

DON'T BE FOOLED

Ten misconceptions about asylum seekers in North East Scotland

(adapted from materials by Community Integration & Advocacy Centre: ciacadvice.com)

❶ “They’re illegal immigrants!”

Fact: Seeking safety in another country is a human right. People in asylum hostels have left their home countries to escape war, violence or persecution, and are waiting for their claims to be processed

❷ “They’re living in luxury hotels!”

Fact: People seeking asylum are sent to closed-down or former budget hotels, with very basic rooms, shared between two (or more) strangers. They have no kitchens and no privacy. Many have problems with damp, poor heating, and cockroaches.

❸ “They get free phones, bikes, and £40 per day spending money!”

Fact: Each person seeking asylum receives £8.86 per week for necessities like bus tickets, toiletries and phone credit. They’re allowed to keep their mobile phones — their only link to family, friends and information. Sometimes charities help with second-hand clothes, shoes or bicycles — services also provided to local residents.

❹ “They should be working!”

Fact: While waiting for their claims to be processed, people seeking asylum are not allowed to work. It’s not a personal choice.

❺ “They just sit around doing nothing!”

Fact: Most people seeking asylum aim to contribute positively, for example through volunteering, learning English, or getting involved in community groups.

❻ “They’re all men of fighting age.”

Fact: Some asylum hostels house men only. Others house women, children & families. The narrative about “fighting” is designed to make you afraid. Don’t fall for it.

❼ “They cost us millions!”

Fact: Political choices lead to delays, which lead to spiralling expenses (and big profits for the private companies that run asylum hostels). **A more humane system would also be much cheaper.** For example, even if someone has family in the UK, they are required to live where the Home Office sends them until their claim is processed.

❽ “They’re given better treatment than our homeless!”

Fact: The government has a legal obligation to accommodate people seeking asylum. Homelessness is a separate issue, coming from a different set of political choices. **Don’t let politicians off the hook — both issues need to be addressed.**

❾ “They could stay in a safe country.”

Fact: A person is not required to claim asylum in the first country they come to. Most refugees around the world stay close to their home country, but people arrive in the UK for many reasons — language, family, historical ties, safety concerns. The UK hosts a very small number compared with most other countries.

❿ “They’re criminals/economic migrants.”

Fact: The vast majority of people seeking asylum are genuinely fleeing war, torture and persecution. Each claim is assessed individually, based on stringent criteria. **People seeking asylum are much less likely to commit crimes than locals, and much more likely to be victims.**

The issues facing our communities result from political choices made by people in power — not by the ordinary people living in hostels while they hope for safety.

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'Peaceful protest' or racist mob?

The people targeting immigrants say they're just like you...
...we hope they're wrong.

Would you call it 'peaceful' if an angry mob came to your home to shout lies, threats and abuse?

For the past month or so, gangs of 'protesters' have been gathering at former hotels to terrorise the people seeking asylum who live there.

What kind of people do this??

☒ Violent Racists.

Recent protesters in Aberdeen were charged for assault, death threats, and inciting racial hatred. They called their critics "race traitors."

☒ Domestic Abusers.

In England, 40% of the men arrested for last year's riots had previous domestic abuse charges. More than 100 women's rights groups have condemned "the racist distraction" of claims about asylum seekers.

☒ Conspiracy Theorists.

They said that Nigel Farage is left wing, accuse their critics of being paid agents, and claim that people seeking asylum are secretly soldiers in an imaginary war.

Picking on people who have no power... They're playground bullies who never grew up.

"If you're the good guys, why cover your faces?"

Far-right activists attack people by doxxing: publishing personal details online with violent threats. Many people standing up to racist bullies conceal our identities to stay safe.

Legitimate Concerns

The UK has plenty of REAL problems. Decent housing and good jobs are hard to find. Public services are falling apart. Everything is getting more expensive.

How could these huge problems (which have existed for years) be caused by a handful of people who only arrived recently? Doesn't it make more sense to **look at the politicians and billionaires** who have so much wealth and power?

The real threat arrives on a mega yacht, not a small boat.

more info:
radical.scot

(is it radical to treat people like human beings?)

