

Somerset Youth and Community Service

Refugees & Asylum Seekers



Aims: to increase understanding of the issues affecting people seeking asylum and how we can help them feel welcome in our community

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the session the participants will:

- have a better understanding of why someone may leave their home country
- be aware of some of the legal entitlements of asylum seekers
- have thought about how they could make asylum seekers feel welcome

Group size: 8-10

Time: 1 hour

Venue: Youth club

Materials:

- Suitcase sheets
- Pens/pencils
- Quiz
- Post it notes

Time	What	With
5 mins	Welcome, introduction to session and agree ground rules.	
5 mins	<p>What would you save?</p> <p>Give each young person a 'suitcase' sheet and a pen or pencil. Ask them to write or draw in the top suitcase the five things they would pack if they had to leave the country. Discuss why. Talk about what they couldn't fit in but would miss. The young people should keep their sheets.</p> <p><i>Optional: Challenge the young people to narrow their items down to four, then three etc.</i></p>	Suitcase sheets Pens/pencils
15 mins	<p>How much do you know about refugees?</p> <p>Run the quiz and discuss the answers to find out how much the young people know about the refugee situation and what preconceptions they have.</p>	Quiz
10 mins	<p>Ask the young people to imagine there has been a political coup in the UK. Your family is in fear for their lives as your Dad is an important member of a union in opposition to the new government. Your family have received death threats and a recent newspaper article has reported on deadly attacks on opposition political groups and unions. You plan to head to another (safer) country and seek asylum there. You have half an hour to prepare and only a small rucksack to carry things in. You know it will be a long journey, but you don't know where you are going, how long it will take or how you will travel.</p>	Suitcase sheets Pens/pencil



Time	What	With
	<p>Read the list of items below and ask the young people to select the five their family will take and write or draw them in the bottom suitcase on their sheet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothes • Passport • Mobile phone & charger • Cash • Food / snack items • Newspaper clipping about the attacks • Jewellery / watches • The threatening note • iPad • Diary and address book • Family photos • Bottled water • Your grandad's old army knife • Your Dad's union card • Your favourite cuddly toy 	
5 mins	<p>Ask the young people to share their choices and why they chose them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about how important it would be for them to be able to prove their story is true – how many of them took the newspaper clipping, threatening note & union card? • Did anyone take the knife? Whilst it may seem useful on the journey, trying to carry a weapon into the new country could look bad. 	
5 mins	<p>Now it's time to imagine that their application for asylum has been successful and they are about to start their new school. Give everyone post it notes and ask them to write down one thing they would like their new school, or someone at their new school, to do to make their first day a little easier. Stick the post its on the wall to share ideas.</p> <p><i>Optional: If you have enough time, decide as a group on a top ten or top five from the ideas the young people have shared.</i></p>	Post its
10 mins	<p>Cut out the 'impact' cards and put them in a bag or box. Invite the young people to take a card and give an example of how being a refugee could impact on that topic. e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health – Could fall ill during the journey. New country may not provide free healthcare.</i> • <i>Education – education may be poor in the new country, language barrier may make continuing education difficult.</i> • <i>Employment – language barrier may be a problem, prejudice may stop you from being considered for a job</i> • <i>Family – some may have been left behind, you may have become separated during the journey.</i> 	
5 mins	Evaluation & finish session.	



