

Waiting Game

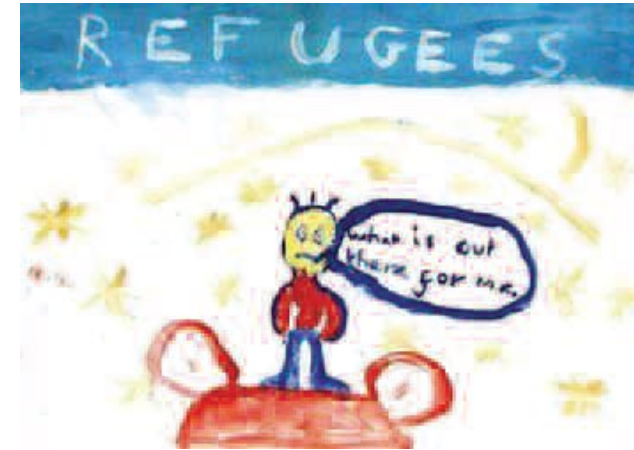
It could take months or years for a decision on an asylum claim to be made. Since the pandemic, decision making has been much slower. Whilst waiting for a decision, the Home Office offers subsistence support and accommodation if people require it.. Most people need this support as they are not allowed to work.

Any savings people bring must be used before any financial support is given. Families who arrive together will get housed together.

For single applicants, the accommodation is usually hostel style or shared housing, managed by regional contractors across the UK. Each person gets less than £7 per day for all living expenses. The myth that mobiles are provided is still a myth!

Due to the long delays in the asylum system now, some people seeking sanctuary have been put into shared rooms in hotels with only a few pounds per week to spend.

Along with colleagues at Asylum Link, we provide a place where you can share your hopes for the future as well as supporting your new life in Liverpool and Merseyside.



Refugees...Welcome Here!

Communities across Merseyside have a long tradition of welcome. The people and culture of Liverpool and the whole Merseyside region is built on the trading port and immigration over centuries from Ireland, Europe, Somalia, China, Caribbean, Yemen, Vietnam and Kosovo. Over the past 20 years we have continued to offer the hand of friendship and offer sanctuary to people irrespective of their religion, race, nationality, gender identity, sexuality, disability or age.

In 1951, the Geneva Convention for Refugees was set up to enable countries to offer sanctuary to people. All countries that signed this agreement must provide asylum for those facing war or persecution, and to allow them to settle and rebuild their lives in safety.

Merseyside Refugee Support Network

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...mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, doctors, teachers, nurses, chefs, rocket scientists, farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, musicians, mountaineers, geologists...

Facts Not Fiction

The media and some politicians haven't always been very fair or honest in providing the public with accurate information about the situation of asylum seekers arriving in the UK or the issues they face when they get here. Policy on immigration is changing and the language around the subject is often portrayed in misleading or negatives ways.

To put the record straight!

A **person seeking asylum** is someone who has a well founded fear of persecution and is unable to stay safe in their home country. Under the Geneva Convention 1951, which the UK helped establish —*It is not illegal to claim asylum* in another country for your safety.

People can be so desperate to escape war or persecution, the risk of crossing the Mediterranean Sea or the Channel in a dinghy might be their only hope of safety.

When someone's claim has been successful they may be granted **refugee status**.

An **economic migrant** is someone who just wants to work elsewhere eg in UK, Europe or USA etc. This usually requires a work visa.

When the media, politicians or extremists use scare mongering terms such as "**illegal migrant**" - its confusing and makes it seem as if no one has the right to seek safety through the asylum process, which is simply not true.

PEOPLE in need

In recent years we have worked with refugees from some of the most dangerous countries across the world, due to war, sexual violence, genocide, oppressive regimes/governments including: Sudan; Eritrea; Iran; Syria, Iraq, DRC, Afghanistan and most recently Ukraine.

People seeking asylum are escaping to find freedom from persecution, hence they often choose dangerous journeys to escape rather than facing rape, torture or hostile imprisonment.

AK -fled Iran as he was targeted by the government for his work on human rights.

Beth fled Eritrea to escape trafficking and slavery from the militia in her country.

Abdi - and his brothers had to flee Sudan as they faced death from a lawless regime.

Farah had to flee from Afghanistan when she was only 18 years old. The Taliban had killed her father and they were hunting her down to kill her too.

Ahmad fled his country due to politics and honour based threats on his life.



Actual Breaking News...
"We are NOT being invaded"

Asylum is a small part of UK immigration

In 2022

2,836,490 People came to the UK

49% came as visitors

37% came to work or study

only

2.7% came to seek asylum

(with three quarters being offered protection)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-december-2022/summary-of-latest-statistics#how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Every asylum claim is reviewed for its own merit in line with the current asylum law and evidence presented.

People seeking asylum have to live on £45 per week for food/travel/toiletries.

Once people have applied for asylum they are given a temporary hostel or shared hotel room while their case is considered

Once granted refugee status spouses can apply for their families to join them.

Maryam, Reza, Ruth, Solomon, Bethlehem, Daniel, Tesfit, Sara, Abdul, Mohammed, Farah, Ahmed, Elias, Muna, Issa, Alice, Josephine, Saeed, Arkhan, Habtom, Charles, Grace