

Left Out and Locked Down



**Scotland In Lockdown:
Stories from People with Refugee Status
or Seeking Asylum and Experiencing
Destitution**



For further information on this article please go to <https://doi.org/10.1080/00140139.2017.1347111>

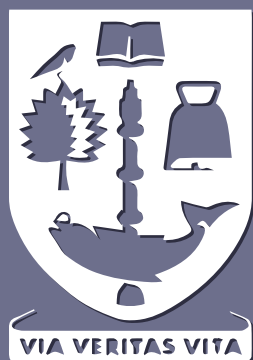
Acknowledgments

The stories in the booklets come from people who shared their experiences as part of the Scotland in Lockdown study, without whom this work would not be possible. The work was completed by a large team of researchers at the University of Glasgow and funded by the Chief Scientist Office (Scotland). You can find out more about this study here: <https://scotlandinlockdown.co.uk/>.

The booklets were produced by Dr Caitlin Gormley, Dr Phillippa Wiseman, and Dr Nughmana Mirza who are all based within the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow. All three were co-investigators on the Scotland in Lockdown study and they wanted to bring these stories together in an accessible and creative way with the help of Research Assistants Molly Gilmour, April Shaw and Nicola Ceesay. This project was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council's Impact Acceleration Accounts.

This series was illustrated, and made possible, by Sophia Neilson, a Scottish-based ethnographic artist and illustrator. You can find more of her work online @soofillustrates or www.soofillustrates.com.

The series was translated into French by Jennifer Rieck and into Urdu and Arabic with the support of Amina: The Muslim Women's Resource Centre.



University
of Glasgow

In March 2020 Scotland went into lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were all asked to 'stay at home', 'stay safe' and 'protect the NHS', and were told that we were 'all in it together'. This was not the case for people who were already marginalised and isolated, who faced even more hardship and inequality as a result of the pandemic restrictions.



This collection focuses on four communities who spoke to us for the 'Scotland in Lockdown' study, including:

**Disabled people and
people with long
term health
conditions**



**People with
refugee status or seeking
asylum and experiencing
destitution**



**People in the criminal
justice system**

**Survivors of domestic
abuse and
sexual violence**



The images that follow represent the stories that they told us about life in lockdown.



When lockdown started, it made the exclusion, isolation and harmful immigration procedures worse for many people who were seeking asylum or had refugee status.



This made it harder for new arrivals to settle into life in an already hostile environment.

People's lives were on hold because immigration procedures stopped during the pandemic, and made the process even harder.

"Before coronavirus, it was horrible for me because I was going for my appeal at the court. It was such a horrible time in my life."



"The pandemic was like coming out of limbo and going into another limbo. It's just like I am still where I was before. I'm thinking about when will all this end?"



Confusing immigration procedures were no longer in person.



"I struggle with the Scottish accent. I'm not happy doing a fresh claim interview, giving my statement over the phone, I fear some mistakes, I'm not too confident."



"We didn't know that everything would be online. We didn't know that the tribunal would go online, we didn't know that case work would be done by Zoom. We didn't know that lawyers' meetings would happen like that."



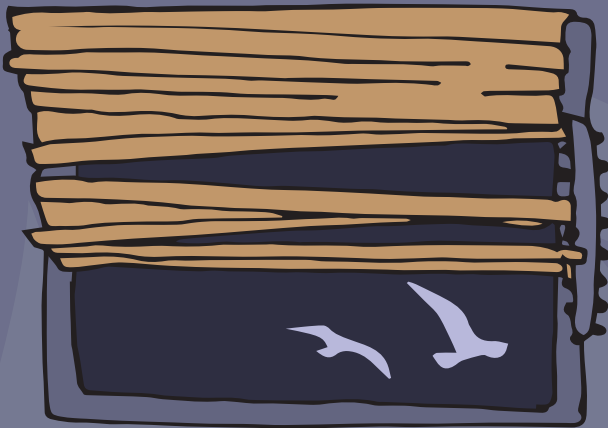
People were moved into poor housing and accommodation. This did not meet people's disability and health needs or allow them the safety of social distancing.