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Info Sheet



Definitions

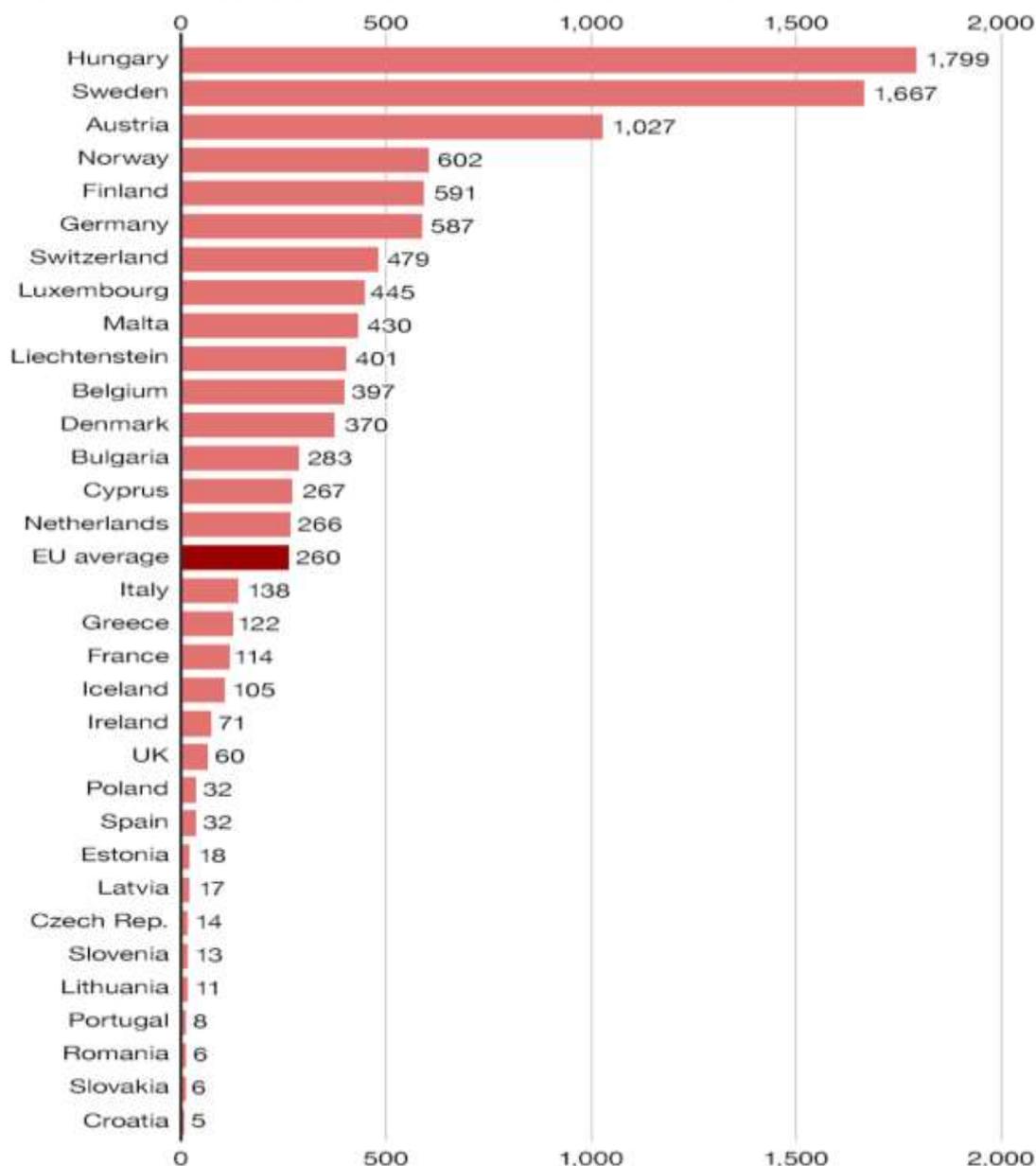
Asylum seeker - A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded.

Refugee - In the UK, a person is officially a refugee when they have their claim for asylum accepted by the government.

Economic migrant - Someone who has moved to another country to work. Refugees are not economic migrants.

Definitions taken from www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Asylum applications per 100,000 local population, 2015

