

Asylum Facts and Figures

- ❖ There are now over 60 million refugees and displaced people in the world who have had to leave their homes to find safety elsewhere.
- ❖ The UK is home to only about 0.05% of them.
- ❖ Asylum seekers were only about 6% of migrants to the UK in 2021.
- ❖ Asylum applications in the UK peaked in the early 2000's and then went down for many years. All asylum applications in the UK are assessed by the Home Office who judge if applicants have "a well-founded fear of persecution."
- ❖ In previous years about 30-40 % had been accepted, but in 2021 the Home Office failed to make a decision on about 70% of applications.
- ❖ Some claims are assessed within weeks, whilst others drag on for years. At City of Sanctuary we have known it to take three years for the Home Office to even get round to interviewing applicants.
- ❖ In recent years most asylum seekers have not been allowed paid work, bank accounts or to own property. They have to live wherever they are told to live by the UK Government.
- ❖ Asylum seekers get £39.63 per week to pay for daily needs such as food, clothing, travel etc. That is £5.66 per day.
- ❖ If their claim is refused they can appeal, but the government is now blocking rights of appeal. On refusal the Home Office stops all its weekly payments and makes asylum seekers homeless.
- ❖ Less than 2 in every 1000 people in W'hampton are asylum seekers.

Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary

@wolvescofs <https://wolverhampton.cityofsanctuary.org>

Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary



Imagine a world where you welcome a stranger... and they become your friend.

Who are refugees?

There are still many older people who remember being evacuated in the Second World War, but most of us have no experience of what it is like to be forced to flee from our home due to war or because of threats of violence and persecution. However there are currently about 1000 people in Wolverhampton who have had to go through this ordeal.



What does City of Sanctuary do?

We all need roots to survive: friends, neighbours, and a sense of belonging. And we all need to feel we use our time in worthwhile



Wolverhampton Express & Star

ways. Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary supports asylum seekers as they start a new life in the city.

It's not just about needs but about finding opportunities for people's talents too.

Some sanctuary seekers have volunteered time to look after Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve. One very productive area has seen people take on new allotments, growing their own fruit and veg, and sharing ideas with neighbouring allotment holders.

Getting the big picture

The news tells us this is as an unexpected crisis, yet in reality people have had to leave their homes throughout all of human history... but it is still a tragedy for any family in any generation.

The long list of refugees includes Moses and Jesus, Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, Maria von Trapp, Bob Marley and Freddy Mercury as well as countless others who were not so famous. Prince Philip was a refugee - in 1922 his family had to flee from Greece when he was just a baby.



HRH Prince Philip aged 1 in 1922

Refugee numbers are growing world-wide, but they are still relatively low in the UK. In fact asylum cases were just 6% of all migrants to the UK last year, and France had almost exactly twice as many applications as Britain.

Getting involved

Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary is run entirely by volunteers.

Imagine having no family or friends to turn to when you've just been through a very tough time. So we run a drop-in every week where people new to the City are welcomed, English is taught, friendships are made, and problems are shared over a cup of tea. Could you either volunteer time, or donate to meet the costs?

We also distribute good quality items that people donate to us. If you've had to leave all your belongings at home and are on just £5.66 per day, then such practical help is very welcome.