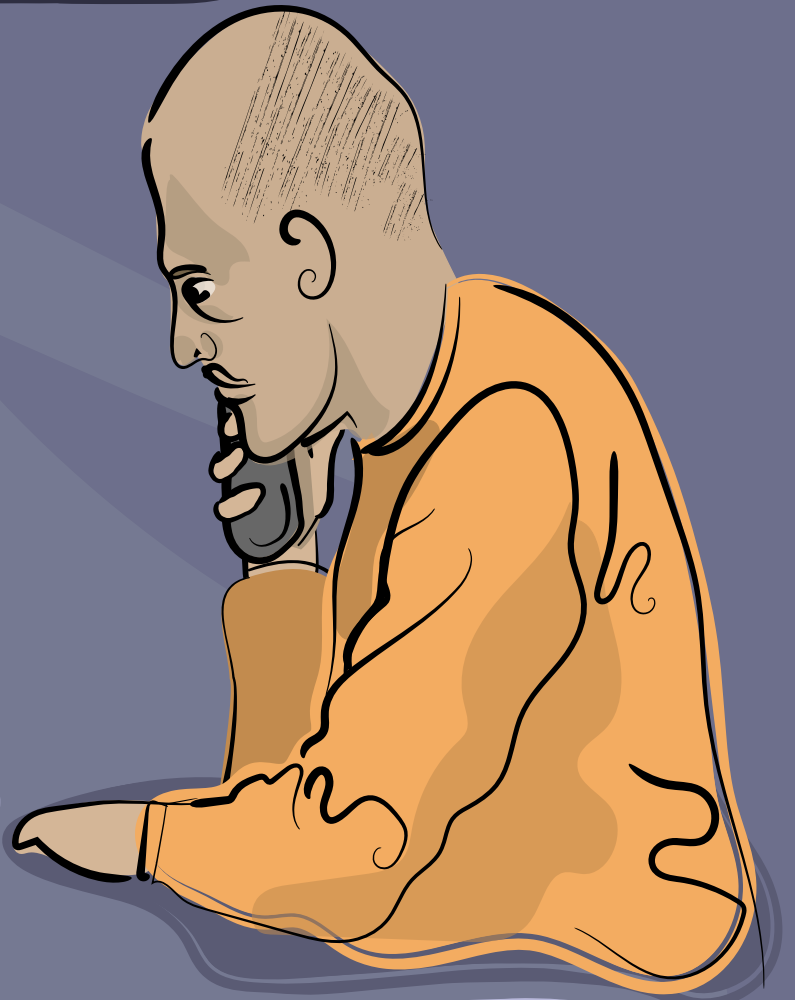
"She said, oh we're taking you to a new flat. I said, I can't go because of health issues, I can't even carry anything. Somebody has always to do shopping for me? And I just started crying, because I couldn't imagine, with this pandemic, in a new area where I've nobody, who is going to help me?"



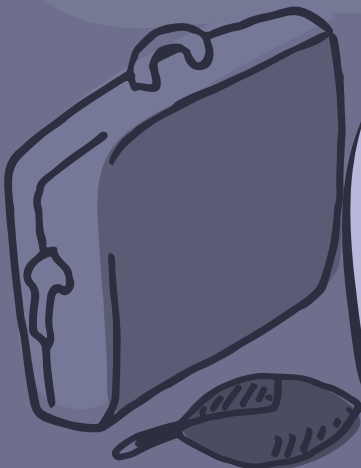
"I was feeling safe but when they talk about moving it makes me scared so I don't know where am I going to be? What's going to happen? That makes me more scared now."



People in hotel detention were only free to leave their rooms at set times. They had no choice over who they saw, what they ate or their money.



"I can only come down for food. So that was very stressful, it was a traumatic event, we had nowhere to talk, nobody to talk to, it was, like, all you need to do is just pray to God to save us and help us through the process."





“During the pandemic, we were getting weekly supplies from the community. They’d bring food, toiletries, vegetables, you know? It was very helpful. It stopped and then apart from that, I think the government gave us some food vouchers, but that stopped. I try, I have a shopping trolley. But it’s beginning to affect my health, the GP said it’s as a result of lifting too many heavy things. For someone going through menopause, who has brittle bones, I think I should take it easier with lifting.”