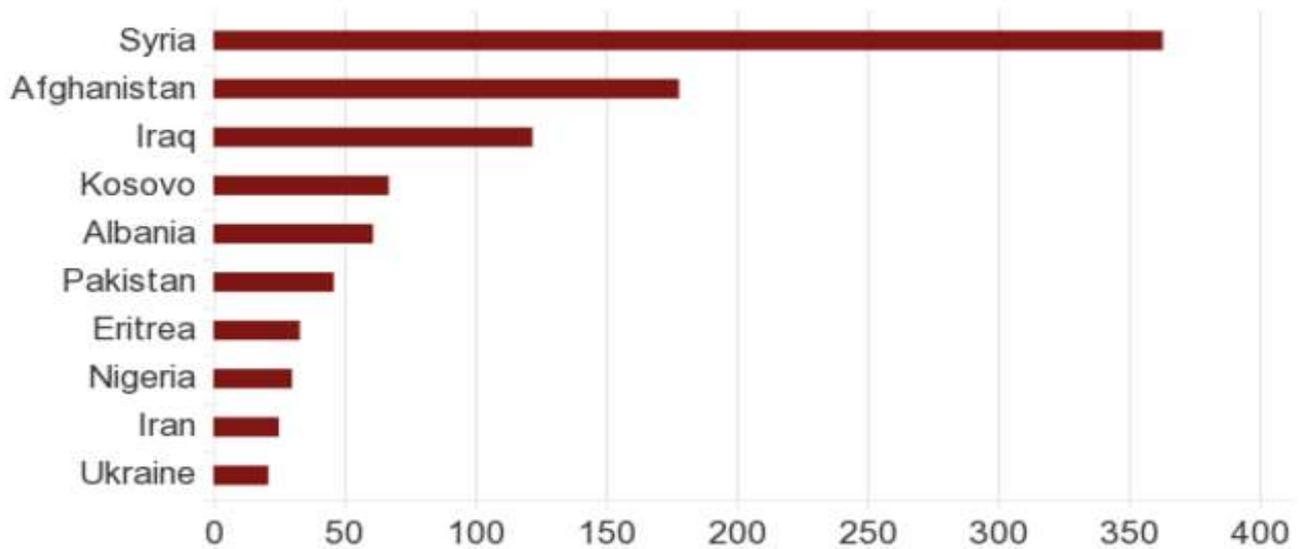


Source: Eurostat



Top 10 origins of people applying for asylum in the EU

First-time applications in 2015, in thousands



Source: Eurostat

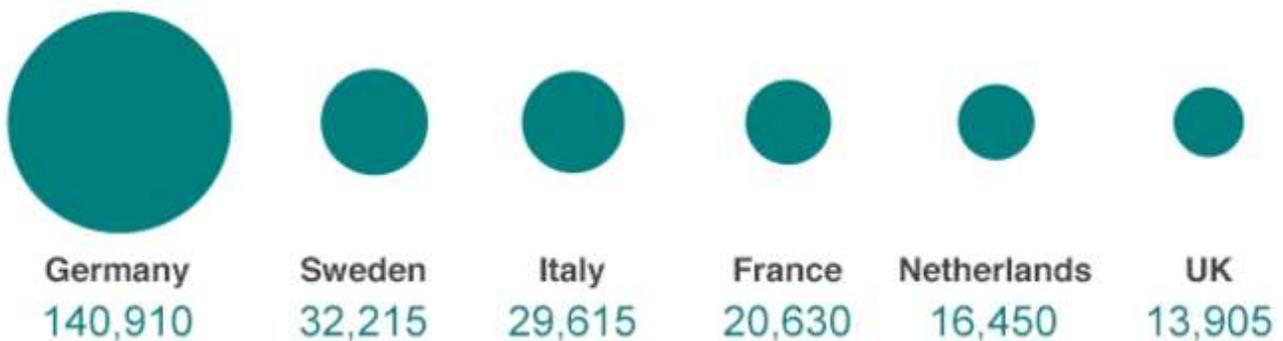
