

Being KIND

*Impact
Report
2022*

January 2023

KIND UK (Kids in Need of Defense UK) works to protect undocumented children in the UK.

We provide free legal help to children, young people and families as they navigate the UK's immigration and nationality procedures. We partner with lawyers and law firms across the country to ensure the best quality legal advice and representation.

We protect the rights and wellbeing of undocumented children and young people.

We campaign for systemic change to ensure that all children are safe and able to thrive regardless of their immigration status.

We partner with KIND, a US charity supporting legal representation for children facing deportation proceedings alone.

KIND UK is a collaboration between five award-winning, UK based organisations that specialise in children's immigration and asylum law:



Migrant & Refugee Children's Legal Unit

OUR IMPACT

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Undocumented Children

There are over 215,000 undocumented children living in the UK today.¹

Being undocumented means living in the UK but not having the necessary paperwork.

Many were born in the UK and many have only ever known the UK as their home. Others are victims of trafficking or exploitation, or have fled from war.

Children who are undocumented are vulnerable to poverty, social exclusion and exploitation. They face problems accessing higher education, health care, opening bank accounts, applying for driving licences, housing and work.

Becoming documented can mean everything to a child or young person. It ends the risk of being torn apart from their family and home, or being deported to a country they do not know. It means they can access work, higher education and all of life's opportunities freely as they become adults.

For some it means the difference between life and death if their rights are not properly protected – many face removal to countries that

are not safe, or where they risk exploitation and human rights abuses.

Undocumented children and young people face many barriers to gaining status in the UK. The system is complex and can seem daunting and hostile. Many face it alone, without proper legal representation, without their rights being protected, and not knowing where to turn for help.

That's where we come in.

1. Andrew Jolly, 2020, University of Wolverhampton <https://data.london.gov.uk/blog/how-many-undocumented-children-live-in-london>

2022 in Numbers

In 2022 we took on one new case almost every day - 330 new cases over the year

In 2022, 662 lawyers from 21 law firms and 3 in-house legal departments worked on KIND UK cases.

Their work was supervised by 10 specialist KIND solicitors.

In total, we had 781 cases active across the year.

Our team and partners achieved a 99% success rate in final decisions.

“Gaining legal status meant I was able to work. I was able to apply to college. I was able to get a bank card. All this opened up for me because of that one thing.”

- KIND UK client

781 active cases.

662 pro bono lawyers.

10 specialist KIND solicitors.

A 99% success rate in final decisions.

Atu and Ebo: Children in Need

Atu and Ebo are brothers who were born in the UK. Both have disabilities and their family became destitute and undocumented following a string of bad experiences with lawyers and law firms they went to for help - one lawyer was jailed and a firm was later shut down. KIND has been working with the family since 2018 together with the pro bono team at our partner law firm Reed Smith and has helped them secure status. We continue to support them as their case continues.

Atu and Ebo were born in the UK in 2007 and 2010. Their parents, Emma and David, came to the UK legally so that Emma could pursue her advanced studies. They held temporary permission to stay (leave to remain) in the UK when Atu and Ebo were born.

Emma and David tried to extend their leave to remain after their children were born, but struggled to get proper legal advice - one 'solicitor' told them he made an application for them but did not do so (he was later jailed for illegally providing immigration advice) and another firm they went to for help gave them inadequate advice and was later shut down.

The family became undocumented. Emma and David lost their right to work. They got some help from family and friends, and sold some possessions, to stay afloat, which helped for a while. Eventually they became destitute.

The local authority later confirmed that Atu and Ebo were 'children in need' and agreed to provide support (under Section 17 of the Children Act).

The family came to KIND in 2018 and we've been working with them ever since in collaboration with a pro bono legal team at Reed Smith.

Atu and Ebo were not eligible for British citizenship

at that time so we assisted them to apply for leave to remain based on a child's residence, which was successful.

They were now documented and once again had access to the support they needed.

Once Ebo was entitled to apply for citizenship, we helped him apply (he was born in the UK and had been continuously resident to age 10). This too was successful - he became a British citizen and his status in the UK is now secure

We helped Atu and Emma continue to renew their leave to remain so that the whole family has status and can stay together. We are currently helping Atu with an application for citizenship so that he can join his brother as a British citizen.

We have worked with Atu and Ebo's family for a long time and their case is a perfect example of what we do and why.

These were boys who were born right here in the UK and had spent almost all their lives here, and this was a family in a great need. We always aimed to give them the support and proper legal advice they had been denied or not been able to access in the past. Ultimately, our work with them was a success - we secured the status the family was entitled to, and even citizenship for Ebo. We continue to work with them as their case continues.

“

KIND UK has helped me so much. I am so grateful for all their work to help me and my sons.

”

Emma
Atu and Ebo's mum

Thank you

KIND UK operates by connecting lawyers undertaking pro bono work, with children and young people in need of legal representation but without the resources to pay.

We are proud to work with and be supported by so many law firms, in-house legal departments and funders.

We would like to thank everyone who has made our work possible, particularly the 662 pro bono lawyers who worked so hard on KIND cases in 2022.

Law firms

Akin Gump
Allen & Overy
Arnold & Porter
Ashurst
Baker
McKenzie
Clyde & Co.
(London, Manchester)
Cooley
Covington & Burling
Dechert
Dentons
DLA Piper
(Birmingham, Glasgow, London, Manchester)
Eversheds-Sutherland
Farrer
Field Fisher
Fried Frank
Gowling WLG
Hogan Lovells

(Birmingham, London)

K&L Gates
Mayer Brown
Norton Rose Fulbright
Pinsent Masons
Reed Smith
Ropes & Gray
Shearman & Sterling
Sidley Austin
Simmons & Simmons
Skadden

In-house legal departments

Airbus
AIG
Bank of America
Microsoft
PRS for Music
VMWare

Funders

Microsoft
the Paul Hamlyn Foundation
the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Unbound Philanthropy
the Barrow Cadbury Trust
AB Charitable Trust
Trust for London
Oak Foundation



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