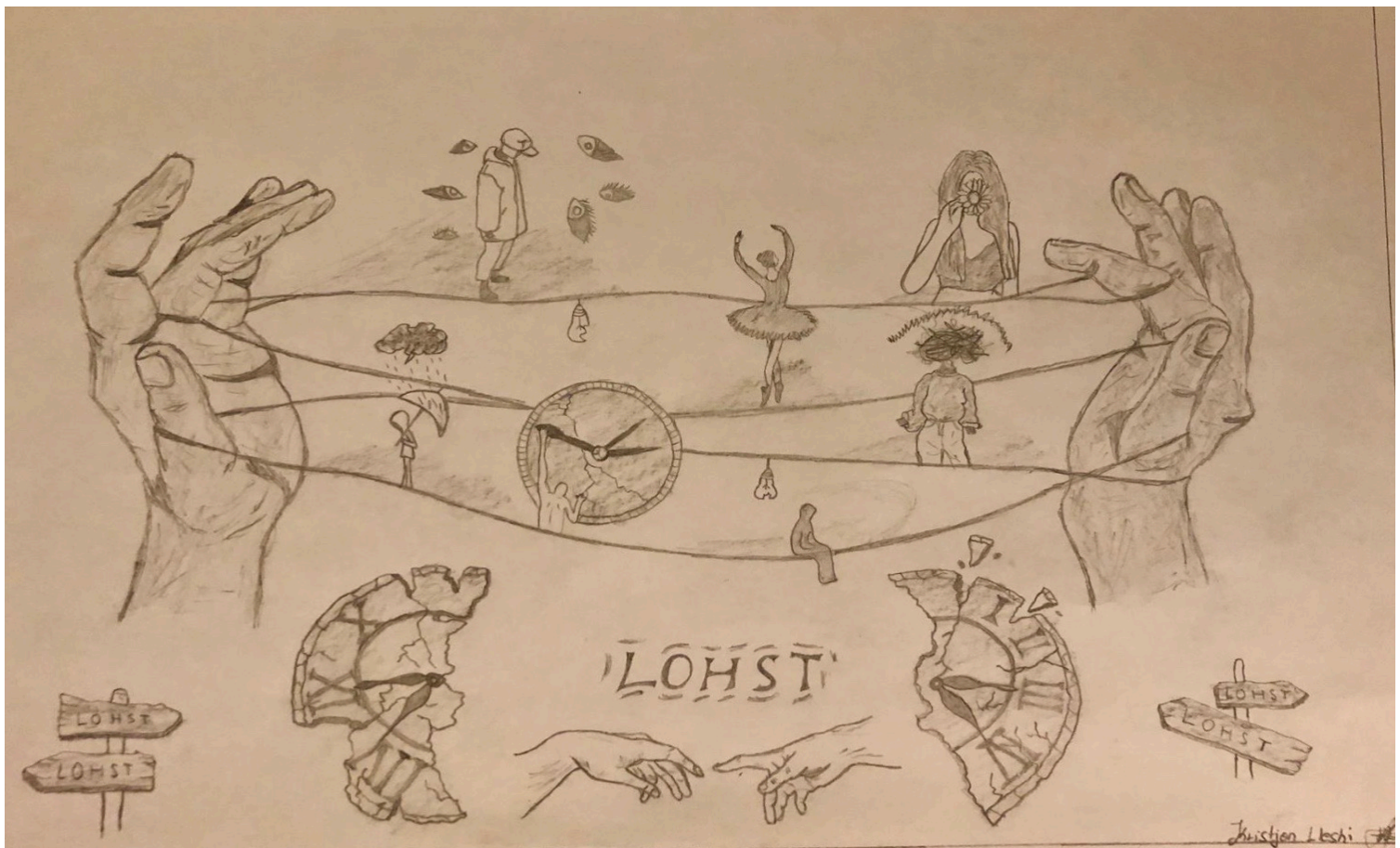


# LOHST

Lives on hold, our stories told!

## About our project

**LOHST** research will be the first detailed study of the effects of Covid –19 on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people in the UK. It will explore how unaccompanied asylum seekers aged 16-25, lawyers, social workers, charities and support organisations are responding to the delays and disruption in front line services. The findings will suggest legal, policy and practice proposals to promote young people’s rights and wellbeing.



## What is the aim of this project?

- To GIVE VOICE to young unaccompanied asylum seekers on the extent to which the asylum delay impacts their lives. It will focus on experiences of Albanian young people as a group facing many challenges.



- To explore the IMPACT OF COVID-19 on DELAYS in the asylum process relating to the provision of legal advice, support and representation for young people.



- To better understand THE STRATEGIES ADOPTED by actors within systems (notably legal and welfare practitioners) to respond and resist to the challenges and delays caused by COVID-19



- To inform policy recommendations and legal strategies which better respond to the INTERESTS, RIGHTS and NEEDS of young unaccompanied asylum seekers across England.



## What method will the project use?

The project will involve different methods to collect data from legal practitioners, social workers, support services and refugee charities/NGOs and young unaccompanied asylum seekers themselves. Data collection will be done by conducting interviews with young people who will be invited to share their stories and personal experiences of the impact of delay on their lives.

A group of young asylum seekers from the Albanian charity Shpresa Programme will be co-researchers throughout the project.

## Participating in our research:

### *You can be part of this research if:*

- You are an asylum seeker aged 16-25
- You are willing to share your views and experiences of the impact of delayed asylum decisions in your life

## What will your participation involve?

We are interested in learning from your experiences within the asylum system and the impact of it in your life. To do this we will:

- 1. Listen to what you have to say.** We want you to express your stories in a way that you feel comfortable. We will meet you first to discuss how you would like to share your experiences.
- 2. Use your and other young people's experiences** to make recommendations to lawyers, policy makers, social workers and other decision-makers about how to make the asylum process fairer.
- 3. Keep your personal details confidential.** We will never share or reveal your name, address, or other personal information with anyone else.

## Keeping you SAFE!

You are free to leave the project at any time if you change your mind. Or if during the interviews you don't feel comfortable, you can leave at any time. If you decide to stop participating in the research, we will delete any information you have shared with us unless you are happy to use it for the study.