"I didn't know where to get the mask or how to get it or manage to get it, because there weren't allowing promotions about it at £5. So buy it at £5 or go to get groceries."



"So, if you have that coronavirus voucher, you could go to ASDA and buy the foods that are really right for you. That's what you need because sometimes you get the food parcel and you wouldn't eat it... until you're extremely hungry, you have no other choice and you start digging into it."



“Communities set up their own WhatsApp groups to keep each other up-to-date with official information. Especially because very few people had access to the internet, tv or radio.”

“The group was made on WhatsApp. Those who made it named it COVID-19, and they were uploading all the details. Good people have made it and among us were Scottish and Africans.”

“During the lockdown, we just stayed at home and I was scared and worried about the kids and myself to get unwell as I was on my own, and no one was there for me and no one could come to visit me. It was very difficult.”



“Most of the parents we don't have good phones, especially we are asylum seekers, so how do you expect us to go about that? And when you are in the asylum system with this lockdown, you don't have Wi-Fi.”

“The library itself is closed but the Wi-Fi is working, so I just approach the building and use the Wi-Fi. It’s very humiliating but I don’t have any other way.”



“Access to English classes stopped, if you can’t get language support how can you access other services that are going online?”



The pandemic has seen the closure of public spaces like libraries. These are essential for marginalised communities.

As face-to-face contact was restricted, community groups disappeared.

“All those activities help me emotionally... getting up and going into the community and doing my part kind of helped me be stable and grounded...”



“Before the lockdown, that’s where we normally go, to share experience, we learn about things, new things. And during the lockdown, that was nearly stopped, you know, no meetings, we can’t meet people.”



“The point is, I depend on different organisations, charities, and I need an opportunity for showing my abilities, for showing my intelligence for anything. But my hands now are tied.”

"I have to choose wisely how to use my £38 per week between bread, masks or money to call my mum."



"I don't have money to buy food for my children, to pay the bills. And that is a very difficult time. My husband stays at home, no work, no money, no income.

No anything. And we want many things. We want games for my children, food, clothes..."

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records in a laboratory setting. It highlights the various methods used for data collection and the challenges associated with ensuring the reliability of these records. The authors emphasize the need for standardized protocols and the use of modern technology to streamline the data management process.

In the second section, the authors explore the impact of environmental factors on experimental results. They provide a detailed analysis of how temperature, humidity, and light exposure can influence the outcomes of various biological assays. This section includes several case studies and statistical analyses that demonstrate the significance of these factors in experimental design.

The third part of the paper focuses on the ethical considerations of laboratory research. It discusses the responsibilities of researchers and the importance of obtaining informed consent from participants. The authors also address the issue of data ownership and the potential for misuse of research findings.

Finally, the paper concludes with a discussion on the future of laboratory research. It highlights emerging trends such as the use of artificial intelligence and big data analytics in the field. The authors suggest that these technologies will revolutionize the way we conduct experiments and analyze data, leading to more efficient and accurate results.

'Thank You to our Partner Organisations

Aid & Abet

Amina The Muslim Women's Resource Centre

Crohn's & Colitis UK

Diabetes Scotland

Empower Women for Change

Faith in Community Scotland

Families Outside

Glasgow Disability Alliance

Govan Community Project

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland

Maryhill Integration Network

People First (Scotland)

