

Myth

“Nine out of ten asylum seekers are bogus”

Truth

The UK has a very tough assessment system for asylum applications. Asylum seekers need to provide credible evidence of their situation and proof of their persecution when fleeing their country. Because the system is tough, most cases are initially refused (73% in 2009).

Myth

“Asylum seekers are a drain on the economy”

Truth

After initial barriers such as the ability to speak English and the recognition of overseas qualifications are overcome, refugees make a valuable contribution as professionals, tax payers and as active members of their local community.

Useful contacts

If you are a refugee or asylum seeker requiring support in housing matters, please call the Customer Service Centre on 0800 085 6575.

For other enquiries:

Refugee Council West London Office
Refugee Council
Unit 4 & 5
Hounslow Business Park
Alice Way
Hounslow
Middlesex, TW3 3UD

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
020 8607 6888

If you need the leaflet about Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the UK in another language or format please call our translations service on 020 8583 2299, Minicom on 020 8583 3122.

Albanian Nese keni nevojë për fletushken lidhur me Refugjatet dhe azil kerkuesit ne Britanine e Madhe ne gjuhen shqipe ose ne ndonje format tjeter ju lutemi kontaktoni 020 8583 2299 ose minikom 020 8583 3122.

Arabic اذا كنت تحتاج المنشور المخصص لطالبي اللجوء واللجنين في المملكة المتحدة باللغة العربية او بشكل اخر الرجاء الاتصال على 020 8583 2299 او على المينيكوم 020 8583 3122.

Farsi اگر شما کتابچه اطلاعات در باره مهاجرین و پناهنده گان دربریتانیا را به زبان فارسی و یا شکل دیگری میخواهید لطفا به شماره تلفون 020 8583 2299 و یا شماره مینی کام 020 8583 3122 تماس بگیرید.

Gujarati જો તમને આ પત્રિકા, 'રિફ્યુજીસ અને અસાઇલમ સીકરર્સ ઇન યુ.કે.' (યુ.કે.માં શરણાર્થીઓ કે નિર્વાસિત વ્યક્તિઓ સંબંધી આપની માહિતી)ની નકલ ગુજરાતીમાં અથવા બીજા કોઈ સ્વરૂપમાં જોઈતી હોય તો, મહેરબાની કરી આ નંબર પર ટેલિફોન કરો: 020 8583 2299 અથવા મિનિકોમ નંબર: 020 8583 3122

Hindi यदि आपको यू.के में रिफ्यूजी (शरणार्थी) और असाइलम सीकरर्स (पनाह मांगने वाले) के बारे में पत्रिका की कॉपी हिन्दी में या किसी और रूप में चाहिए तो कृपया 020 8583 2299 पर फोन करें या 020 8583 3122 पर मिनीकॉम करें।

Panjabi ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਯੂ.ਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਰਿਫਿਊਜੀ ਅਤੇ ਅਸਾਈਲਮ ਸੀਕਰਜ਼ (ਸ਼ਰਨਾਰਥੀ ਅਤੇ ਪਨਾਹਗੀਰ ਲੋਕ) ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਇਕ ਪਰਚਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਸ਼ਕਲ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 020 8583 2297 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਮਿਨੀਕਾਮ ਕਰੋ: 0208 583 3122

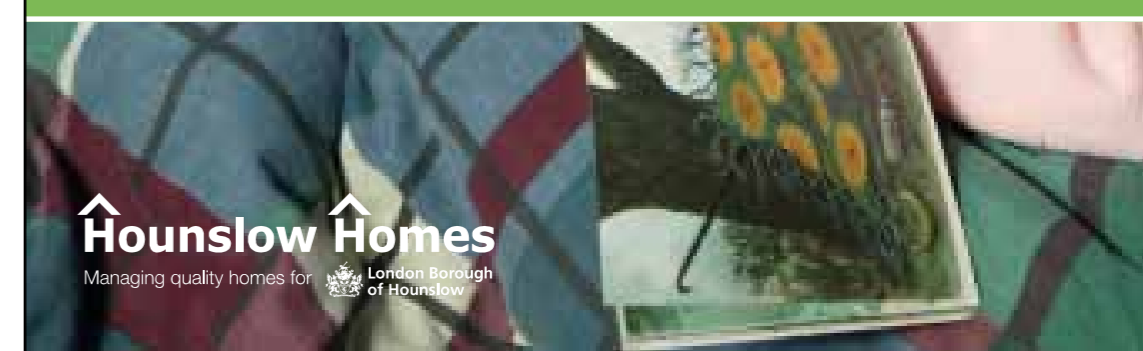
Urdu اگر آپ کو ریفریجیٹس اور ایسایلم سیکررس کے متعلق ایف اے او کے اردو زبان یا کسی اور ترتیب/ بناوٹ/ ساخت میں درکار ہے، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 0208 583 2299 یا مینی کوم نمبر 0208 583 3122 پر رابطہ کریں

