FACT NOT FICTION

A Waiting Game—It could take weeks, months or years for a decision on an asylum claim. After the pandemic, decision making became very slow and created a decision "backlog". Whilst waiting, people get subsistence support and accommodation if required. 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 a hostel or shared housing. Due to the backlog delays, some people have been put into shared rooms in hotels with only a few pounds per week to spend.

Getting a positive decision —Once granted refugee status or other leave to remain, people have to try and find housing and work. They are entitled to claim benefits whilst looking for work.

What was once a moment of celebration has become a very stressful time as many people are not eligible for emergency housing, as they don't meet "priority need". Since August 2023 we have seen a terrible increase in homelessness and destitution amongst new refugees.
It is causing new trauma and anxiety for people who have already experienced horrific situations in their home countries.
At **MRSN** we are striving to support people through these difficult times offering emergency help and practical casework.

FACT NOT FICTION



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OUR Liverpool

MRSN

FACT NOT FICTION



Refugees...Welcome Here!

Communities across Merseyside have a long tradition of welcome.
The people and culture of Liverpool and the city region is built on the trading port and immigration over centuries from Ireland, Europe, Somalia, Nigeria, China, Caribbean, Yemen, Vietnam and Kosovo.

At **MRSN**, we offer the hand of friendship and 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. The UK with many countries around the world signed the Convention and must provide asylum for those facing war, torture or other persecution, and to allow them to settle and rebuild their lives in safety and in dignity.

Mothers, Fathers, Accountants, Doctors, Teachers, Nurses, Chefs, Rocket Scientists, Farmers, Artists, Film Makers, Musicians, Mountaineers, Geologists, Lawyers

mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, doctors, teachers, nurses, chefs, scientists, farmers, mechanics

FACT 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 rapidly 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*** - it's confusing for the public and implies no one has the right to claim asylum, which is simply not true.

PEOPLE in need

We work with refugees from some of the most dangerous countries in the world. People need to flee due to war, genocide, torture and/or imprisonment by oppressive regimes including amongst others:
Sudan; Eritrea; Iran; Syria, Iraq, DRC, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Ethiopia.

People seek asylum to find sanctuary from persecution—so they often have to take dangerous journeys. There is rarely any other way to get away safely.

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

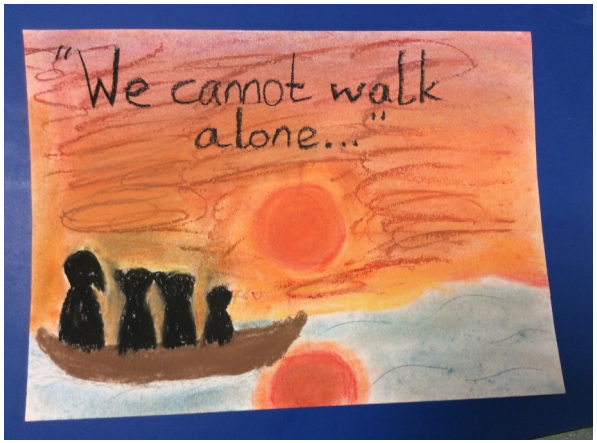
Beth fled Eritrea to escape trafficking and slavery from the militia in her country.

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.



MRSN



Asylum is only a very small part of UK immigration

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In 2024—of all immigration to the UK asylum claimants made up only 3.5%.

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

By June 2026 —asylum claims were down by 21% on the 2025 data.

Across the UK, asylum applications are only 2.9% of all immigration in 2026.

The rise of anti-migrant myths and misinformation is of growing concern.

People seeking asylum have to live on £49.18 per week for food/travel/toiletries. Less then £10 pw if in hotels.

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