



## *Not in Our Name*

### Did you know that ...?

- the UK has a longstanding (almost intentionally) unfair, cruel, confusing, and ineffective immigration system. 2023's 'Illegal' Migration Act may not change this as it removes the means for most refugees to safely claim asylum here
- we support a very small proportion of the world's refugees, around 40% of whom are at-risk women and girls; our system is generally insensitive to this
- we're the only European country able by law to detain people indefinitely in Immigration Removal Centres (Haslar IRC in Gosport closed in 2015 and looks set to re-open in late 2024)
- record numbers have arrived in dangerous small boats since BREXIT, having no idea for some time where or if they will be permanently accommodated, detained and/or removed
- asylum seekers fleeing war and persecution cannot by definition be 'illegal', whether arriving 'irregularly' or not; many are misidentified as economic migrants, facing indignity and destitution here because of administrative failings or delays; others are 'criminalised' by political rhetoric despite few safe routes into the UK being available
- many persecuted asylum seekers necessarily arrive without documentation, money, or belongings, experiencing serious difficulties evidencing claims with the Home Office
- Home Office staff do their best, but systems are stretched, migrant data is poor, and biometrics are not always recorded
- asylum seeker emergency hotel use has almost trebled since 2020 despite daily costs of £7m+ and Home Office pledges (but no fair, workable plan) to end the practice. These so-called 'temporary' hotels have seen thousands accommodated for 18+ months, a brutal unreality. Without charity support many of these trapped asylum seeker families lack access to space, cash, clothing, footwear, medication, mobile phones, internet data, nutritious food, as well as legal, education and health services
- large military-style reception centres lack primary healthcare, and the visible security measures, surveillance, and shared living spaces amplify mental stress
- plans to expel people seeking asylum to Rwanda degrade our nation's morality, and cruelly remove hope. There are far better and cheaper ways to tackle evil traffickers
- asylum seekers have a higher prevalence of chronic disease and worse physical and mental health than the general population
- many arriving here have experienced violence and associated abuse during their journey. Inappropriate behaviour does trigger trauma responses for some

- compassionate amendments to the original Nationality & Borders bill to protect at-risk children, women, individuals with a disability, survivors of torture, LGBTQ+ and others have been rejected. There are too few safeguards for vulnerable people
- most arriving here are prohibited from working, but desperately wish to do so (and pay taxes), utilising many of the skills we need; this ban expensively fuels loneliness, skill-fade, further trauma, voicelessness and poor integration
- around 60% of asylum claims are rejected by the Home Office, often leading to costly and delayed Appeals which regularly overturn flawed initial decisions
- undocumented migrants are charged for secondary health care, and hospitals have dedicated staff chasing down the bills
- many migrants voluntarily return to their countries of origin
- Home Office asylum support is £49.18 per person per week, with accommodation provided on a no-choice basis anywhere in the UK; those in hotels receive £8.86
- even if granted 'leave to remain' (maybe taking years) many remain destitute and homeless; despite joyful relief the limbo continues when eviction notices give just 7-28 days to 'move on' entirely from asylum support
- reuniting with children under 18 and partners is very challenging, and only granted if the family cannot live elsewhere
- there are few automatic routes to permanent UK settlement, and refugees must re-apply to extend their leave beyond a few years.

**The Home Office is *not* the enemy, and many staff work very hard.  
But, as a nation we must stand up and do better than this.**

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary (PCoS) offers hope to those seeking sanctuary and often left destitute and in extended limbo. PCoS is strictly independent and unashamedly humanitarian; as such we urge HMG to: uphold the right to claim asylum; create more safe routes; fairly tackle systemic immigration back-logs; minimise unnecessary detention; cease Rwanda plans, which strip people of hope; and crack down on smugglers, not their victims. With others we focus locally and regionally on delivered results, to welcome and treat all those we support with dignity, compassion, and respect, leading them to independence as soon as practicable. We embrace volunteers and those with lived experience to inform our casework and projects, and we are keen to accept and put to good use any financial, safeguarding, or operational assistance community members and local authorities may provide.