

46A St. Matthew's Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3EP.

01473 408111

www.suffolklawcentre.org.uk www.iscre.org.uk

Suffolk Access to Justice (SAJ)

Suffolk Law Centre and **Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE)** are running a new partnership called **Suffolk Access to Justice (SAJ)**, combining access to legal advice on social welfare issues with capacity building for recent migrant communities in Suffolk.

Suffolk Law Centre is a small legal advice charity. We were founded in 2018 by ISCRE and have our roots in a community-led approach to equal access to justice. **ISCRE** is a well-regarded and long-established race equality charity, with a history of working with and for Suffolk's diverse communities.

We are co-located in the centre of Ipswich.

What is SAJ?

Suffolk Access to Justice (SAJ) aims to help people living in Suffolk who face multiple barriers or challenges to resolving their social welfare and legal problems.

For this new project, ISCRE and Suffolk Law Centre want to listen to and work with **Suffolk-based recent migrants**, particularly people from **Roma** and **Eastern European** countries, who have English as an additional language (**EAL**). We want to find out what challenges they face to resolving their legal issues, how we can help and how we can make our services more accessible to them.

What do we hope to do

Firstly, we want to listen. We want to learn what issues are causing problems for new EU migrants in Suffolk. We want to understand how access to early legal advice might help and how best to offer this advice. We also want to support communities to build their capacity, increasing knowledge and awareness of social welfare law and legal rights. **ISCRE** wants to meet in community spaces, talk to community leaders and hear from community members. Based on what communities say they need, ISCRE will work with Suffolk Law Centre to design what access to free legal advice looks like.

Secondly, we want to help. **Suffolk Law Centre** can provide **free practical legal advice** to help resolve civil law issues before they escalate and turn into bigger problems. We specialise in challenging discrimination (at work or in accessing services) and actions against public bodies such as the council, schools, and the police.

Charity Numbers: Suffolk Law Centre: 1176229 and ISCRE: 1055386



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We intend to be client-led, so we are willing to provide legal advice or referrals on other social welfare law issues such as victims of crime and family breakdown. Through our wider connections, Suffolk Law Centre can also access specialist housing advisors, employment law specialists, and family law advice.

We have a small and dedicated team of specialist legal caseworkers and a **Romanian-speaking** Legal Triage Officer. We also use an interpreting and translation service to offer a full range of languages to our clients.

If you would like to learn more about SAJ, or invite ISCRE to meet with your service users, community members, volunteers or staff, please contact:

sharonlee@iscre.org.uk

For more information on Suffolk Law Centre, please contact:

Sue@suffolklawcentre.org.uk

Suffolk Law Centre and ISCRE thank **The Bell Foundation** for funding our first **Suffolk Access to Justice (SAR)** project.



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