

This is the start page. From here users can read about each section of the site, and take a look around

NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

What's this about?

'Network:Firewall - Border crossings and leaving home' is designed to give local refugees an opportunity to tell their side of the story using text and video.

Please Contact us info@a2rt.org

Thanks to Red Cross, Refugee Action and a big thanks to all the local refugees who gave their time for this project!



A2:RT



Refugee stories

Choose from 11 stories from Birmingham's refugee community. From places such as Zimbabwe, DR Congo, and Ethiopia



World Map

Where do asylum seekers come from and why do they leave? Get all the info about the top 10 countries using our asylum world map



Mythbuster

Get all the facts and figures as to the reality behind the media hype. Essential reading for people who want to challenge the scaremongers.



Want to Help?

Interested in helping out? Check out the list of local refugee groups and what you can do to challenge the myths about asylum seekers.

In the 'Refugee Stories' section there are 11 stories by local refugees from several countries. There are text interviews and video clips:

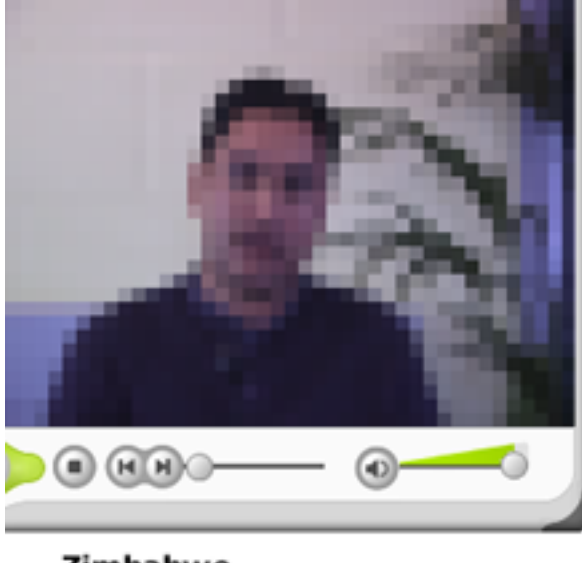
NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

Refugee Stories:

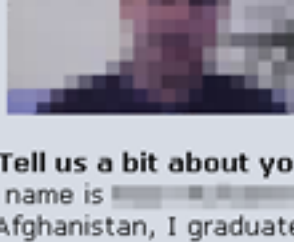
Click on the names below to read text and watch video clips by different refugees in Birmingham. The text will appear on the right and you can access the video clips by right clicking on the buttons which say 'watch video' and selecting 'Realplayer G2' from the menu.

Afghanistan



Zimbabwe

Name: [redacted] Country of Origin: Afghanistan



1> Tell us a bit about yourself

My name is [redacted]. I am from Kunar province of Afghanistan, I graduated from secondary school in Jalalabad, Afghanistan in 1994. I got admission in the Ninghar Medical Institute and studied till 3rd year. Beside my study i was working in one of the import/export companies as computer operator and I graduated from the IRC English Language Course, advanced 2. My English was good - i was translating letters to my boss.

[Watch Video](#)

Because of the political situation and over 27 years of civil war, Afghanistan is divided into different ethnic groups and because of these situations I was compelled to leave my sweet country Afghanistan in 1999.

2> What was it like at home?

Country is like a mother and the nationals and residents are like children. When a child is separated from a mother, the experience is very bitter.

This can be felt by those whose hearts have been through this bitter experience. When on first day of school I had a dream that one day I will become a medical doctor, but

The World Map shows information about the 10 most common countries for asylum to the UK:

NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

World Map:

The map opposite shows the top ten countries by applicant for asylum in the UK in 2002. The map pages aim to show why people are leaving, and their motivations for coming to the UK. Click on the links on the map to find out more.

→ Top ten countries of origin for asylum seekers



The number of people seeking asylum in the UK rose by 20% in 2002 to hit a record 110,700.

More than 9,000 people a month claimed asylum in 2002, with the peak coming in the last three months of the year.

In absolute terms, the UK received the largest number of applications - 52,000 more than the next most popular destination, France.

But as a percentage, the UK had 1.8 applications for asylum per 1,000 of population - putting it eighth in the EU list.

Under agreements undertaken with the United Nations the UK is obliged to offer a safe haven to refugees.

A refugee is defined by the UN as someone who, owing to a

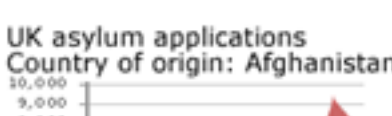
Each page contains all the information about why people may be migrating from that particular county:

NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

World Map:

The map opposite shows the top ten countries by applicant for asylum in the UK in 2002. The map pages aim to show why people are leaving, and their motivations for coming to the UK. Click on the links on the map to find out more.



