



Welsh Refugee Coalition
c/o EYST
11 St Helen's Road
Swansea
SA1 4AB

Commission for Justice in Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

1st June 2018

Commission for Justice in Wales: Call for Evidence

Dear Commission

The Welsh Refugee Coalition welcomes your call for evidence reviewing the operation of the justice system in Wales. The Welsh Refugee Coalition, established in 2015, is an alliance of 47 organisations working in Wales with asylum seekers and refugees at all stages of their journey, and with the communities in which they live. We work together in the interests of asylum seekers and refugees and the communities that welcome them, to ensure that our resources are used to best effect and to speak with a coherent and strong voice on policies and practices affecting people seeking sanctuary in Wales. Through collaborative work, the Coalition contributes to a more equal, globally responsible Wales with cohesive communities to make a Wales welcoming place of safety where rights are enjoyed and asylum seekers and refugees can thrive.

As Chair of the Coalition, I would like to draw your attention to the attached briefing paper published by four of our member organisations, British Red Cross, Welsh Refugee Council, Displaced People in Action and Asylum Justice in February 2018. The paper, *Refugee family reunion in Wales: What can we do?* highlights the significant impact of family separation on refugee families in Wales and the barriers they face in accessing affordable, accredited legal advice. Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the paper are particularly pertinent to your work streams on family justice and access to justice.

I would be grateful if you could consider the attached paper as part of your evidence. If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rocio Cifuentes
Chair of the Welsh Refugee Coalition

Encs.