

Unit 1: Seeking Sanctuary in Wales

Understanding Key Terms and Facts: Handout

Refugee

The United Nations defines a refugee as a person who has fled their country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on one of five grounds: race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Person seeking asylum

A person seeking asylum (often referred to as an 'asylum seeker') is someone who has requested protection as a refugee, but their request has not been processed yet. Seeking asylum is a human right.

Migrant

A migrant is 'any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is' (International Organization for Migration, 2022).

Traditionally, the term 'migrant' has been used to designate people who move by choice, unlike refugees and asylum seekers. It is a broad term that refers to movement away from place of usual residence, whether within state borders or across an international border. This may be temporarily or permanently and for a variety of reasons. This includes migrant workers or international students.



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Undocumented migrant

An undocumented migrant refers to someone who is residing in a country without legal status or with precarious legal status. This may include an individual whose application for refugee status has been denied. They have minimal rights and access to services, such as health and education.

Person seeking sanctuary

In recent years, the term sanctuary seeker has become increasingly used in Wales. It is an umbrella term to refer to asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants, or indeed anyone who may be seeking sanctuary in the country.

Internally displaced

This term refers to individuals who move within their states' internal borders to escape crisis (wars, environmental disasters, etc.). They do not cross an international border.

Stateless person

The 1954 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons defines a stateless person as someone who is 'not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law'. They neither have a nationality nor a government who takes responsibility for them.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

The UNHCR defines a 'separated child' as someone who has been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives.

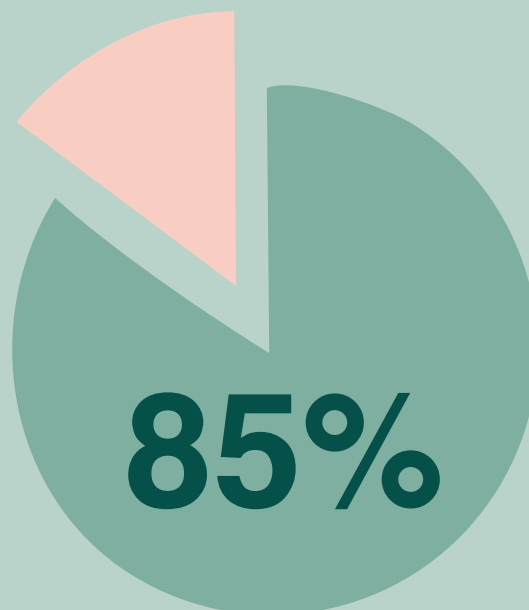
An 'unaccompanied child' has been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.



The Truth about Asylum

73%

of refugees displaced abroad live in countries neighbouring their countries of origin (UNHCR, 2021: 7).



of refugees are hosted by developing countries (UNHCR, 2021: 7).



At mid-2021, Germany provided asylum to 1.2 million refugees, including 616,300 Syrians, 152,700 Afghans and 147,400 Iraqis (UNHCR, 2021: 6).



The vast majority of refugees remain in close proximity to their country or region of origin (Refugee Council, 2022).

At mid-2021, Turkey hosted the highest number of refugees with some 3.7 million Syrians; Colombia hosted 1.7 million Venezuelans; Uganda hosted 923,500 South Sudanese and 429,500 Congolese refugees; Pakistan hosted over 1.4 million Afghans (UNHCR, 2021: 6).

The Truth about Asylum



According to the Refugee Council (2022), the UK is home to approximately 1% of the 26.4 million refugees forcibly displaced across the world.

When compared with the EU+, the UK received the 4th largest number of asylum applications.

When measured per head of population, the UK received the 18th largest intake (UNHCR, 2021: 6).

In Wales, the number of asylum seekers supported by section 95 by local authority is as follows:

Cardiff (1,206),
Swansea (644),
Newport (362),
Wrexham (121),
Conwy (6),
Bridgend (4),
Caerphilly (4)
and Neath Port Talbot (1)
(WSMP, 2022).

In 2021, the number of refugees resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme by local authority is as follows:

Cardiff (24),
Gwynedd (10),
Denbighshire (8)
(WSMP, 2022).

In the year ending March 2022, the top five countries of origin of people seeking asylum in the UK were Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Albania and Syria (UK Government, 2022).