



Migrants usually have choices, refugees don't

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark

.....

you have to understand,
that no one puts their children
in a boat
unless the water is safer than
the land

Extract from 'Home'

by Warsan Shire (a Somali-British
writer)



The Refugee Situation in the UK

Britain receives about **30,000** asylum applications each year.

Around 90% of these applications are in-country and not at one of the ports of arrival.

Around 40% are granted refugee status, humanitarian protection, or discretionary leave to remain.

Around 35% of appeals are successful.

The number of unaccompanied minors applying for asylum has increased; in the third quarter of 2015 this amounted to **947 children.**

If your case is rejected.....

Accurate statistics about those whose asylum claims are rejected are, by definition, difficult to obtain.

- The Red Cross has estimated that there may be up to 200,000 rejected asylum seekers in the UK who receive no support at all and are destitute.

The government is obliged by law to provide a minimum of support to families whose asylum claim has been rejected.

Where do asylum-seekers come from?

Country	Q3 2014	Q3 2015	% change
Sudan	473	1516	+221%
Eritrea	1227	1385	+13%
Iran	505	863	+71%
Syria	592	790	+33%
Afghanistan	360	749	+108%
Pakistan	657	746	+14%
Iraq	202	632	+213%
Albania	358	382	+7%
India	174	294	+69%
Bangladesh	171	285	+67%

People coming from other parts of the EU

The latest up-to-date figures for Birmingham are from the 2011 census. Clearly the figures have changed since then, but at that time the number of citizens of other EU countries was around 17,000, of which:

- around 9000 were Polish speakers
- around 1300 were Czech or Slovak speakers
- around 1200 were Romanian speakers
- Around 2500 were speakers of 9 other Baltic or Eastern European languages

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What it means to be an asylum-seeker in the UK today

- Families living at 50% below the poverty line
- Insufficient benefits to maintain contact with a solicitor
- Periods of destitution between refusal and appeal, and again when refugee status is granted; or refusal with no chance of returning to country of origin.
- No choice accommodation in hard-to-let properties which are poorly maintained (managed by external contractors, in Birmingham G4S)
- Increasing imposition of huge fees, e.g. £450 for a DNA test, around £600 per person for renewal of Discretionary Leave to Remain, around £1000 for naturalisation, which is not returned if the request is refused.
- And: the Immigration Bill, currently going through parliament.

Refugees are ordinary people caught up in extraordinary situations. Peel back the label and you find people like you and me with gifts and talents, willing to work and contribute to our society - if we just give them a chance



Core Principles of City of Sanctuary

- .Mainstream, grassroots movement – all sectors involved
- .Building bridges between ‘local people’ and refugees
- .Strengthening and broadening the support base for asylum seekers and refugees
- .Helping create a culture of hospitality and welcome
- .Celebrating the contribution of refugees to society

Streams of Sanctuary



What is a School of Sanctuary?

A school of Sanctuary is a school that is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for those seeking sanctuary.

An award from City of Sanctuary to celebrate and encourage good practice in schools



School of Sanctuary award



- .Inclusivity and welcome
- .Engage families and communities
- .Celebration and opportunity for reflective learning
- .Written evidence
- .Sanctuary seekers support with learning –stimulating lessons
- .Evaluation by appraisal group and presentation at award ceremony

