

### Migrant workers create new jobs, rather than take them.

When people move countries to seek work, it is usually because jobs are better paid or carried out under better conditions or simply because there is no work in their country of birth.

The majority of migrant workers to the UK come from economically developed regions of the world, including the USA, Europe and Australia.

The majority of migrant workers are in professional or skilled occupations, for example in health and education, where there are skill shortages. They also have a higher educational achievement than in the population overall.

There is little evidence that native workers are harmed by migration. Migrant workers both create new businesses and fill labour market gaps. Rather than take new jobs, migrants create them.

The Home Office has estimated that migrant workers in the UK contribute 10% more in revenue than they receive in benefits.

Information sourced from Migrant Workers - a TUC Guide (2002)

### Migrants have always come to Wales

Wales is, and has always been, a land and a people in motion. Settled by the Celts, invaded by the Romans and the Normans and dominated by the English, Wales' population regularly shifted and changed over the ages.

In the past few centuries migrants have come from countries including Ireland, Italy, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, the Caribbean, Yemen and Somalia.

Many parts of Wales boast a population with a truly cosmopolitan mix of cultures and nationalities.

After the industrial revolution, Welsh people emigrated all over the globe in search of better prospects and better lives. This continues today.

### Trade unionists can make a difference

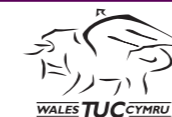
We can all stand up to racial prejudice and intolerance wherever it occurs. The lies spread by far right groups and others about asylum and migration must be answered. This booklet can help you rebut a few of the main myths.

Racism has no place in workplaces and communities in Wales. Trade unionists can press employers to adopt the best employment practices so that they treat everyone equally and fairly. We can help migrant workers and refugees by providing them with information about their rights to work in the UK.

Bad employers will exploit workers who lack trade union support and who do not know their rights. The answer is not to blame the workers but to recruit and organise them.

There are many organisations working hard to combat racism against asylum seekers and refugees. Trade unions can support them.

Vote! Far-right parties thrive on a low turnout. Every vote counts.



**Welsh Refugee Council**

#### Wales TUC

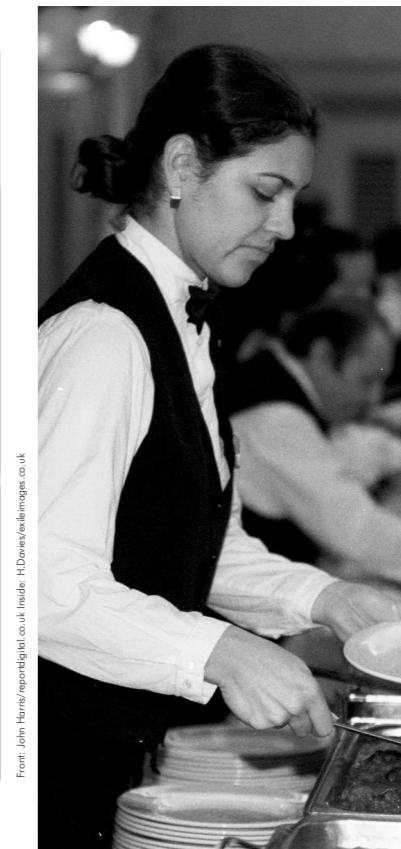
Transport House  
1 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff. CF11 9SD.

029 2034 7010  
wtuc@tuc.org.uk  
www.wtuc.org.uk

#### Welsh Refugee Council

Phoenix House  
389 Newport Road  
Cardiff. CF24 1TP.

029 2048 9800  
Info@welshrefugeecouncil.org  
www.welshrefugeecouncil.org



Front: John Harris/reportlight.co.uk Inside: H.Dovey/evliimages.co.uk

**Facts about  
asylum seekers,  
refugees &  
migrant workers  
in Wales**



## Introduction

Since their earliest days trade unions have been based on simple principles of democracy, fairness, social justice and equality. Trade unionists have a responsibility to confront racism and discrimination wherever it occurs. This short guide gives some facts about asylum and migration, with the aim of reducing discrimination and prejudice faced by asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers in Wales.

Produced by the Wales TUC with the support of the Welsh Refugee Council, and with information from the Refugee Council's Tell It Like It Is booklet (2005) and the TUC's guide on migrant workers (2002).

