on the taxpayer"

Three local MP's (John Hepple (MP for Nottingham East), Vernon Cocker (Gedling) and Graham Allan (Nottingham North))have not yet supported this motion and we would ask you or your friends to contact them immediately and ask them to sign Early Day Motion EDM 485

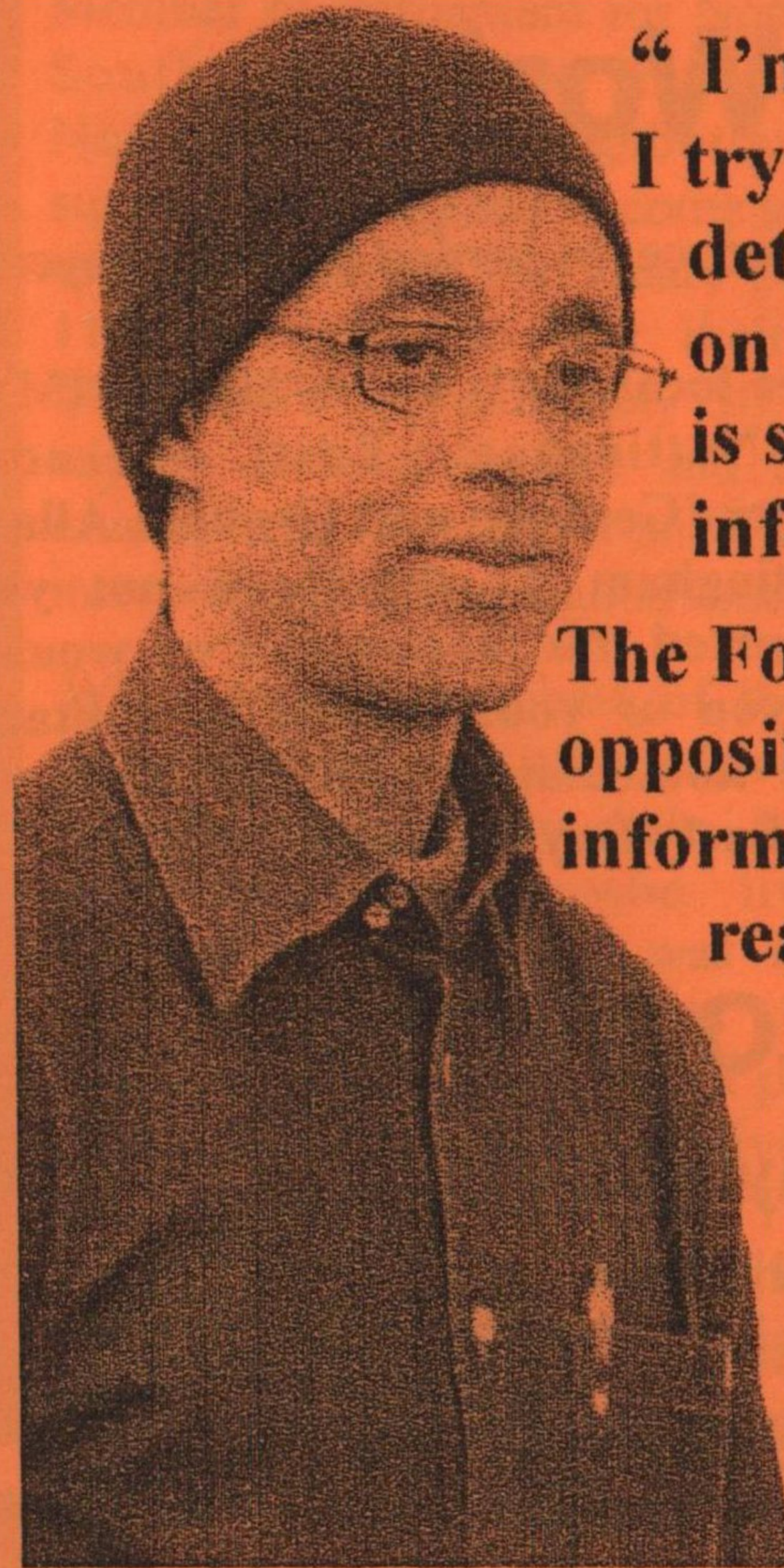
The Right to Work

"this is a question always I ask my self (what will we do if you don't let us to live) and you don't give me right to live this is not good decision if you terminate my case and tell me you have to get out of this property and you stop my support , if I say this is not right but you refuse me to OK that is a problems how to carry on to live .. its is a open letter to whom it may concern if you give us opportunity to work" Azad



