



## Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

23 Lincoln Road, Hindley, Wigan. WN2 3QY  
johnskipworth038@btinternet.com (correspondence)  
[info@ld4sos.org.uk](mailto:info@ld4sos.org.uk) [www.ld4sos.org.uk](http://www.ld4sos.org.uk)  
[facebook.com/ld4sos](https://facebook.com/ld4sos) [twitter.com/ld4sos](https://twitter.com/ld4sos)  
President Lord Roger Roberts of Llandudno

### LET'S GET THE NAMES RIGHT

There is often confusion around the labels used to describe asylum seekers, refugees, immigrants and migrants and this can be unhelpful. These are the most common terms used to describe people who leave their country of origin for different reasons.

**Asylum Seeker** - An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded. An asylum seeker flees from their home in fear of their life and:

- Arrives in another country, whichever way they can
- Makes themselves known to the authorities
- Submits an application for asylum
- Has a legal right to stay in the country while waiting for a decision on their claim

In 2018 the UK received applications for asylum from 37,453 people including dependents. This was far less than Germany (162,000), France (110,000), Greece (65,000) and Italy (49,000).

**Refused asylum seeker** - A person whose asylum application has been refused and any subsequent appeals have been unsuccessful. They will have no other claim for protection awaiting a decision.

A refused asylum seeker:

- Hasn't been able to prove that they would face persecution back in their country of origin
- Has been denied protection by the authorities
- Must now leave the UK unless they want to appeal the decision or it isn't safe for them to return home (e.g. if they have a serious health condition or they cannot get travel documents).

Unsuccessful asylum seekers are often referred to as 'appeals rights exhausted (ARE)'. The UK Government expects **refused asylum seekers** to leave the country.

**Refugee** - The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as *"A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."*

Or put simply a refugee:

- Has proven that they would be at risk if they returned to their home country
- Has had their claim for asylum accepted by the Government
- Can now stay in the UK either long-term or has indefinite leave to remain

In the UK, a person has **refugee status** when they have their claim for asylum accepted by the Government. A refugee has the right under international and UK law to bring their immediate family members to join them.

**'Illegal' immigrant** - Someone whose entry into or presence in a country contravenes immigration laws.

**There is no such thing as a person being an "illegal"**

**Economic migrant:** -Someone who has moved to another country to work. They:

- Could be living there legally or illegally depending how they entered the country
- May or may not have a legal work permit

**Asylum seekers and refugees are not economic migrants.**