All About Asylum Seekers

An asylum seeker is someone who is escaping from danger in their own country. They simply want to live somewhere safe.

Open up to answer questions about what life would be like as an asylum seeker in the UK.

Jargon buster

Asylum Seeker

Someone waiting for the government to decide if they qualify as a refugee.

Refugee

Someone the government has officially agreed cannot return home safely.

Migrant

Anyone moving from one country to another for any reason.

Charlbury Refugee Action Group is a group of local people in and around Charlbury (Oxfordshire) who organise events to raise funds for the benefit of refugees, mainly those in France, Greece and the UK.

We also raise awareness about the difficulties faced by asylum seekers and refugees in this country and abroad and regularly organise collections of clothes, bedding, hygiene supplies and other desperately needed items.

www.charlburyrefugee.org.uk

crag-shop.teemill.com

What is it like living in asylum accommodation?

"Unfortunately **the government bans us from working** while we are waiting for an asylum decision."

"Many of us have left families behind. Because the journey is long and dangerous – **our children might not survive.**"

"You may think it's a life of luxury - but when they're taken over as asylum hotels conditions are often cramped and dirty. You may think that it's like a holiday. But living inside them for a long time is very hard. It feels like you are on your own, you feel confined, you feel separate from what's going on outside. **You're treated as a nuisance, not a guest.**"

"**We have no choice what to eat**, and we are not allowed to cook for ourselves. Often the food is unhealthy, and the same every day – fried food, fried food, every day the same."

"Now **the government has taken away our right to be reunited with our families**. We miss our families a lot. They are concerned about us and they think day and night about us."

DID YOU KNOW?

Over four fifths of the world's refugees are taken in by poorer countries, with Iran currently having the most (3.8 million).

The UK is home to about one hundredth of the 27.1 million refugees in the world, and is 17th in Europe for the number of asylum applications in relation to the number of people. Countries like Germany, France, and Spain receive very many more applications than the UK relative to the number of people who live there.

Sources and further reading

Refugee statistics from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

Migrant Myth Buster Fact Sheet from the North East Migration Partnership

See how the Greater Manchester Asylum Hotels Group **stood up to anti-migrant protests**

The real experience of seeking safety in the UK

Imagine you arrive in the UK on your own looking for a safe place to live because it is too dangerous to live in your own country. This is called applying for asylum.

Follow the questions to find out what it would be like...

1 CAN YOU ASK THE UK GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AFTER YOU?

Imagine arriving in a country where you don't speak the language. Are there global laws that mean a government has to listen to your story?

Yes / No

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

2 WOULD YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU LIVE?

When you arrive seeking safety, do you think you get to pick where you stay?

Yes / No

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

3 WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO COOK YOUR OWN FOOD?

Think about your favourite meal. If you were placed in asylum accommodation, would you have a kitchen to prepare your own food?

Yes / No

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

4 HOW MUCH 'POCKET MONEY' WOULD YOU GET EACH WEEK?

Which weekly amount do you think the government would give you to buy all the things you need except food?

£20 / £15 / £10 / £5

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

5 WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO WORK TO EARN MORE MONEY?

Could you get a job in a shop or a café for example?

Yes / No

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

6 COULD YOUR FAMILY JOIN YOU?

If you had to flee danger alone, would UK rules allow your mum, dad, or younger siblings to safely come and live with you?

Yes / No

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

7 DO LOTS OF PEOPLE COME TO THE UK SEEKING ASYLUM?

You hear a lot in the news about how many people arrive in the UK. Out of all the world's displaced people, what % do you guess end up here?

1% / 10% / 25% / 50%

------ Thoughts & reflections? ------

Now turn over to reveal the facts and see what life is really like for someone seeking safety...

Answers: 1: Yes 2: No 3: No 4: £10 5: No 6: No 7: 1%