

Testimony

Isidore:



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I receive £35 in vouchers every week. I can go either to Asda or Sainsbury. I have no other source of income apart from these vouchers as I am not allowed to work

while my claim is being processed. Being able to exchange these vouchers against cash has allowed me to buy more food as I can go to local African markets where it is less expensive. With this cash I can also stay in touch with friends and family by Internet. Or I can pay for a fax or a photocopy to my solicitor in order to process my claim. JRS is one of the only organisation I know of doing this exchange. It is so useful

Mesu:



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I am 7 months pregnant. I need to prepare my baby's arrival and get a basic layette and being able to exchange my vouchers is going to allow me to do so. With the cash I receive I can also buy my bus pass to go to my English class in the evening. At last I can buy some food for a much cheaper price than in supermarket in local African market.

JRS Mission

The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic non-governmental organisation, at work in over 60 countries, with a mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people.

JRS UK carries out its mission on behalf of all asylum seekers from their first arrival until they are satisfactorily settled. This work is carried out in collaboration with other JRS offices round the world, other Church and secular organisations, voluntary and governmental, which are active in the same field

Other things you can do with JRS

- ◆ Join our mailing list and keep up to date with issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers.
- ◆ Collect and send us any unwanted Nectar Vouchers for distribution to destitute asylum-seekers.
- ◆ Share the information on this leaflet with family, friends, colleagues and others. Please write and ask for further copies!
- ◆ Pray—for asylum seekers and refugees around the world and in the UK.
- ◆ Organise an ecumenical or inter-faith liturgy for refugees. Prayer resources available from the JRS office. If you would like a speaker please contact the office.
- ◆ Send us information — local press cuttings in particular — showing how asylum seekers and refugees are treated in your area.
- ◆ Fundraise for an overseas JRS project or contribute towards our national work.



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JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE
TO SERVE, TO ACCOMPANY, TO ADVOCATE

Supermarket Vouchers Exchange



How would you cope if you had no cash?

Where do you do your weekly shopping? How do you choose which supermarket to go to: proximity, price, or range of goods? How much of your weekly shopping do you buy in small shops or in markets?



Vouchers received by Asylum seekers

How would you cope if you had no cash? How would you manage if you could only buy things in one named supermarket? It would be more difficult if the nearest branch were a long way off. Even more difficult if you haven't the bus fare to get there.

This is the situation of those asylum seekers who receive support from the government under section 4. Section 4 support arises when asylum seekers :

- have either got a judicial review in their case pending;
- have been able to introduce a fresh asylum application and so have a new case;
- or have agreed to return to their country of origin and are supported in this way in the meantime.

They receive £35 in supermarket vouchers per week and they rarely have the choice of which vouchers they receive.

Encouragement to unscrupulous individuals

The result is that asylum seekers often sell their vouchers for much less than face value, so that they can buy bus tickets to attend college, to report at immigration reporting centres or to attend medical and legal appointments. The going rate for the vouchers from unscrupulous individuals locally is £20 cash.

You can stop this with JRS

At JRS we exchange these vouchers for cash at face value, usually once a month, to enable asylum seekers to buy other things that they need.

You too can help – and at the same time show solidarity with asylum seekers. If you shop at ASDA, Tesco or Sainsbury consider exchanging vouchers through JRS. It costs nothing but the postage and can make a real difference to people's lives. ASDA and Tesco vouchers come as gift cards. These hold any unspent money on the card. Bearing in mind the range of toys, books, DVDs and so on now available in supermarkets these vouchers could make ideal gifts. Sainsbury gift vouchers are of paper. There is no change with these so they are less convenient especially for asylum seekers.

What do you have to do?

Join our network of individuals and communities who are willing to regularly or occasionally buy the gift vouchers from the asylum seekers via our office. Fill the sign-up form on the right hand side choosing among the different option the one you prefer and send it back to JRS.

Supermarket Exchange Registration form

1) Please indicate the number of vouchers you wish to receive for the appropriate supermarket:

	ASDA	TESCO	SAINSBURY
£35 voucher			
Total			

Amount Enclosed for Vouchers (cheque payable to Jesuit Refugee Service): £ _____

Yes, I would also like to make a donation for admin costs of this scheme. Donation amount : £ _____

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and would like to gift aid my donation to Jesuit Refugee Service. (worth a further 28p for every £1 given)

2) I wish to exchange vouchers against cash every :

Monthly	Fortnightly	Weekly	Occasionally

If you wish to pay by standing order please contact us by phone or email.

Name _____

Address _____

Email and phone _____

3) I Return my registration form and a cheque to :



Jesuit Refugee Service (Charity number: 230165)

6 Melior Street, SE1 3QP, London

Phone: 020 7357 0974, Fax: 020 7378 1985

Email: uk@jrs.net

Website: www.jrsuk.net

JRS will not share your details with other organisations. However, we keep your information for our newsletter mailing list and so that we can process your donations. Occasionally we may need to contact you with a specific query. If you do not wish to be contacted please tick here