

# Myths and facts



Cut out the cards and match the correct myth to the correct fact

Myths	Facts
<p>Most asylum seekers come from countries where they are safe.</p>	<p>Asylum seekers are not allowed to work unless they have waited over 12 months for an initial decision on their case. They are forced to rely on state support, which is set at just 70% of income support.</p>
<p>Some asylum seekers repay our generosity by thieving in towns and city centres.</p>	<p>Asylum seekers do not jump the queue for council housing and they cannot choose where they live. They generally get housed in hard to let housing, which other people do not want to live in.</p>
<p>Asylum seekers take our housing.</p>	<p>The vast majority of people seeking asylum are law abiding citizens (Association of Chief Police Officers)</p>
<p>Asylum seekers are here illegally.</p>	<p>Asylum seekers do not come to the UK to claim benefits. In fact, most know very little about the UK asylum or benefits systems before they arrive (Source: Home Office, Understanding the decision making of asylum seekers, July 2002)</p>

<p>The UK gets more than its fair share of asylum seekers</p>	<p>There is no such thing as an illegal asylum seeker. The 1951 Refugee Convention guarantees everybody the right to apply for asylum. It has saved millions of lives and no country has ever withdrawn from it.</p>
<p>Asylum seekers get huge handouts from the government</p>	<p>Three quarters of all refugees live in developing countries, often in camps. Africa and Asia host two thirds of the world's refugees and Europe looks after only 18% with the UK being home to less than 3%. (Source: UNHCR 2006)</p>
<p>Asylum seekers are a big drain on this country.</p>	<p>The top 10 refugee producing countries all have very poor human rights records or are places where war or conflict is ongoing.</p>
<p>Asylum seekers come here just to get benefits.</p>	<p>There are more than 1 100 medically qualified refugees recorded on the British Medical Associations database. There are also 1500 refugee teachers in England. (Source: BMA &amp; Refugee Teachers Task Force)</p>

Sources:

- Refugee Council Website [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)
- Coventry Partnership [www.coventrypartnership.com](http://www.coventrypartnership.com)