



The Truth about  
**Migrants,  
Asylum Seekers  
and Refugees**



**W**akefield district, like most other areas in the United Kingdom, has had migration of people from all over the world. This has contributed significantly to its growth and prosperity.

Immigrants have included the Irish community in the 1840s, German families in the 1880s, and communities from South Asia and the Caribbean in the 1950s and 1960s. Workers have contributed to the local economy taking on roles within the textile and mining industries and the health service, and are now filling much needed roles, often in skilled jobs.

**The UK has a proud history of accepting refugees who have made a massive contribution for over 450 years...**

...including Jews fleeing the Holocaust, Ugandan Asians, Chileans and Kosovans escaping persecution in more recent decades.

The widening of European membership to Central and Eastern Europe resulting in freedom of movement for European citizens, and the small numbers of asylum seekers and refugees coming to our district, continues this trend.

## What's the difference between an Asylum Seeker, Migrant Worker, Refugee and an Illegal Immigrant?

### Asylum Seeker

A person who has left their country because they have suffered torture, oppression or persecution.

They have a legal right to ask for protection (asylum) and are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim.

### Migrant Worker

Someone who has moved to the UK from another country to work. They pay the same taxes as UK workers and UK laws apply to them as they do to UK citizens.

In the UK, most new migrant workers come from Central and Eastern Europe (countries in the EU).

### Refugee

Someone whose asylum application has been successful and it is proved that they would face persecution if they returned home.

They are legally allowed to be in the UK. Since 2005 they are granted 5 years permission to stay and can have their case reviewed at any time. They can choose where they live and work.

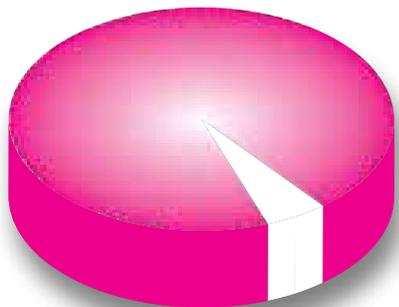
### Illegal Immigrant

Someone whose presence in the country is against immigration rules. The most common kind of illegal immigrant is someone whose visitor visa or student visa has run out.

# WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

Wakefield is a **multi-cultural** city with **citizens** from more than 50 different nations **from all over the world**

people born outside  
of the UK 5.37%



The total population of Wakefield district is about 327,600. There are about 17,000 people of all ages living in Wakefield who were born outside of the UK. Most new arrivals in the last 10 years are from other European countries. Other places of origin include Pakistan and India, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Iran and Iraq.

Most of the asylum seekers locally stay for a maximum of 3 weeks before they move to other areas in the North East and Yorkshire and Humber region.

## Settling in Wakefield

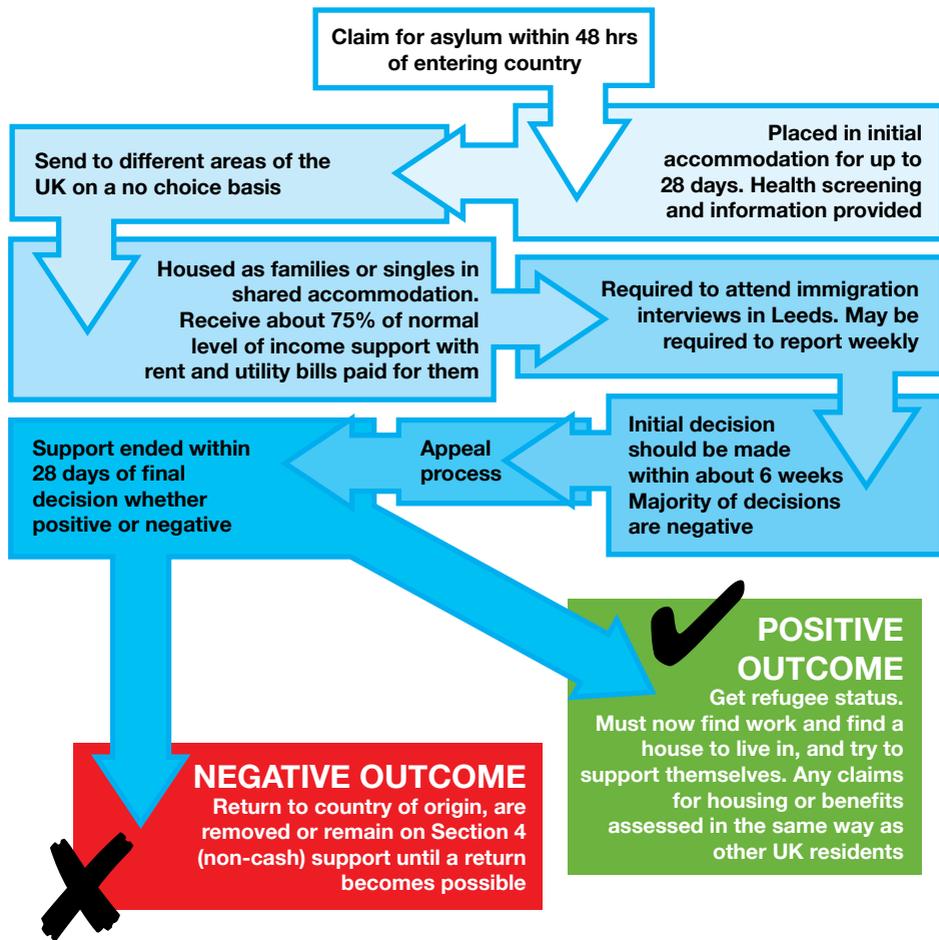
**Robert** is 28 years old and a migrant worker from Poland. He came to the UK in 2009 to find a job and to study English. He came to Wakefield as his friends were already here and they helped him to find somewhere to live and to find a job. He found his first job quickly, it was in a warehouse. Since then he has changed jobs a few times but was never unemployed for more than two weeks.