Safe in Scotland

Scotland Versus Arthritis

Scottish Refugee Council

Scottish Women's Rights Centre

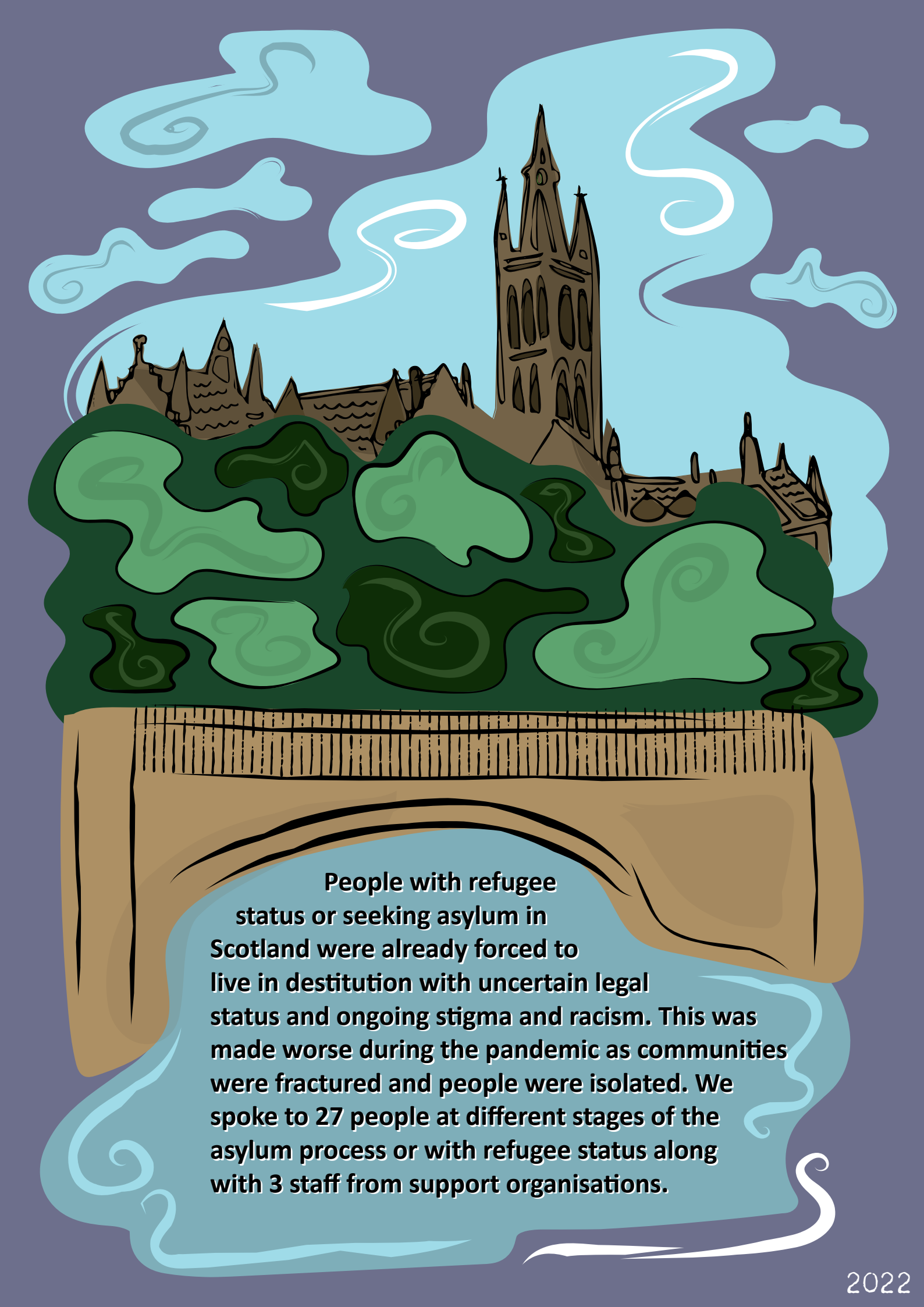
SOLD

Scottish Prisoners' Advocacy and Research Collective

The Poverty Alliance

Women's Support Project



An illustration of a castle with a prominent spire, situated on a cliff. A bridge with a wooden railing spans across a river in the foreground. The sky is light blue with stylized white and light blue clouds. The overall style is a flat, graphic illustration with bold outlines and a limited color palette.

People with refugee status or seeking asylum in Scotland were already forced to live in destitution with uncertain legal status and ongoing stigma and racism. This was made worse during the pandemic as communities were fractured and people were isolated. We spoke to 27 people at different stages of the asylum process or with refugee status along with 3 staff from support organisations.