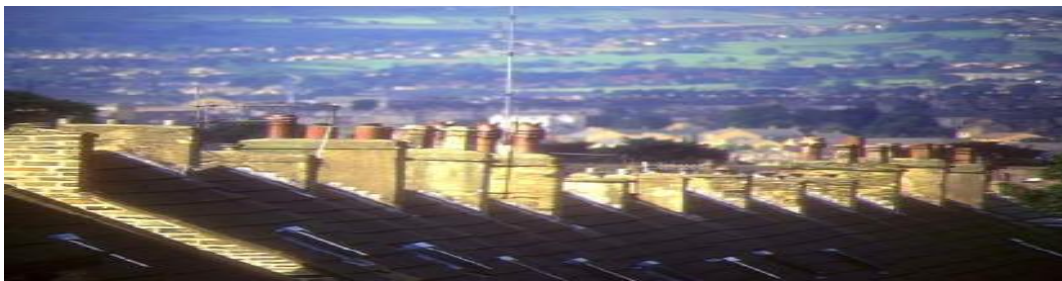


# A Green Manifesto for Bradford District



## Refugees



Shiplay **Green Party**  
April 2010





# Refugees

## The issue



The Green Party believes that we must support those who have been forced to flee from injustice and oppressive regimes. Refugees are entitled to humane and respectful treatment and are not a threat to our way of life. In fact, the UK takes far fewer refugees as a proportion of our population than many other European countries. The Green Party was therefore disgusted by the way in which some other political parties and sections of the media whipped up hysteria against refugees and asylum seekers in the 2005 general election.

## In Bradford

In Bradford, in 2010, there are children suffering from malnutrition, children driven on to the streets of the 'red light district' in order to survive, and families who have experienced appalling brutality and exploitation since they arrived in the district as refugees.

Your green councillors have met adults who earn just £10 for a full day spent cleaning homes in the area. There are others who work in semi legal or illegal companies for less than the minimum wage without complaint for fear of being sent back to their countries of origin. No wonder some of these people raid bags of donated clothes left outside charity shops and rely on the black market, prostitution and child labour to survive. Yet when we have tried to help these refugees, we have been told by social services and benefits system officers that the only option is to put them on a plane and deport them - or even deport the parents and take their children into care.

In response, your Green councillors have:

- ▶ supported asylum groups and refugee agencies who give practical support to people who need their help;
- ▶ successfully proposed a motion to Council to commission a report into the unjust way that children of economic migrant families are denied free school meals;
- ▶ helped set up a Council agency to offer support across departments to asylum seekers in our district.



## What would a Green Council do?

A green council would:

- ▶ campaign to reform the benefits system to allow temporary and part-time workers to access basic benefits and to work while their asylum claim is being reviewed;
- ▶ campaign to reform benefits legislation so that children in our schools would receive free school meals without their parents being on benefit if they could prove that their income has fallen below a certain level;
- ▶ ensure that agencies within the Council give proper support to refugees agencies and others;
- ▶ seek to persuade Incommunities to amend its rules to allow refugees to access the Homehunter system and thereby minimise the risk that they will be exploited by unscrupulous landlords.