Somali Haddii aad u baahantahay warqaddan ku saabsan qaxootiga iyo magandoonnada oo ku qoran afsoomaali ama ku daabacan qaab kale fadlan la xidhiidh 020 8583 2299 ama minicom 020 8583 3122.



Refugees and asylum seekers in the UK

An inside look



Refugees and asylum seekers in the UK

The issue of refugees and asylum seekers is one that appears in the media on a regular basis. Myths are formed about what these people are entitled to in the UK and how well they fit in into society. These myths may cause suspicion and tension on our multi-ethnic estates, which is why we have produced this leaflet to promote better understanding between residents of different backgrounds who live together in our community.

Who are refugees and asylum seekers?

They are men, women and children escaping from crises and armed conflict all over the world. The largest numbers come to the UK from Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Iran Eritrea and Iraq.

Are refugees the same as asylum seekers?

An asylum seeker is someone of any age who has fled his or her home country to find a safe place elsewhere, where they will be protected. Asylum applications in the UK are sent to the Home Office for consideration. A refugee is someone whose asylum application is successful.

Why do they come here?

They are escaping persecution, death or devastation in their home country. In 1951, Britain and many other countries signed the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees. This gives Britain the responsibility to provide a sanctuary for people fleeing from persecution.

How many live in Britain?

In 2009, a total of 24,250 people applied for asylum in the UK. Whilst a total of 64,750 people including non-asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK. In fact, applications for asylum have fallen by almost half over the last five years. It is estimated that there are between 7,000-8,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Hounslow.

Myths and Truths

Myth

“I have been waiting two years for council housing and they have jumped the queue”

Truth

Asylum seekers are NOT entitled to council housing. Accommodation and support for people seeking asylum is provided by a range of private and registered social landlords.

This accommodation is provided under contract with the Home Office and all costs are met by central Government. If asylum is granted then they have the same rights as other citizens and would have to wait in the queue on the council housing waiting list.

Myth

“They are stealing our jobs”

Truth

66% of asylum seekers had jobs in their own countries. 33% of asylum seekers have degrees or professional qualifications. Although these people often

performed highly skilled jobs in the countries that they have left, they are NOT allowed to work whilst their application for asylum is being considered.

Myth

“Most of them are not fleeing persecution but just want our benefits”

Truth

Asylum seekers are NOT allowed to claim mainstream welfare benefits in this country. They have the legal right to stay in this country under the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees 1951 and its 1967 New York protocol whilst their case is being assessed.

Myth

“They get more than our pensioners”

Truth

Currently, pensioners over 60 receive a minimum of £132.60 per week and may get other benefits

from the government. Older pensioners get more.

A single asylum seeker receives a quarter of that - a mere £35.13 per week, plus accommodation.

Currently, the UK gives less financial support than other European countries including Belgium, Ireland and Denmark.

Myth

“We can’t cope with the numbers”

Truth

Britain provides for 0.05% or one out of every 2,000 refugees worldwide. The majority of refugees (80%) go to neighbouring countries.

Compared to Britain, many smaller and poorer countries take a much higher percentage of refugees. Per capita, the UK ranks 13th in Europe and 43rd in the world for accepting refugees.

Myth

“Thousands of asylum seekers have come to Britain, bringing terror and violence to the streets of many towns”

Truth

There is no evidence supporting the notion that there is a higher rate of criminal activity among asylum seekers and refugees.

In fact, they are often the victims of crime, and are less likely to commit crimes than British citizens as this would affect their asylum application. There have already been countless attacks on asylum seekers around Britain.

Myth

“They are not in need of refuge here because they come through other safe countries to get here”

Truth

Many asylum seekers do not know where they will end up. Others come to this country because of existing Commonwealth, community or family links.