The Food Group is hoping to restart its campaign for The Right to Work for Asylum Seekers in the next few weeks. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information contact one of our volunteers.

IF YOU ARE LIABLE TO DETENTION AND DEPORTATION - YOU MUST



“ I’m a volunteer at the Refugee Forum. I try to help people who have been detained by putting in bail applications on their behalf. One problem we face is sometimes we do not have all the information about the detained person.

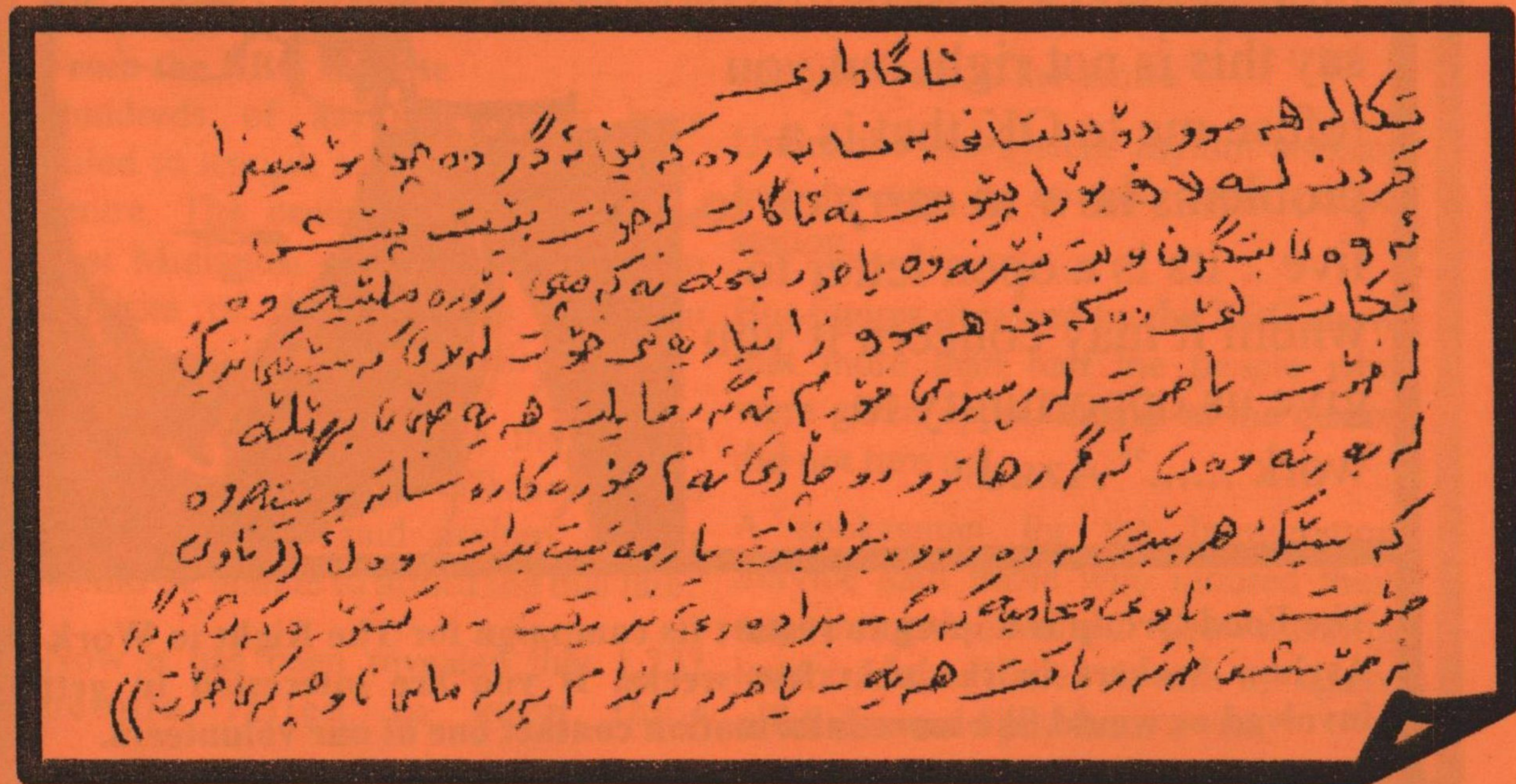
The Food Group has produced this form opposite so that we can get more information about all our clients. It is really important to have your details in case you are DETAINED at any time, so that we have the information to act quickly! Please fill in your details and make sure they are put on your NNRF file”

