

Legal Action for Women (LAW)

£5483.21

To provide training and support for women asylum seekers and their families based on LAW's recently published *For Asylum Seekers and their Supporters - A Self-help Guide Against Detention and Deportation*.

TFN's grant contributed towards the distribution of Legal Action for Women's *Self-help Guide Against Detention and Deportation* making it possible to get the Guide free of charge to several hundred women seeking asylum who called our Women's Centre over the past 14 months. They called LAW from detention and from towns and cities around the country. Without it they would have been denied this crucial information about their rights.

Using the step-by-step Guide, women and their supporters have been able to: summarise the mistakes and injustices in how their case has been handled; write their own letters; stand up to unscrupulous lawyers; speak about being a rape survivor or other torture for the first time which ensures that their legal case isn't lacking vital information; win their release from detention; gather support from members of parliament and others; publicise their plight; stop their own removal.

Regular weekly sessions were held at the LAW Centre where volunteers (overseen by a woman from LAW or one of the other three groups at the Centre that they work with closely) return the many calls they receive from women in detention, send them a Guide and follow up with further calls to direct them to the appropriate information.

TFN's funding also contributed to training on using the Guide. They have been invited by groups in Brighton, Cardiff, Glasgow (attended by over 100 people), Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield to hold workshops on the Guide for asylum seekers and supporters.