

# 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.

"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."

## 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.

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

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

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

## 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.

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

## 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?