When he first came to Wakefield Robert was single, but he is now married and he has a 4 year old daughter, Angela. Angela attends a local nursery and her mother Anna is a part time teaching assistant at a local primary school. At home the family speak Polish but at work they speak English. They like to be involved in community activities and believe that learning English is the most important key to being part of the community.

## Why do people seek asylum?

**Faraz** is an educated man from Pakistan who used to own his own business and be active in his local community. He and his family have received death threats in Pakistan and Faraz has been shot at. He and his wife Alia and 2 young children (aged 1 & 3) had to leave their home, however when they asked the police for protection, the police told him they were unable to help him because of his religion. He is Shia Muslim and the police and government are Sunni Muslim and have been known to discriminate against Shia people. They visited family in the UK and applied for asylum here as they feared for their lives in Pakistan. The family are living in Wakefield District while their asylum claim is considered. The family are homesick and in shock about what has happened to them, and are struggling to manage their everyday lives. Faraz would like to work to support his family but is not allowed to, and feels depressed and anxious.

## What's happens when someone claims asylum?



## A refugee's story

**Peter** grew up in Uganda with 2 brothers and a sister. After finishing University he worked in the family business selling floor tiles. In Uganda, the Government, police and military organisations can be corrupt and opposition to those in power is often suppressed. Peter is politically opposed to the Government and wants to see change in his country, and because of this he was picked up on the street by masked men. He was taken to prison for several months, and tortured while he was there. During this time, his family did not know where he was or what had happened to him. After this happened 3 times, his family were so afraid for his safety that they arranged for him to leave Uganda.

He managed to escape to nearby Kenya and then was taken on to the UK by someone who told him to apply for asylum so that he would be safe. He had never heard

of asylum before but applied in London and was sent to Wakefield by the Home Office. His claim was accepted and he was given refugee status within 5 weeks. RASA in Wakefield helped him find somewhere to live, and he went back to college to gain skills and now works for a security company. The people he works with are good and understanding people and this has helped him to feel more comfortable and at home in the UK. He has also made friends at a gym.

Peter's family are still in Uganda and he is in touch with them by social media and by phone. He finds it very upsetting to talk about the things which happened to him in Uganda but he cannot go back because his life would be in danger.

The UK was one of the original signatories on the 1951 Refugee Convention that gives people across the world the right to apply for asylum. It has saved millions of lives. No country has ever withdrawn from it.

Famous refugees include Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Wyclef Jean (Fugees), Bob Marley, Jackie Chan, Omid Djalili

Marks and Spencers, the Mini, Burtons & Fish and Chips were all created by refugees living in the UK.

**Fiction** - The UK takes more asylum seekers than anywhere else

**Fact** - The UK takes less than 2% of the world's asylum seekers. Over 80% live in poor countries, often next door to the country they are fleeing. Africa and Asia look after three quarters of the world's asylum seekers.