Patrick

At all times carry the following information on your person

- **Full name / Nom et prénom(s) / Nombre completo**
.....
- **Date of birth / Date de naissance / Fecha de nacimiento** ____/____/____
- **Home Office Reference number / Numéro de référence du Ministère de l’Intérieur / Número de referencia del Ministerio del Interior**
.....
- **Home Office Port Reference number / Numéro de référence du Port d’arrivée / Número de referencia de entrada al país del Ministerio del Interior**
.....
- **Solicitor including their emergency number / Votre avocat y compris son numéro d’urgence / Su abogado y también su número de emergencia**
.....
- **Your MP including their emergency number / Votre représentant au Parlement y compris son numéro d’urgence / Su Miembro del Parlamento y también su número de emergencia**
.....
- **Your doctor (if there are any persistent medical problems)/Votre médecin (s’il y a de problème médical chronique) Su médico (si hay problemas médicos crónicos).**
.....
- **Medicine - If you take medicine ask for NCACD leaflet / Médecine - si vous en prenez, demandez le feuillet officiel / Medicina - si está tomando, pida la octavilla oficial**
.....
- **Numbers of any friends/support group/campaign group / Vos amis/ groupe d’appui/groupe de campagne / Sus amigos/ grupo de apoyo/organización de campaña**
.....
.....

For further information go to www.ncadc.org.uk



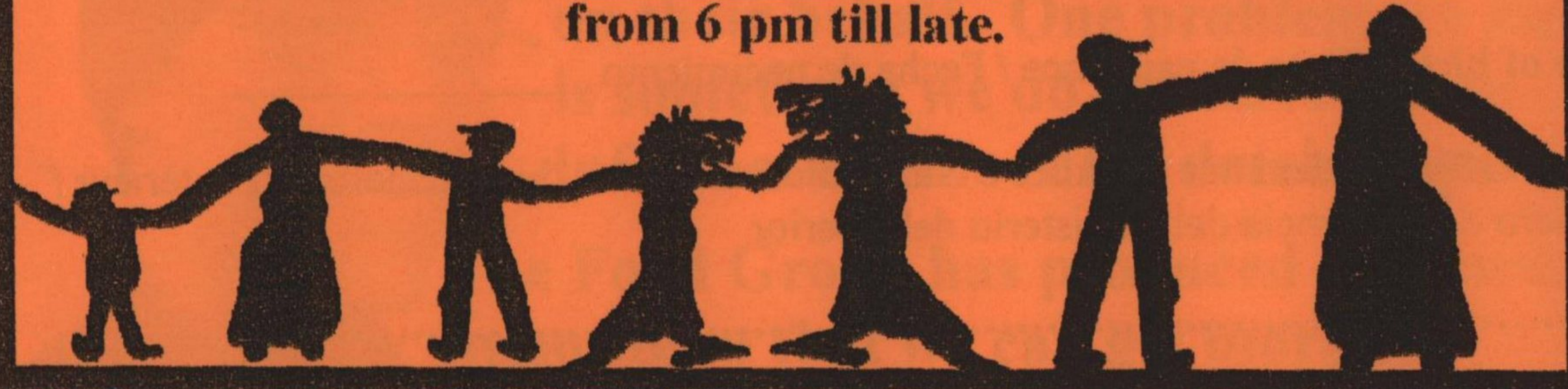
SATURDAY SOCIAL EVENT

Would you like to make new friends?

