



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.

Some of the most famous names in British art and media are refugees or children of refugees:

- Designer of the Mini car – Alec Issigonis
- Writer – Joseph Conrad
- Comedian/Writer – Ben Elton

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.

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



Find out more...

More information about the support available for refugees and asylum seekers can be found at:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/RefugeesandAsylumSeekers

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 **08456 066 067**

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**

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

بەم زانیاریەش تەن ئێ بە ب ت گەهێنتی دە ئارمەر ب وئیسیتیت بەگەهێ بەگە. وهێ خوارەم ژمارەن دی بەهێوه بەجێمان کێ تێر تێکایە **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, made themselves known to the authorities and exercised their legal right to apply for asylum. Whilst waiting for their application to be decided, asylum seekers are not usually allowed to work. Many do voluntary work whilst their application is being processed. 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 Afghanistan, Iran, China, Iraq and Eritrea, amongst others. All these countries have suffered conflict or human rights abuses.



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 contribution of refugees and asylum seekers should be welcomed and their positive contribution recognised.

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.

The facts...

- The UK is home to less than 3% of the world's refugees – around 290,000 out of 8.4 million worldwide.
- The number of asylum seekers coming to the UK has continued to drop over recent years, and there are no indications that this figure is likely to increase in the near future.
- The control of immigration statistics for the last quarter of 2008 show that asylum applications to the UK have fallen by 2% down from 6,870 between October and December 2007 to 6,735 in the same period for 2008.
- In December 2008 there were 76 asylum seekers accommodated in Suffolk.
- 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 often housed in 'hard to let' properties, which other people do not want to live in.
- Many refugees have academic or teaching qualifications. There are more than 1,500 refugee teachers in England.
- 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.
- 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.