## Definitions

### Asylum seeker

Someone who is fleeing persecution in their homeland, has arrived in another country, made themselves known to the authorities and exercised the legal right to apply for asylum.

### Refugees

Someone whose asylum application has been successful and who is allowed to stay in another country having proved they would face persecution back home.

### Failed asylum seekers

Someone whose asylum application has been turned down and is awaiting return to their country. If it is not safe for unsuccessful asylum seekers to return, they may have to stay for the time being.

### Illegal immigrant

Someone who has arrived in another country, intentionally not made themselves known to the authorities and has no legal basis for being there.

### Migrant worker

Someone who has moved to another country to work.

## Asylum seekers come to escape war or human rights abuses

Asylum seekers do not come here for economic reasons. The top ten refugee-producing countries in 2003 all have poor human rights records or are places where war or conflict is on-going (*Institute for Public Policy Research, 2003*).

Under international law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in the UK and to remain here until the authorities have assessed their asylum application. Therefore, there is no such thing as an 'illegal' or 'bogus' asylum seeker.

The 1951 UN Refugee Convention guarantees the right to apply for asylum. It has saved millions of lives. No country has ever withdrawn from it.

Most refugees are not in a position to choose their destination country. If they are, they come to the UK and Wales because they have a family member or contact here.

## Wales has around 2,500 asylum seekers

Wales has a population of 2.9 million people, but only around 2,500 asylum seekers in 2005 (less than 0.1% of the population!).

The UK has a population of some 59 million. The latest government figures show that the number of asylum seekers has fallen by 61% in recent years.

The UK asylum system is strictly controlled and complex. It is very difficult to get asylum. In 2002 the UK ranked 22nd in the table of the world's refugee hosting countries on the basis of size, wealth and relative populations.

Conflict in Sudan has forced four million people from their homes. More than half a million have fled the country, mainly to neighbouring countries such as Chad. Fewer than 1,000 Sudanese people applied for asylum in the UK in 2003. In early 2005 there were just 82 in Wales.

Two-thirds of the world's refugees are living in developing countries, often in camps.

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work. Asylum seekers want to work and support themselves, but they are forced to rely on state support, which is set at 30% below the normal level of income support.

Above statistics sourced from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Home Office R35B report.

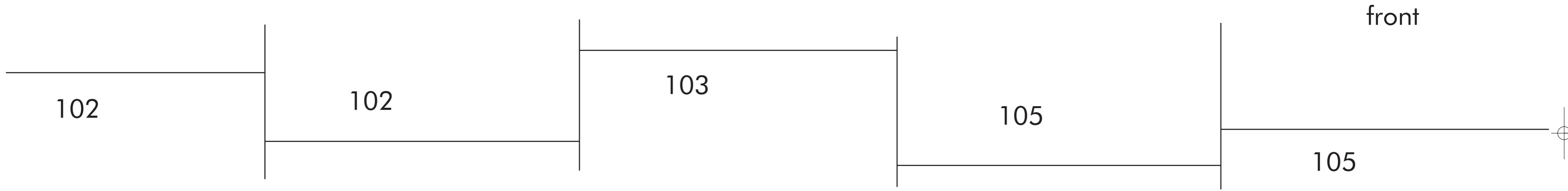
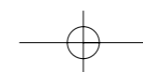
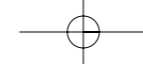
## Asylum seekers and refugees are law abiding citizens

A report by police chiefs concluded that the "vast majority of people seeking asylum are law abiding citizens" (*Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) of England, Wales and Northern Ireland Asylum Seekers Policing Guide*).

Asylum seekers are more likely to be the victims of crime. The report by police chiefs expressed concern that asylum seekers feel unable to report incidents of racial harassment or violence.

A third of child asylum seekers in Wales have experienced racial abuse and harassment, according to a study for the charity Save the Children.

Asylum seekers are not fairly represented in the media. Research at Cardiff University into the media coverage of refugees and asylum seekers showed it to be "overwhelmingly negative, with loaded language and few chances for refugees to tell their own stories." Another report found there is a likely link between media reporting of asylum issues and race related crime (*Media Image, Community Impact, Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR), July 2004, commissioned by the Mayor of London*).



102

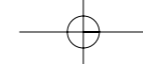
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