Would you like to talk to people from other countries?

Would you like to have fun, dancing and listening to different music?

Then come to Nottingham Refugee Forum every Saturday,
from 6 pm till late.

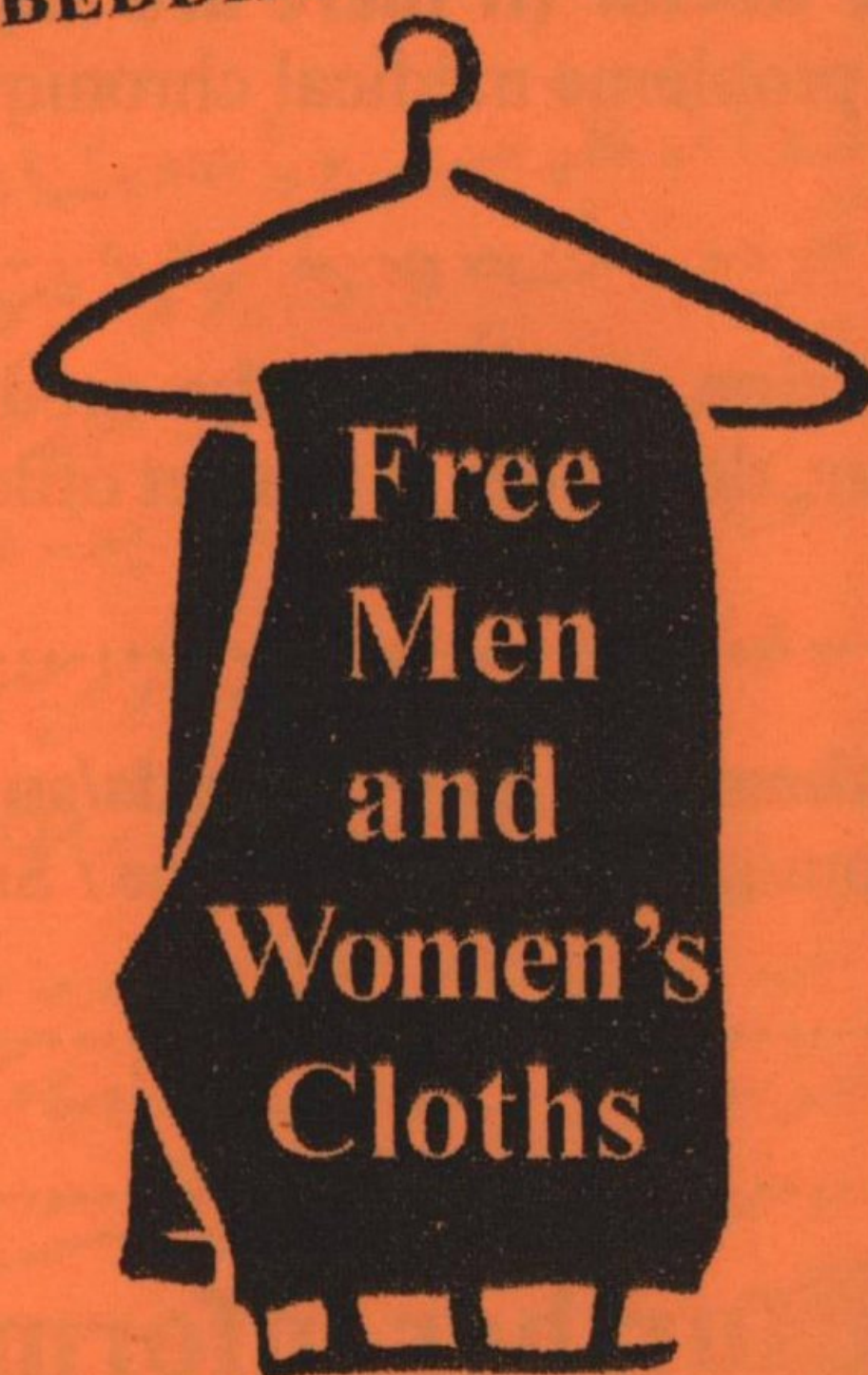


FREE SHOP

CHILDREN & BABY CLOTHS ♦ BLANKETS & BEDDING ♦ TOWELS

Open Every
Saturday
12 noon to 1.30pm

ALL WELCOME



Campaign To Stop Deportations To DR Congo

The Home Office have failed to adequately address the current country situation in DR Congo and continue to carry out removals.

The Home Office claim that the British Embassy in Kinshasa is not aware of any evidence that unsuccessful asylum seekers face mistreatment from the DR Congo authorities on their return. Many Human Rights groups in the UK dispute this and are adamant that returned asylum seekers do face mistreatment.

A tribunal is now being prepared to challenge the current DR Congo Country Guidance in which the Home Office claims there is no risk on return to failed asylum seekers.

They are collecting evidence to be used in the tribunal to prove that returned asylum seekers in fact face imprisonment, extortion and torture.

They have a substantial amount of evidence already, but need more.

A meeting was organised on the 27th January to hear what the 'Campaign To Stop Deportations To DR Congo' is all about. If perhaps you have information that could contribute to its success or want further information, please contact: Liz Atherton: 07931 524654 (after 7.00pm) or email liz.atherton@freeuk.com

Anyone willing to come forward with information can be assured of complete confidentiality.

An email from Romania

Below is an edited email from Food Group volunteer Adrian, who was forced by the Home Office to return to Romania in December 06.

Hi Bill, I am very happy to writing to you today after so long time, on the moment here is very cold -7 and is starting to snow but is very cold.

I will like to let you know that I wish I will have the possibility to come back in UK soon as possible but I don't know what this people from Romania NHS they wish to do with me here, but so far they are left just 16 days and I will have me a Romanian Passport, it was very difficult to put the application, but I remember you

tell me I need to be stronger and to faith to survive.

It is true on the moment I am feeling on a foreign territorial with all the obstacles to pass and to find out what is wrong same times, Bill I believe you already know more than me about Romania it is very difficult for me to understating how things work here it is to much clearly about what is happening here.

Bill please say hello to every body from Refuge Forum and "destitute group" for all their help and support for all Asylum Seeker, Bill I wish I will see you soon, to all of you have a nice evening and a good day tomorrow.

With love Adrian.



