

# The **FACTS** about **SANCTUARY**

"What would you do to keep yourself and your family safe?"

Every person has asked themselves that question.

## Why the UK?

The UK hosts 1% of the world's refugees. Germany, France, Spain and Italy receive far more asylum applications. People come here because they already have connections: family, language, community.

Safety alone isn't the same as belonging.

**Common sense:**  
Create safe official routes so no one has to risk their life to reach safety.

## Accommodation

Whilst people await a decision on their asylum claim they are housed in hotels or shared buildings. They are banned from working so cannot live independently.

- This is not luxury: cramped shared rooms, no privacy, no cooking facilities, no choice on location.
- Often outside towns with no services, transport or community.
- Unable to work so cannot put skills to use.
- Asylum accommodation is separate from council housing so council housing waiting lists are unaffected.

**Common sense:**  
Process claims quickly, allow people to work, and invest public money in community housing, not private profit.

## Channel crossings

When no safe route exists, people are left with impossible choices.

- Small boat arrivals make up less than 2% of the UK's overall migration.
- You can only claim asylum when on UK soil.
- Safe official resettlement and family reunion schemes are extremely limited.
- Nearly all people who cross the Channel claim asylum, showing these journeys are about survival, not opportunity.
- Everyone arriving is screened for safety.


The right to claim asylum applies regardless of how someone enters a country

There's no evidence that people seeking sanctuary commit more crime than British citizens

If you were forced to flee your home, where would you go- and why?

"I came without my wife and child. I did this in the hope that they will be able to come here safely..."

... they shouldn't have to risk this dangerous journey."



Have you noticed how often we're told to look down, not up, when things feel unfair?

## Money

Whilst people await a decision on their asylum claim, they are unable to access any public benefits.

Most people receive £49.18 per person per week to cover food, clothing, toiletries, transport, data and other essentials.

If meals are provided, this drops to £9.95 per person per week.

## Families

Reaching safety often means years apart from loved ones. Family reunion routes are very difficult, so many families remain separated indefinitely. 1 in 5 asylum seekers are children - some wait up to a year before starting school.

## Facts can inform, but empathy transforms.

- Why does this matter to you?
- Have you ever experienced isolation, waiting, or fear?
- How can you bring these topics to life with real life stories and examples?

What does safety mean to you- and who deserves it?

## A fairer system helps everyone

A system built on compassion and efficiency would:

- Process cases faster
- Let people work and contribute
- Save public money
- Build stronger, safer communities

This isn't generosity - it's common sense and shared humanity.

What kind of community do you want to live in- fearful or fair?