Three simple principles

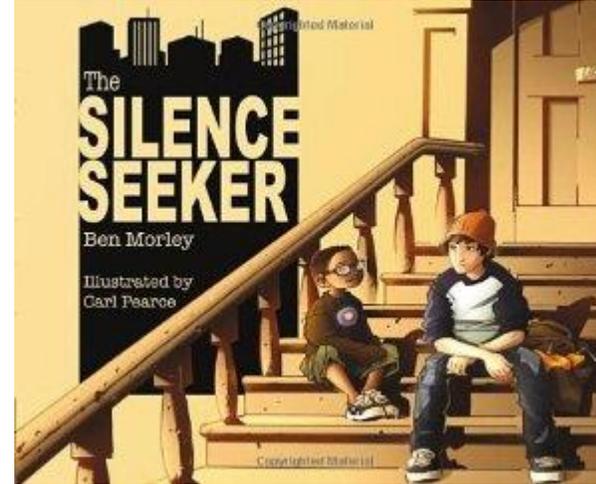
Learn

Embed

Share



Learn



- .Invite refugee speakers to tell their stories
- .Use resources to create activities in lessons
- .Invite facilitators to deliver workshops to staff



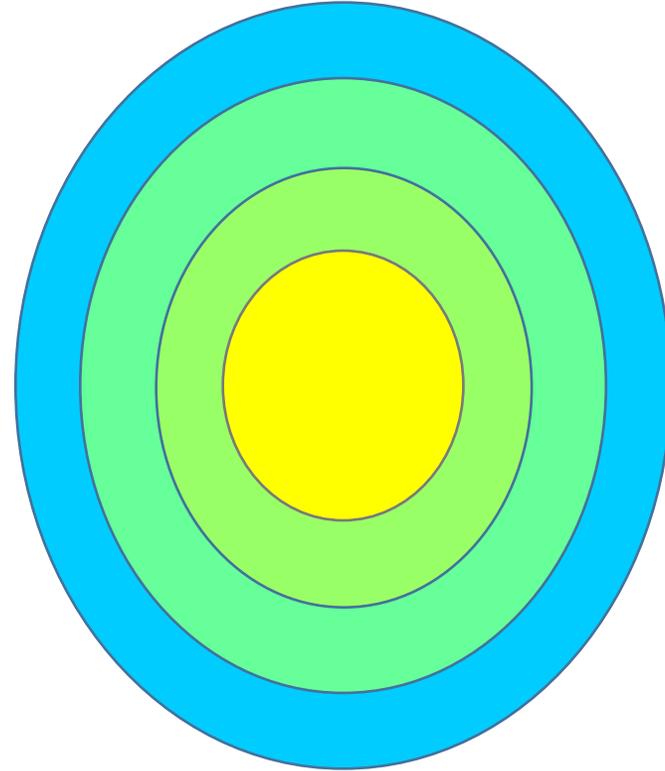
Embed: Take positive action



- .Inclusive support systems
- .Displays and activities
- .Welcoming environment
- .Curriculum
- .Involvement



