

# **Social Justice and Social Security Committee – Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2024-25**

## **Additional information provided by the Scottish Refugee Council evidence session on 5 October 2023**

**Received 16 October 2023**

We hope that our contributions were helpful to the committee to inform from the refugee and trafficking protection perspectives, clear spending priorities.

In summary and drawing upon our oral evidence, we think there are three clear priorities:

- Refugees and, especially asylum poverty as a clear and adequately resourced part of Scotland's national plans against poverty, including but not limited to child poverty. This should include the Scottish government requesting that local child poverty action plans (a duty of local authorities and health and social care partnerships) include refugee and asylum poverty.
- The housing emergency articulated most eloquently by Shelter Scotland must be acknowledged and then placed as the top Scottish government priority, reflecting access to social housing of good standard is pivotal to addressing social inequities, as suffered by those many from Scotland/UK and those not who languish at best in unsuitable "temporary" accommodation,
- Human rights services for Refugees, Trafficking survivors and Unaccompanied children of refugee or trafficked background in Scotland - be prioritised and adequately resourced as clear Scottish government funding priorities in its forthcoming budget for 2024-25, for the reasons in my evidence and, most of all, as they are vital protection factors for vulnerable groups.
- Finally, as illustrations of why some of these priorities are so essential - such as the housing emergency and a national refugee integration service - please read Glasgow faces refugee homes crisis with £70.1m budget black hole and this report from Glasgow city council to its Emergency committee.

I hope this is all helpful.

Graham O'Neill  
Policy Manager  
Scottish Refugee Council