wwwbsites

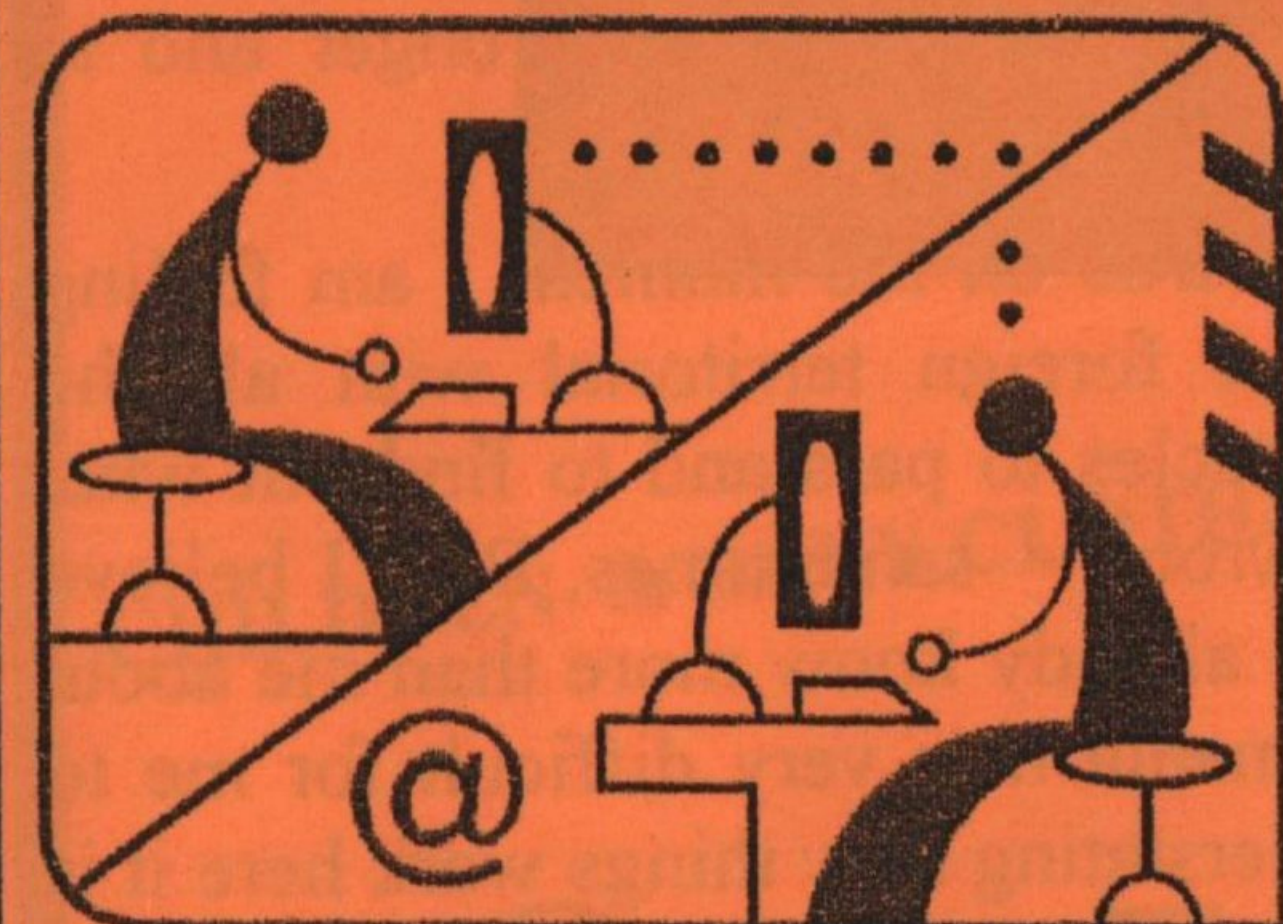
Want to use the internet, but not sure which websites to go to? To help, we've asked some of the Refugees attending the Food Group which websites they use. More next month...

CONGO- Danu recommends www.afticetime.com for information and news, Patrick uses www.congo2000.com and Michel recommends the website www.allafrica.com for news from different African countries.
IRAN- Ahmed from Iran recommended www.taktaz.com for music and news and www.gooya.com for links to 20-30 other websites.

the following: www.sudaneseonline.com www.sudanjem.com and www.sudan.net
KURDISH- www.kurdishmusic.com is good for Kurdish music and news said Food Group volunteer Awara.

If you have a favourite website to recommend, let one of our volunteers know and we will include it in our next newsletter.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
FARSI/ ENGLISH DICTIONARY
www.farsidic.com



"I use the internet most Saturday's, sometimes I have to wait, it would be good if we could have more computers"

A comment from last months
Have Your Say



HAVE YOUR SAY

We are constantly trying to improve the service and the quality of food we give you. If you have any suggestions / comments regarding how you think we can improve things please use the space below to let us know. We also welcome any articles or adverts (in any language) for future issues of our newsletter.

Please return any comments / articles to reception desk
or email foodgroupnews@yahoo.co.uk
Deadline for next issue 17.02.07