Share



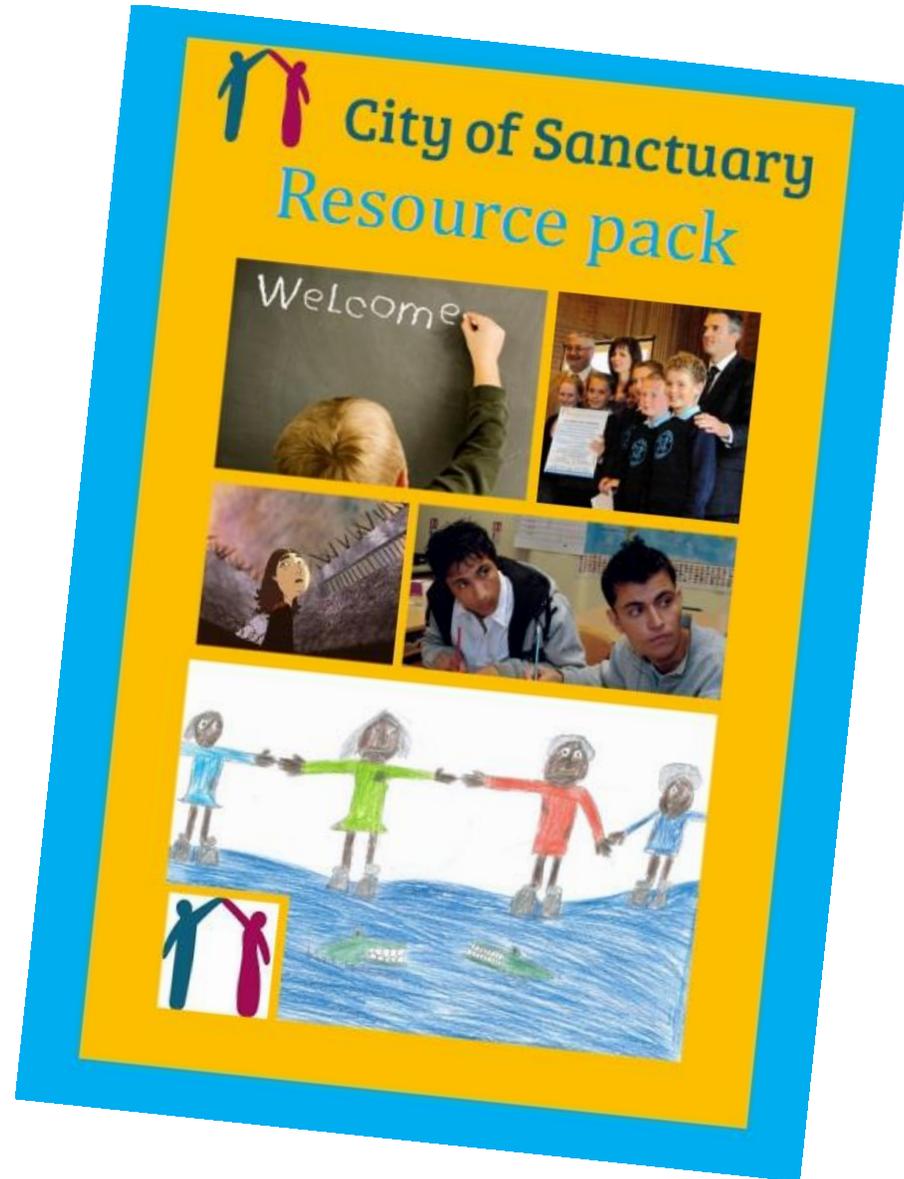
Other members
of staff

Parents

Other schools

The wider
community

The resource pack



Why get involved?

- .Make your school a **happier school**
- .Meet **OfSTED** requirements to promote equality and diversity “Refugee children make a positive contribution to schools” - Ofsted 2013
- .Contribute to meeting the requirements for **social, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC)**
- .Develop **community cohesion** work within the school
- .Increase the **student voice** and promote active citizenship
- .Strengthen the school’s role in the **community**
- .Provide **learning opportunities** around asylum issues, **human rights** and social justice



St Chad's primary school met the Bishop of Eritrea, took part in the “Refugee Boy” project at the Rep, and continues to celebrate the diversity amongst its pupils.



St Vincent's primary school arranges regular “Refugee Days”, holds regular events for parents, and encouraged its Year 4 to make a short video.