UK asylum applications
Country of origin: Afghanistan
SOURCE: HOME OFFICE

Afghanistan

→ Top ten countries of origin for asylum seekers



In 2002 there were 7,380 applications for asylum from people from Afghanistan to the UK

This was down from 9,000 the year before, and meant Afghanistan was no longer the biggest single provider of asylum claims to the UK as it was in 2001.

At the initial application stage, more than 4,800 Afghans were allowed to stay in the UK, with 110 classed as refugees and the rest granted exceptional leave to remain.

Country background:

Instability has continued to characterise Afghanistan since the overthrow of the Taliban by US-led forces in the wake of the

'Mythbuster' contains answers to common misconceptions in a easy to understand way. There are also more in depth 'FAQs' and 'press myths'

NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

Mythbuster:

There are many myths surrounding asylum seekers and refugees. Bust the five most common myths by clicking on the links opposite.

There also a complete FAQ covering other common misconceptions and a set of Press myths, showing how some of the media is manipulating what's happening by demonising people and spreading fear amongst citizens.

[Read the FAQs](#)

[Press Myths](#)

→ Myth One: Numbers

There are too many refugees trying to come into our countries. Its a crisis. We are being invaded.

[Bust this myth](#)

→ Myth Two: Resources

Refugees fill our hospitals, classrooms, take our jobs, use our social welfare systems. What will be left for us?

[Bust this myth](#)

→ Myth Three: Crime

We dont know who these people are. Many have entered without documents. They might be criminals or, worse, terrorists

[Bust this myth](#)

→ Myth Four: Disbelief

Many claiming asylum may not be real refugees. How do we know we are not being duped?

NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

Mythbuster:

There are many myths surrounding asylum seekers and refugees. Bust the five most common myths by clicking on the links opposite.

There also a complete FAQ covering other common misconceptions and a set of Press myths, showing how some of the media is manipulating what's happening by demonising people and spreading fear amongst citizens.

[Read the FAQs](#)

[Press Myths](#)

→ Myth One: Numbers

There are too many refugees trying to come into our countries. Its a crisis. We are being invaded.

[Bust this myth](#)

Of the world's population only three per cent live in countries other than where they were born.

If you add in estimates for the number of undocumented migrants it rises to just seven per cent.

In countries where some of the biggest fuss is being made about the influx of refugees, the intake is puny. At the start of 2002 Britain had 61,700 refugees - equivalent to just over 0.1 per cent of the country's population. Australia had a similar percentage.

If you want a 'refugee crisis' you will have to look somewhere other than the rich world. Asia and Africa receive four fifths of the world's refugees. Iran began 2002 with 2.5 million, Pakistan with 2.0 million, Jordan with 1.6 million, impoverished Tanzania had half a million - beating even that great country of immigration, the US.

[Choose another Myth to bust!](#)

'Want to Help' contains all the contact information that people may need to get in touch with organisations to offer their help.

NETWORK: FIREWALL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LEAVING HOME

→ REFUGEE STORIES → WORLD MAP → MYTHBUSTER → WANT TO HELP?

Want to Help?

There are many ways to help out.

Here's a list of local organisations:

Red Cross
Bradbury House
7 Lowe St
Highgate
Birmingham
B12 0ER
0121 766 5444

The Refugee Council
1st Floor, Smithfield House
Digbeth
Birmingham
B5 6BS
0121 622 1515

The Midland Refugee Council
5th Floor, Smithfield House
Digbeth
Birmingham
B5 6BS
0121 242 2200

Refugee Action
Wardlow Rd Centre
Wardlow Rd
Nechells
Birmingham
B7 4JH
0121 464 3548

Want to Help

Schools

In today's world, there are over 102 million refugees who have fled conflict and human rights abuses, the vast majority of whom are hosted by developing nations. With refugee and asylum seeking children now attending schools all over the country, the issue is one schools cannot afford to ignore.

Work about refugees gives school students the opportunity to explore refugee concepts such as human justice, justice, fear, leaving home and being a newcomer. Such work encourages students to develop empathy towards refugees and a commitment to justice. In addition, much work about refugees ties in to many parts of the National Curriculum.

There are many ways schools can get involved in learning about these issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees and offering their support, such as:

- exploring the issues in class
- starting a letter writing campaign
- collecting toys and clothes for a local refugee agency or group
- raising funds for refugees by putting on a play or concert based on what the students have learned.

Faith organisations

There are many ways in which faith groups can support refugees. Your group could for example:

- hold a service about refugees
- pray for the safety and wellbeing of refugees around the