

Ten common statements you may hear about Asylum Seekers - and how to respond with facts

Here are ten common misconceptions about asylum seekers and refugees. These claims are frequently repeated, but they don't stand up to the facts. Here are the facts:

"Asylum seekers are illegal immigrants."

Seeking asylum is not illegal and this includes any person seeking sanctuary who may arrive in a small boat. Seeking asylum is a legal right under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

"They're just here to claim benefits."

Asylum seekers cannot access normal benefits. They receive only minimal support (about £6 a day) and usually cannot work.

"The UK takes in more asylum seekers than anyone else."

The UK receives fewer asylum seekers than many countries, including Germany, France, and Lebanon.

"Most asylum claims are fake."

Almost half of claims are granted at the first stage, and many appeals are successful, showing the system recognises genuine cases.

"Asylum seekers are a burden."

Refugees contribute skills, resilience, and cultural diversity. Once allowed to work, they support local economies and communities.

"They should just apply from abroad."

Safe legal routes are extremely limited. International law allows people to apply once they reach the UK.

"They're all young men."

Women, children, and families also seek asylum. Young men often travel first because the journey is too dangerous for vulnerable family members.

"They get housing ahead of locals."

Asylum seekers cannot choose where they live. They are housed in temporary accommodation and do not take priority over council housing lists.

"They must stay in the first safe country."

International law does not require this. Many seek safety in the UK because of family, language, or community connections.

"We need to protect our women and children from asylum seekers."

This claim plays on fear, but there is NO evidence that asylum seekers are more likely to commit crimes than the general population. People seeking sanctuary are often women and children fleeing violence, seeking the same protection and safety we want for our own families.

The truth is that people seeking sanctuary are people fleeing war and persecution. By challenging myths with facts, we help build understanding and compassion. For information, please visit:

www.ciacadvice.com