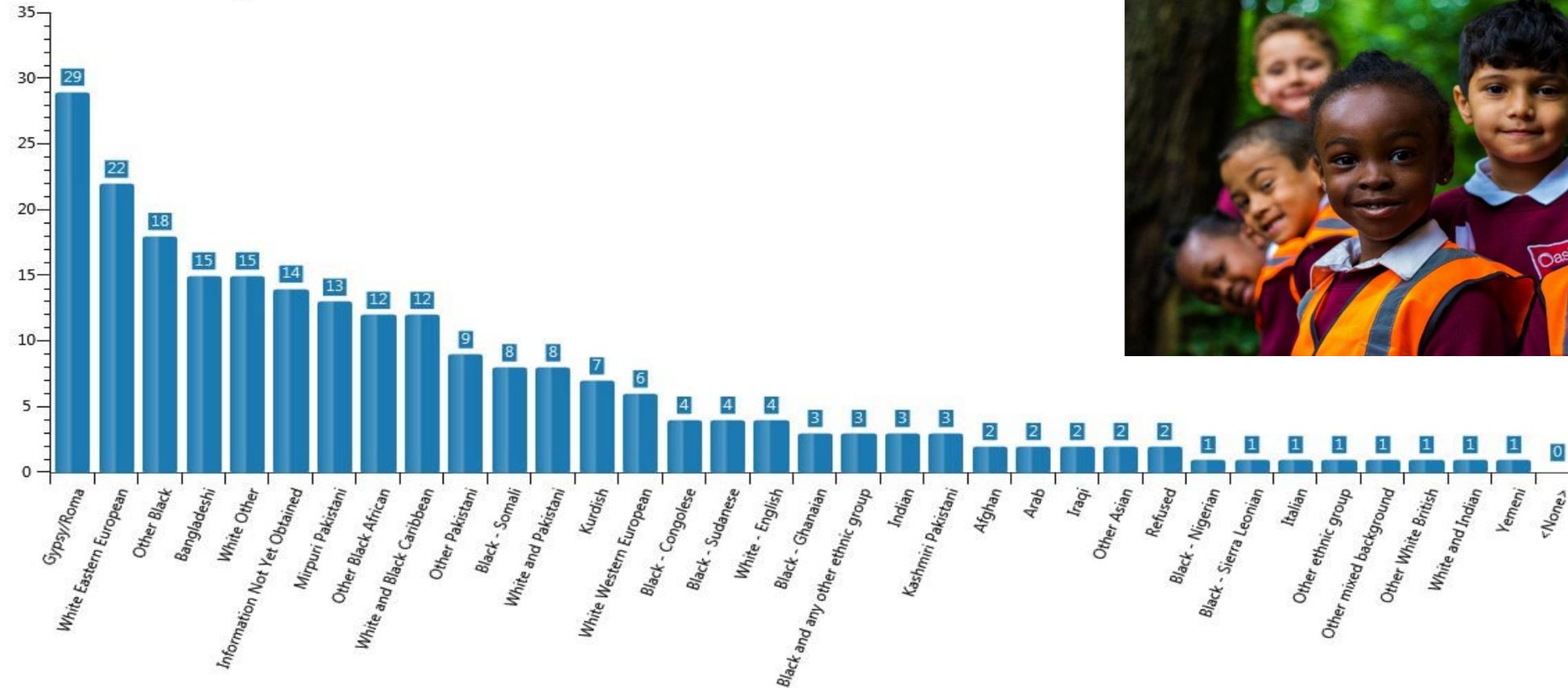
<https://kidblog.org/class/community2/posts/eu6vdxucbsd1sb40mj2v7ia5y>



We come from all over the world

Student Totals by Ethnicity

A count of students with each ethnicity



Foundry's many activities include:

Coffee mornings

Stay and play

ESOL classes for parents

Parent and child homework clubs

Classes in jewellery making and decorating

Workshops using parents' skills

Youth club on Saturdays for 11-16 year olds who are vulnerable to gangs

Animal encounters

Lunchtime clubs

Free breakfast club

Cookery social enterprise

Helping with transport to hospital appointments

Accompanying to meetings with other agencies

Funded visits and outings

Ultimately...

- Our children feel welcome
- Our children feel safe
- It is a place of sanctuary



Impact on the Academy

- Average length of time a child spends at the academy was 0.8 of a year. Now 1.2 years
- Waiting lists for most classes
- Community talk about the Academy positively
- Pupil outcomes risen to 71% combined
- Parents do not want their children to leave – 2 hour bus journeys, fighting to return
- Parents confident to speak out
- Attendance improved

Birmingham City of Sanctuary

- would like to create a network of schools which share the ethos of welcoming and creating a place of safety for all children
- so that these schools can celebrate the work they already do, extend their activities, and work with each other.

