

Free Bus Travel

For people seeking asylum in Scotland

CTA Scotland Conference 2024
9 September

#FreeBusTravel



Today

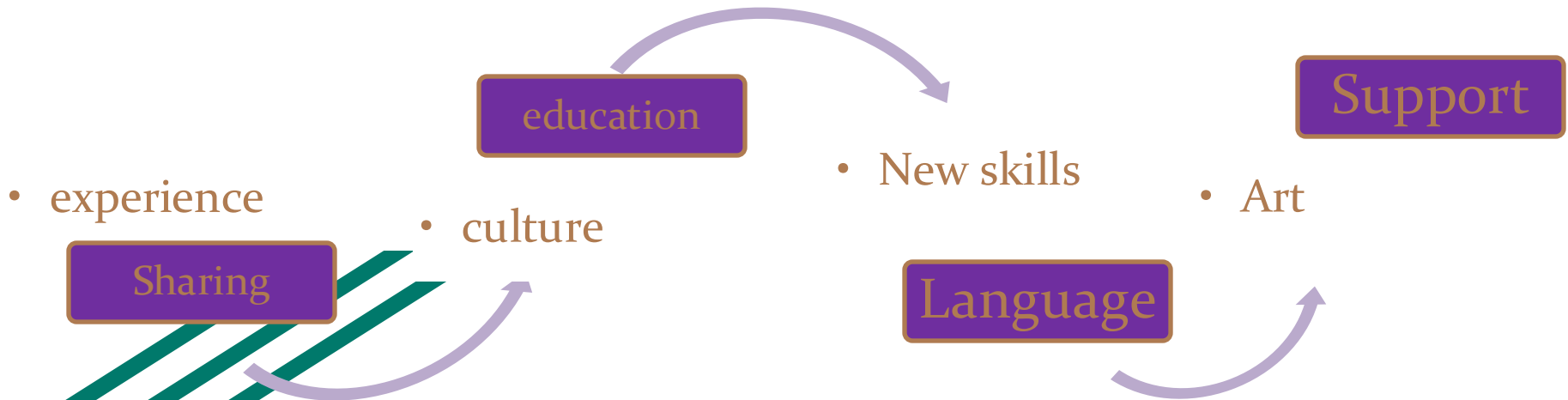
- About MIN
- Free Bus Travel campaign
- What's next



#FreeBusTravel

Established in 2001.

The Network brings communities together through:



Activities at MIN

Family Nest

Min Voices

Oasis Women's Group

Men's Group

Joyous Choir

Garden Club

Art group

Outreach, Advocacy and Support

Scottish Refugee Integration Service

ESOL classes + Conversation CLUB

Dance and Theatre production

More!



MIN Voices



Peer-
support, and
campaigning
group

Aim of the campaign

- Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland

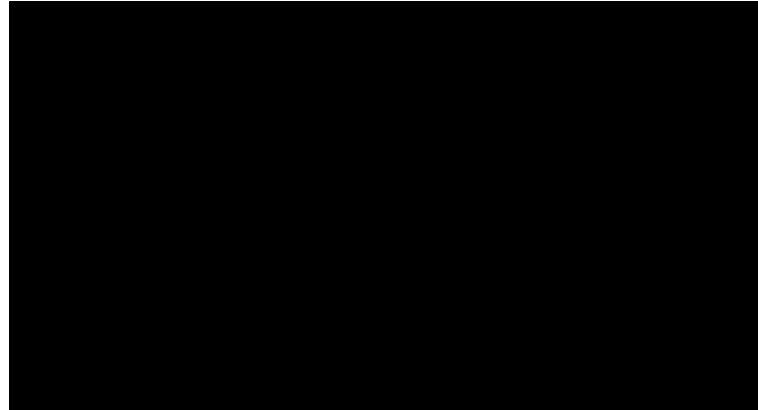
Concerns

- Hotel Accommodation
- Asylum Support
- No right to work
- Remote areas
- No recourse to public funds
- Wellbeing and mental health
- Isolation

How it started...

December 2021 video launch

With MSP Paul Sweeney and
the Voices Network and MIN
officially joining the campaign



#FreeBusTravel

- CPG on Migration meeting October 2022
- January 2023 meeting with the Transport Minister (*previous minister*)
- Working Group with Transport Scotland
- Campaign meeting with other partners
- Pilot on Bus Pass across Scotland by various organisations



Members from the Voices Network

#FreeBusTravel



[a small change, that would make a huge difference.](#)

- Video

Campaign leaflet

Letters to MSPs

Support from the Faith Leaders

[MEDIA](#)

Petition - The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2028>



#FreeBusTravel

- 26th October 2023: Bus Travel Debate in the Parliament, motion by MSP Paul Sweeney
- 28th October: Scottish Greens announced that they have budgeted £2m for free bus travel for asylum seekers residing in Scotland for 24/25 budget



MIN Voices and The Voices Network members with MSP Paul Sweeney

August 19 - 2024

The Scottish Government announced the decision to scrap the free bus travel scheme for asylum seekers.

This decision was part of a broader set of budget cuts due to financial constraints

This news was not expected and came as a shock for many people



Next Steps

- Joint letter emailed to the First Minister, signed by 50+ refugee, faith based organisations, and public bodies across Scotland that provide advice, support and advocacy to people seeking asylum



Thank you



pinar@maryhillintegration.org.uk