

PE2028/J: Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland

Petitioners written submission, 29 October 2025

We welcome the Committee's continued consideration of Petition PE2028 and appreciate the opportunity to provide further input.

We believe the need for concessionary bus travel for people seeking asylum in Scotland is more urgent than ever. People seeking asylum are facing increasingly inhumane and restrictive policies, including being banned from working and surviving on as little as less than £7 per day. These conditions severely limit their ability to access essential services, attend legal and medical appointments, participate in language classes, and engage in community life.

We welcome the Scottish Government's announcement to launch a pilot scheme for concessionary bus travel for people seeking asylum. However, **we are still waiting for this pilot to begin.**

We hope that the provisional pilot program will successfully show the positive changes we predict to the lives of people seeking asylum in Scotland, making life and the enjoyment of the fully interconnected human rights more accessible; improving mental and physical wellbeing; and accessing different parts of social life and necessary public services.

Scotland has already shown a strong commitment to fairness and inclusion by accepting to trial this pilot program, yet in this petition we continue to urge the Scottish Government to commit to a **sustainable and long-term solution** that protects the dignity of people seeking asylum.

As identified by Transport Scotland, one third of current people seeking asylum in Scotland qualify already for concessionary travel according to other available schemes. Meaning, the overall significance of introducing concessionary bus travel for people seeking asylum, would require a relatively small commitment, but imply a significant difference and improvement in the daily lives of people seeking asylum on par with other residents of Scotland.

Extending the Concessionary Travel scheme to include people seeking asylum is thus a natural next step to support diverse vulnerable groups, facilitating integration of people seeking asylum into Scottish society, and upholding human rights commitments.

To conclude, we continue to call on the Scottish Government to extend the National Concessionary Travel Scheme to include all people seeking asylum in Scotland. This is not only a matter of transport policy, it is a matter of dignity, inclusion, and human rights.