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UK Syria refugee programme working ‘by and large’ as over 8,000 arrive: UN study



A total of 167 refugees from the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) were interviewed as part of the report, more than half of whom were previously refugees in Lebanon, with the remainder travelling from Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq.

More than 8,000 refugees have arrived in the UK and been given access to life-saving medical treatment, education and safe accommodation under the Government’s Syrian resettlement scheme, a report from the United Nations has said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has now conducted a study, published on 9th November, alongside the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and City University London, to monitor how those who have already arrived in the UK have integrated into their new country.

The report found that the programme was working “relatively well”, and said that refugees “were grateful for the genuine welcome they had received”.

As well as being “heartened” that their children could attend school and catch up on lost education, the refugees reported feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods. However, the report highlighted a number of areas for improvement, including in English language provision, and further support for housing and gaining employment.

Refugees' Economic Contribution Is Positive – When Policy Is Supportive



Clemens writes, “No one can understand the economic consequences of large migrations without careful economic research on the ripple effects—subtle, invisible, delayed. When politicians brush this aside they are being duplicitous, or at least disingenuous.”

Second, when considering only two

Researchers at the Centre for Global Development and IZA Institute for the Study of Labour have taken up debates around refugees' economic impact. These researchers argue that refugees have a positive economic impact on the places where they end up – but only if progressive policies are in place to support them.

First, the idea that an influx of refugees negatively affects local and national economies is a myth. Above all, this is because such economic impact is incredibly difficult to measure. As researcher Michael

aspects of the economy – wages and fiscal contribution (how much refugees take in in benefits vs. how much they contribute in taxes) – research shows that refugees, by and large, have a *positive* economic impact. Contrary to xenophobic clichés, an influx of refugees does not create unemployment or diminish wages. And in many places, refugees made a positive fiscal contribution after only a few years of residence and employment.

GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

Less than 1% of the world's refugees are ever resettled.	More than countries around the world currently accept refugees for resettlement. 30	162,500 Refugee resettlement spaces were made available by those governments in 2016	7% of the global refugee population is in need of resettlement
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Equality & Diversity - biggest challenge in the next 10 years

As the Equality & Human Rights Commission celebrate 10 years in existence, some leading equality & human rights experts make their views known on the challenges to come over the next 10 years.

“Defending and promoting the values that are needed for society to accept and respect the importance of equality and human rights – the need for this looks set to grow in the months and years ahead. Equality and human rights need to be reasserted as ‘lodestars’ – the shared values that should continue to guide us forward – not as ‘bulwarks’ – laws that have come from other places that disrupt our way of life. Equality and human rights are a British success story that needs telling and telling again.”

Neil Crowther is an Independent Consultant and Director of the Thomas Paine Initiative, a grant making programme which aims to build stronger support for human rights in the UK.



“Over the next ten years we must challenge creeping state surveillance that has no place in a free society. We must dismantle toxic immigration policies that weave prejudice and hostility into the fabric of our communities. We must end indefinite immigration detention, resist authoritarian counter-terror laws, protect our hard-won rights during Brexit and empower diverse communities to be represented in powerful elites. In all of this the leadership of the Commission will be vital. By standing up to the powerful, giving voice to the

marginalised and having the courage to speak uncomfortable truths, the human rights movement can achieve real change and make this country a better place for all of us. “

Martha Spurrier is a human rights barrister and director of civil liberties and human rights advocacy group Liberty.





Theresa May “condemns ‘what looks like ethnic cleansing’ of Muslim refugees in Myanmar”

According to Jen Mills Report for Metro (13/11/2017), The Prime Minister pledged that Britain would continue to play a ‘leading role’ to stop the violence in Rohingya villages which began in August, prompting more than 600,000 people to cross the border into Bangladesh. Addressing the Lord Mayor’s Banquet at the City of London’s Guildhall, Mrs May said the UK must ‘step up our efforts to respond to the desperate plight of Rohingyas – brought home to us again on our TV screens so graphically today, with heart-breaking images of young children emaciated and pleading for help’.

“Scheme helping 1,000 carers announced as government prepares to hear ruling of court case regarding end of the Dubs scheme”



A declaration comes as ministers face criticism for the UK’s failure to receive child refugees from Greece or Italy since the Dubs scheme to help settle lone child asylum seekers was created in 2017. Only 200 vulnerable children have been brought to the UK under the scheme, while 280 places provided by British councils are still unfilled, (UK immigration and asylum, 2017).

Hate crime up 28 per cent across West Midlands

Hate crime in the West Midlands has increased by 28% in 2016/2017. According to the Express and Star: Sandwell saw the number of reported incidents surge by 42 per cent, while it is also up by 29 per cent in Walsall, 24 per cent in Wolverhampton, and 22 per cent in Dudley. Come and see us if you

are a victim of hate crime. We and other local organisations may be able to help you report the crime and offer support.

To report a hate crime

01384 456 166



Around 15,000 British children are separated from one of their parents because the Immigration Rules introduced in July 2012 do not allow both of their parents to live in the UK.

#1DAYWITHOUTUS

1daywithoutus.org



Project Hope Community Hub



Opening Hours
Tuesday 10am—4pm
Wednesday 10am—4pm
Thursday 10am—4pm

Come on in and see what we do

**16a Stone Street,
Dudley,
DY1 1NS**

*“Helping vulnerable
people integrate”*

New research by Asylum Aid and Nat Cen has shown us that a fair system for women fleeing sexual violence is within reach

Nearly two thirds of initial asylum applications are refused each year by the Home Office. Most people then take their case to appeal. This research explores how women seeking asylum navigate the appeals process, the extent to which current guidance is followed and what support is available to women as their case is heard at the First Tier Tribunal.

The researchers undertook in-depth qualitative interviews with women who have been through the appeals process as well as legal analysis of their case files. In addition, the research involved interviews with judges, legal representatives and support organisations.

Speaking as the report was launched, Debora Singer, Senior Policy Advisor at Asylum Aid said 'we know that the asylum system is failing women because of their gender. Until we fix it,

women will continue to face destitution or deportation which puts them at risk of sexual violence.'

'We were surprised to find that solutions to make the appeals process more gender-sensitive are relatively straight-forward to implement. It comes down to judges making sure that the good practice identified in our report is shared, and that simple changes are made to enable women to have their child looked after during hearings. It's about judges having an open mind, being aware of the effect and prevalence of gender-based violence, and considering evidence holistically. A fairer system for women is within reach.'

Through Her Eyes: enabling women's Best evidence in UK asylum appeals



Syrians in Dudley

Syrians in Dudley under the Government's Syrian Resettlement Programme came together for the very first time as a community on Friday 27th October.

The get together attended by 20 members of the community along with supporting staff from CfED and DMBC Housing Services.

The get together consisted of traditional Syrian dancing, music, drumming and plenty of activities for the children to participate in.

Our new family who arrived in the UK the day before was introduced to the community. Since June 2016 CfED has been working in partnership with DMBC providing a range of practical support to the Syrians under the Resettlement Programme.

Support involves assistance with registering for mainstream benefits, attending Job Centre Plus appointments, registering for GP's and working with each individual family to facilitate their respective orientation as they settle in the borough and rebuild their lives.



We welcome any articles, news, events, views and opinions that you would like to share with the wider community and see included in our newsletter.

Please send them to: Centre for Equality & Diversity, 16a Stone Street, Dudley, DY1 1NS.



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