Refugee Action is a charity that started in 1981. It helps refugees and asylum seekers who arrive in the UK. It began by supporting refugees who fled from the Vietnam War and over the years has helped people from Bosnia, Montserrat, Syria and more.

One of the main ways that Refugee Action has fought for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers has been through trying to change the law. This is done by creating campaigns and influencing the Government to change the asylum system and make it fairer. One of their current campaigns is ‘Lift the Ban’. This campaign wants to change the law to allow asylum seekers to work after waiting six months for a decision on their asylum application.

This campaign has been created with asylum seekers who have experienced the unfairness of the ‘ban’ on working after arriving in the UK. Refugee Action listened to their hopes for the future and used this research to work together and tell their story to the government and public.

To do this Refugee Action used creative methods. They made banners, sent postcards, and wrote letters to the Government. They also made paintings of their experiences of the asylum system.

These methods have helped Refugee Action to build a community of over 200 organisations that support the campaign. This includes charities and companies who have supplied resources to Refugee Action like Ben and Jerry’s, a worldwide ice-cream company, who have created enjoyable film workshops for people that educate them about refugee stories.

The ‘Lift the Ban’ campaign is still continuing its fight but has grown in popularity and there is now a billin Parliament, which is a proposal to change the law about asylum seekers’ right to work.