



What is this leaflet about?

This leaflet is intended to provide you with some information on refugees and asylum seekers and the role they play in the life of the county.

Suffolk is becoming an increasingly diverse place, and people coming to the UK not only enrich the local culture with their own, but also make a significant contribution to the local economy, supporting local jobs both through the work they do and the goods and services they buy from local businesses.

By giving some facts and busting a few of the common myths about refugees and asylum seekers, this leaflet provides information that will support increased understanding and learning between the different communities in Suffolk.

Find out more . . .

More information about the support available for Gypsies and Travellers can be found at: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/RefugeesandAsylumSeekers.htm>

Tel: **01473 265160**

Who produced this leaflet?

This leaflet was produced on behalf of partner organisations in Suffolk, and is intended to be read and distributed by any groups or individuals in the county to promote increased understanding between communities.

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call the number below.

إذا تحتاج إلى مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات في أي لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال على الرقم التالي.

Arabic

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন

Bengali

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。

Chinese

اطلاعات به زبان دیگری نیاز دارید لطفاً به شماره زیر زنگ بزنید.
شما اگر برای درک این

Dari/Farsi

Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour comprendre cette information dans une autre langue, appelez s'il vous plait le numéro suivant."

French

જો તમારે આ માહિતી બીજા ભાષામાં સમજવા માટે જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરી નીચેના નંબર પર સંપર્ક કરો.

Gujarati

بەم زانیاریەشیتنی یە بۆ تۆ گۆیەتی دە یارمەر بۆ ویستیت بەگۆه
بەگۆهوی خوارم ژمارەندی بەیوه بەزمان ئاگی تیر تگای

Kurdish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.

Polish

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.

Portuguese

If you would like this information in another format, including audio tape or large print, please call **08456 066 067**.

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Do you know about . . .

Refugees and Asylum Seekers



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Refugees and Asylum Seekers

What is a Refugee or Asylum Seeker?

An **asylum seeker** is someone who is fleeing persecution in their homeland, has arrived in another country, has made themselves known to the authorities and exercised the legal right to apply for asylum. Whilst waiting for their application to be decided, asylum seekers are not usually allowed to work. A **refugee** is someone whose asylum application has been successful and who is allowed to stay here having proved that they would face persecution back home.

Where are they from?

Refugees and asylum seekers can come from many countries, including Somalia, Iraq, Angola, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Iran, and Afghanistan amongst others. All these countries have suffered conflict or human rights abuses.



THE FACTS . . .

- **In May 2007 there were 98 asylum seekers in Suffolk** living in 47 households. That's less than 0.01% of the 314,597 dwellings in Suffolk overall.
- **Asylum seekers are not provided accommodation as a part of the council housing system**, and so don't cause other people to wait longer for their council house.
- **Asylum seeker housing is paid for by central government** and is almost always let from private landlords. Asylum seekers are not given a choice about where they live.
- **The number of asylum seekers coming to the UK has dropped dramatically** in recent years, and there are no indications that this figure is likely to increase in the near future.
- Of the 192,000 asylum seekers who came to the European Union in 2006, only 28,000 came to the UK.
- The Borders and Immigration Agency makes the decision on whether asylum seekers are given indefinite leave to remain in Britain with refugee status.
- Like migrant workers, **refugees and asylum seekers are more likely to be victims of violent crime than cause it**, says the Association of Chief Police Officers.
- Research by an organisation called MORI shows that people in the UK on average think that around 23% of all the world's asylum seekers come here. The reality is infact only about 2%. Most refugees and asylum seekers remain in Africa or the Middle East.
- When they arrive, asylum seekers are not initially allowed to work. If they have to claim benefits then it is set at a level of only 70% of the appropriate rate for a single adult.

How do refugees and asylum seekers affect me?

Refugees and asylum seekers add to the culture and diversity of Suffolk, enriching life here for everyone. The positive contribution of refugees and asylum seekers should be recognised and welcomed.

In the longer term, asylum seekers whose applications have been accepted can contribute millions of pounds and useful skills to the British economy. For instance, the British Medical Association estimates that there are 3,000 refugee doctors in the UK – an invaluable resource at a time of shortages.

Information in this leaflet taken from a range of national and local sources. Pictures supplied by the Refugee Council and Suffolk Refugee Support Forum.