Asylum applications approved 2015



Main nationalities granted asylum

- 1 Syria
- 2 Eritrea
- 3 Iraq
- 4 Afghanistan
- 5 Iran

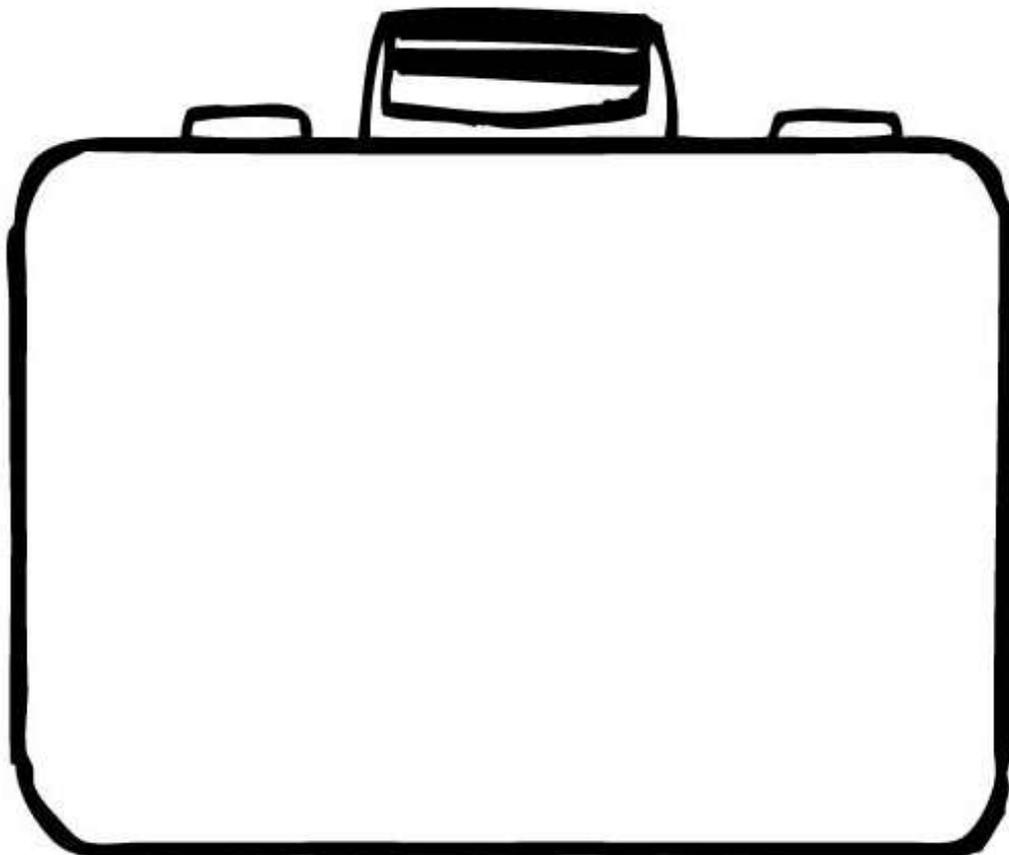
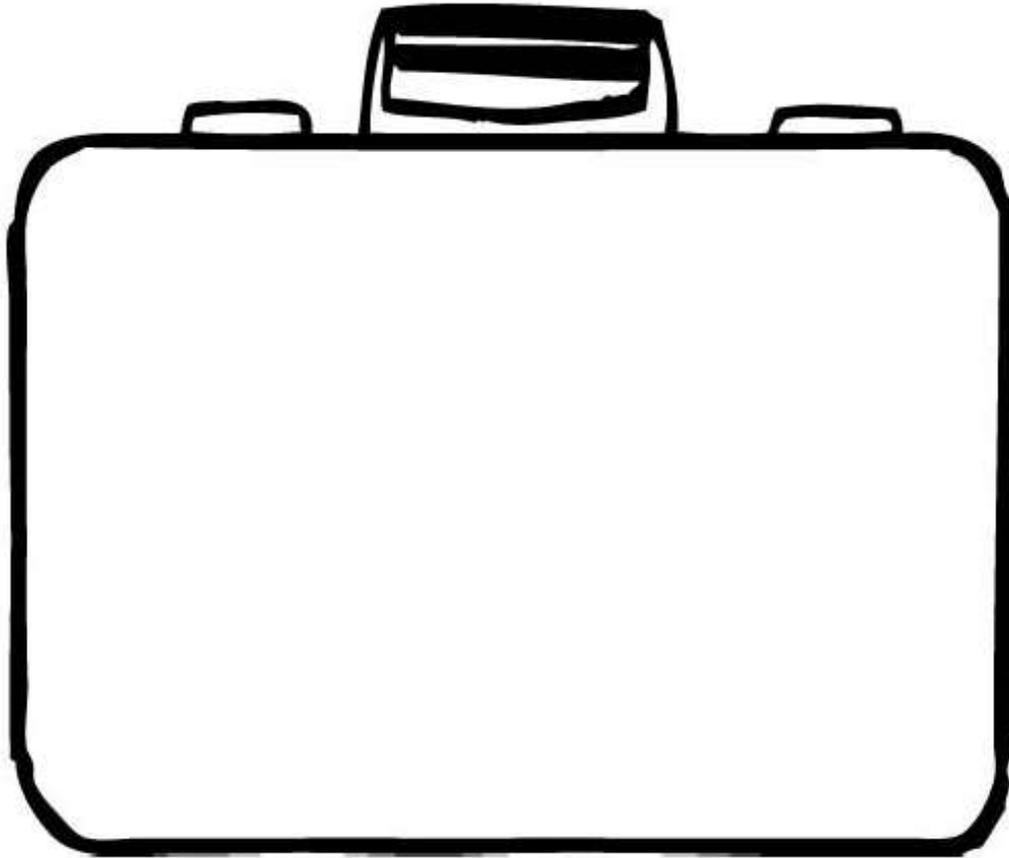
Total claims granted by country