**Fiction** - It's easy to become a refugee in the UK.

**Fact** - In the UK in 2012, for cases that are resolved, 38% of the people who applied for asylum were granted it. In some countries, such as Switzerland and Finland, over 70% of applications are successful.

**Fiction** - Eastern Europeans come to work illegally.

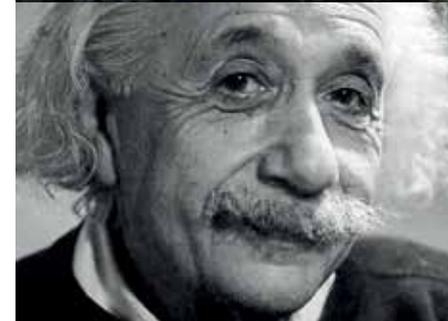
**Fact** - People from the European Union countries are legally allowed to come to the UK and work. UK citizens are allowed to live and work in any EU country in the same way. For example, nearly 400,000 UK citizens live in Spain.

**Fiction** - It costs the UK a lot of money to have migrants in the country.

**Fact** - People who move to the UK, including refugees, pay more into the UK public purse than they take out. Migrants also spend money where they live and study, helping to support the local economy.

**Fiction** - Health tourists come to the UK to take advantage of NHS Health Care

**Fact** - The NHS is rarely a reason that people move to the UK. If people did come to the UK because of the NHS, they would probably start to use health care services as soon as they arrive. In fact, many migrants do not register with GP's or dentists, or access other health services, for several months or even years, even if they have a serious illness or health condition.



Bob Marley  
Albert Einstein  
Omid Djalili





**Fiction** - Asylum seekers are rich, wear designer clothing and take British jobs.

**Fact** - most asylum seekers are not allowed to work. They are provided with a place to live and their utility bills are paid while waiting for their claim to be looked at. They get £36.62 a week to live on. They are allowed to drive and are subject to the same tax and MOT rules as everyone else.



**Fiction** - Most migrants get involved in crime.

**Fact** - Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants do not commit more crimes than anyone else, and can be removed from the UK if they do. They are 3 times more likely to be the victims of harassment, hate crime and abuse.



**Fiction** - Most migrants come here to claim benefits

**Fact** - Most migrants in the UK in the last 5 years have come to study. Non-EU migrants pay higher fees than UK students. Many Universities encourage applicants from overseas. Most new migrants are not allowed to claim benefits. They have to prove they usually live in the UK before they can claim (habitual residence).

Jackie Chan  
Ulrika Jonsson  
Mo Farah

## Useful contacts

### Hate Crime

Stop Hate UK

Telephone: **0800 1381625**

Text: **07717 989 025**

Email: **talk@stophateuk.org**

Text relay for the deaf or hearing impaired  
**18001 0800138 1625**

Or go to **www.wakefield.gov.uk** and click on Report It.

### West Yorkshire Police

For non-emergencies dial **101** -  
In an emergency always dial **999**

### RASA

Now part of the Northern Refugee Centre for economic migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

**www.rasa-wakefield.org.uk**

RASA Wakefield District

Agbrigg & Belle Vue Community Centre  
Montague Street, Wakefield WF1 5BB

Telephone: **01924 368855**

Email: **info-wakefield@nrcentre.org.uk**

### City of Sanctuary

**www.cityofsanctuary.org/wakefield**

Support and links to local asylum seekers and refugees, including Angel Lodge initial distribution centre.

### Vulnerable Adults Service

Queens House, Market Street,  
Wakefield, WF1 1DF

Telephone: **01924 304364**

**vulnerableadultsserv@wakefield.gov.uk**

### Wakefield European Centre C.I.C.

St. Catherine's Church and Centre  
Doncaster Road, Wakefield WF1 5HS

Email: **info@wecomunity.org.uk**

**www.wecomunity.org.uk**

### Migration Yorkshire

**www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk**

### Refugee Council

**www.refugeecouncil.org.uk**

### Asylum Help

Telephone: **0808 8000 630**

**www.asylumhelpuk.org**

### Migrant Help

**www.migranthehelp.org**



With thanks to RASA, City of Sanctuary, Wakefield European Centre and the many individuals and community groups who have shared their stories and contributed to the development of this booklet.

For further information or copies of the booklet please contact [communitiesandpartnerships@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:communitiesandpartnerships@wakefield.gov.uk)