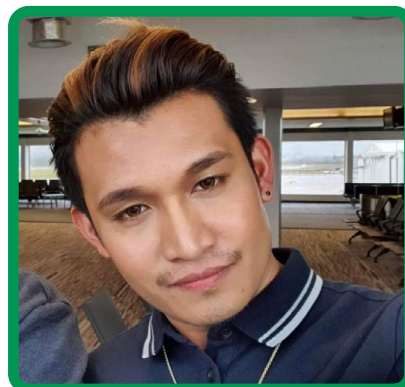


Reynel's story

Dyslexia Scotland's intervention prevented a wrongful deportation



Context

As a migrant, Reynel was obliged to undertake the Home Office 'Life in the UK' test. Being severely dyslexic, he experiences difficulty with reading, writing and memory, which impede his ability to succeed in the test.

On failing the test for the seventh time, the Home Office sought to cancel his citizenship. The department declined to accept a waiver application detailing his dyslexic difficulties.

Without help, Reynel was at risk of arrest and deportation and attempted suicide.

Intervention

Reynel's husband called Dyslexia Scotland's Helpline.

The adviser spoke directly with the Home Office to verify that Reynel's dyslexia would prevent him from passing the test. The Home Office requested Reynel to be re-assessed in order to ascertain that, even with support in place, he would not be able to pass.

The adviser put Reynel and his husband in touch with an approved assessor.

Inputs

- Helpline signposting service
- Urgent access to free dyslexia assessment
- Expert knowledge of dyslexia
- Advocacy

Barriers to success without intervention

Reynel simply would not have been able to afford the £300+ cost of an assessment and would have been deported.

Impacts

A new assessment of dyslexia confirmed the severity of Reynel's dyslexia and therefore his inability to undertake the Life in the UK test, even if support was provided. The Home Office accepted the report and granted Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Dyslexia Scotland's intervention effected:

- Prevention of an unfair deportation
- Prevention of a suicide
- Retention of a skilled support worker whose contribution impacts positively on vulnerable adults and children
- Awareness in the Home Office of the barriers that the Life in the UK test poses to 'New Scots' with dyslexia

Impact statement

"If it wasn't for Dyslexia Scotland, I doubt very much that Reynel would be here. He would either be dead via suicide or be arrested and deported by the Home Office. We are entirely grateful to Dyslexia Scotland for everything they did for Reynel and will forever be indebted to them and the assessor, without whom I truly know Reynel would not be alive or continuing to live in Scotland doing what he loves best, caring for people as a Support Worker for vulnerable children and adults."

Reynel Damacino Escarpe and Michael Clinton

