

Core Activity Sheet 3.1



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| <p>1. Asylum seekers can be sent anywhere in the country, even places where there are no other ethnic-minority groups. The local council must find them housing. Many have left the areas chosen for them to move to other cities.</p> | <p>2. The National Asylum Support Service provides benefits for asylum seekers. Once accepted as refugees people can claim regular benefits.</p> | <p>3. The government has the power to put asylum seekers under a curfew; Immigration Officers can search homes and arrest asylum seekers, sometimes without getting a warrant.</p> |
| <p>4. Anyone who offers help and advice to asylum seekers must register with the government so they can be checked to make sure they are giving a good service.</p> | <p>5. Some refugees have to enter the UK with a false passport. The 1999 Act makes this illegal, although it is possible to claim in your defence that you were fleeing from danger. The Refugee Council thinks this may be against the UN Convention on Refugees.</p> | <p>6. Asylum seekers are entitled to 70% of the total of income support. This means £28.98 per week for a young adult aged between 18 and 24.</p> |
| <p>7. The support asylum seekers receive is in vouchers which can only be used in certain shops. Of the total amount, £10 can be claimed in cash so people have some 'pocket money'.</p> | <p>8. There used to be a list of countries which were considered safe to live in by the UK government. Any asylum seekers from these countries were returned. Under the 1999 Act this list no longer exists.</p> | <p>9. If you are accepted as a genuine refugee you have the same rights as others in the UK. You have 14 days to find yourself a home and organise your new benefits or find a job. After this time your asylum-seeking benefit stops.</p> |
| <p>10. Unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK have the right to social services and support.</p> | <p>11. By early 2000 the number of people waiting for a decision on their case had risen to over 100,000. The government aimed to reduce waiting time from 19 months (average) to 4 – 6 months by April 2001.</p> | <p>12. When the Act was passed there were 10,000 asylum seekers being detained. They now have a right to have bail and can get legal aid to help them fight against their detention.</p> |