

Our Objective

The Advocacy Programme promotes the rights and integration of migrants and refugees in South Africa through providing individual advice, publishing research, and advocating for legislative and policy reform and its proper implementation.

The Advocacy Desk

The Advocacy Programme offers paralegal advice and practical assistance to documented and undocumented individuals. We advise on access to documentation, access to public services such as education and healthcare, access to justice for victims of xenophobia and hate crimes, assistance to foreign minors and advice in cases of detention and deportation.

Our Advocacy Desk is open from Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am- 12:00pm. This is a walk-in service. All services in the Advocacy Programme are free of charge.



About Scalabrini

Perceiving migration as an opportunity, the Scalabrini Centre is committed to alleviating poverty and promoting development in the Western Cape while fostering integration between migrants, refugees and South Africans.

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Advocacy Programme

Protecting, promoting and advancing the rights of migrants and refugees

The Scalabrini Centre's activities are supported by:



Funding Provided by the United States Government



Projects

Children's Project

The Advocacy Programme provides services to children who enter South Africa alone or with adults who are not their parents. Where relevant, we assist in explaining to caregivers documentation options and making appropriate referrals. In cases of unaccompanied minors, we ensure that they are appropriately referred to the Department of Social Development. Our advocacy officers offer support to social workers and caregivers by assisting them in:

- understanding the rights of foreign children
- starting the process of family tracing if relevant
- pursuing available pathways to legal stay and
- accessing the services of Home Affairs.

In reality, foreign minors are often unable to access legal pathways to regularise their stay. In response to this, the Advocacy Programme conducts research and high-level advocacy with the aim of broadening access to documentation options for unaccompanied and separated children.



Deportation and Detention

The Advocacy Programme provides assistance to individuals unlawfully detained by communicating with the authorities and referring cases to legal partners. We also facilitate workshops to inform migrants and refugees on their rights and responsibilities in relation to detention and deportation procedures. These workshops aim to empower individuals with knowledge about the legal process to better realise their rights.

Angolan Cessation

In 2013, the South African government announced the cessation of all Angolans' refugee status. The Advocacy Programme assisted in ensuring affected Angolan refugees were properly informed about the Cessation processes and documented where possible with the 'Angolan Cessation Permit', a two-year residency permit. As these permits were not extendable, the Advocacy Programme entered into lengthy legal negotiations. Affected Angolans have now been able to apply to an 'Angolan Special Permit'.

Somali Outreach Project

The Advocacy Programme runs a weekly outreach project in partnership with the Somali Association of South Africa (SASA) in Bellville, Cape Town. This project was launched in response to many challenges facing the refugee community in the area. A walk-in paralegal advice service is offered at the offices of SASA on alternate Wednesdays from 9:30am- 12:00pm. Please contact corey@scalabrini.org.za or call 021 465 6433 to confirm exact dates .



Aside from individual advice, the Advocacy Programme also engages in high-level advocacy. We have completed several research pieces & documentaries that complement our advocacy strategies for improved policies around migration in South Africa. We also submit written submissions to relevant Bills and Acts drafted by the South African government and welcome engagement with relevant authorities on relevant issues. Find out more at www.scalabrini.org.za/programmes/advocacy/