Source: Eurostat

BBC

Suitcase



Quiz

1. **Which of these statements is false?**

- a. The vast majority of people seeking asylum are law abiding people.
- b. Asylum seekers do not have the right to work whilst they are waiting for their case to be heard.
- c. Asylum seekers received more benefits than pensioners in the UK
- d. Asylum seekers can claim £5.27 a day for everything they need

The only false statement is that asylum seekers received more benefits than pensioners. Asylum seekers are not entitled to benefits, they do have access to a very small amount of government money but it doesn't come from the benefits system.

2. **Immigrants (including refugees) arriving after the year 2000 are more likely to claim benefits than native Britons – true or false?**

False. *Immigrants who arrived after 2000 were 43% less likely than native Britons to receive state benefits or tax credits. They were also 7% less likely to live in social housing.*

3. **Pop star Rita Ora and former Chelsea footballer Mario Stanic both experienced the same conflict – what was it?**

- a. Yugoslav War
- b. Spanish Civil War
- c. Rwanda Civil War
- d. Syrian Civil War

Yugoslav war, which lasted from 1991 to 1999 and included the Kosovo War of 1998 to 1999. Rita Ora moved to Britain when she was one year old (in 1991)

4. **Sir Alec Issigonis, a son of a refugee, came up with a symbol of 'British cool', what was it?**

- a. The refrigerator
- b. Movie projector
- c. The tea pot
- d. The Mini (car)

Sir Alec Issigonis - was of Greek-British background and designed the mini to help with a fuel shortage caused by the 1956 Suez Crisis.

5. **Approximately what percentage of the world's refugee population lives in the UK?**

- a. 43%
- b. 2%**
- c. 17%
- d. 6%

Just 2% of the world refugee population lives in the UK. Pakistan hosts the highest number of refugees and 80% of world refugees reside in developing countries.

6. **By the end of 2015, how many people around the world had to leave their homes or countries because of persecution, conflict and human rights violations?**

- a. Approximately 100 million
- b. Approximately 60 million**
- c. Approximately 10 million
- d. Approximately 1 million

By the end of 2015, the number of people displaced around the world grew to approximately 60 million - the highest number of people forced to flee since the Second World War.

7. **Since the Syrian conflict began in March 2011, how many Syrians have found refuge in the UK?**

- a. 7,182**
- b. 10,721
- c. 17,812
- d. 37,459

Over the past five years, the UK has granted asylum to 5,845 Syrians and has resettled a further 1,337. This means the UK is providing protection for only 0.15% of the 4.8 million Syrian refugees. Oxfam is calling for rich countries to offer refuge to a fair share of Syrian refugees. The UK should resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by 2016 in order to fulfil their fair share.

8. **At the end of 2014, what percentage of the UK population were refugees?**

- a. 24%
- b. 12%
- c. 2.4%
- d. 0.24%**

At the end of 2014, the population of refugees, pending asylum cases and stateless persons made up just 0.24% of the population of the UK



9.	What percentage of appeals against refused asylum applications are won? a. 2% b. 12% c. 28% d. 56%
<i>Nearly 1 in 3 are given a wrong decision that could be a life or death matter.</i>	

10.	How many applications for asylum in the UK were made in the year ending June 2015? a. 5,687 b. 25,771 c. 52,628 d. 102,943
<i>This was an increase of 10% compared with the previous year (23,515). The most applications were made in 2002 (84,132). The largest number of applications for asylum came from nationals of Eritrea (3,568), followed by Pakistan (2,302) and Syria (2,204)</i>	



Impact Cards

Health	Health
Education	Education
Employment	Employment
Family	Family
Money	Money
Future	Future
Friendships	Friendships
Home	Home
The Law	The Law
Appearance	Appearance