

Let's talk about people

A South West TUC guide
to population and migration



South West people

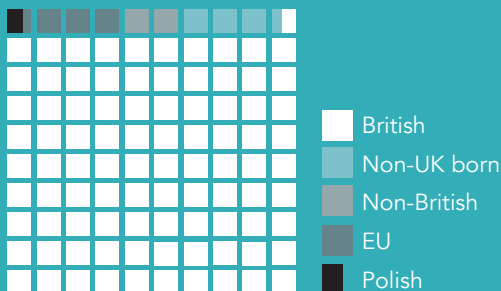
5.6
million people
live in the
South West

Population in the South West has been rising although not as fast as many people believe. The increase is due mainly to people living longer and moving into the region from elsewhere in the UK.

British or not?

Measuring population is complex. There are two key measures: those not born here and those British by nationality. The region's population is overwhelmingly white British. 9% were born abroad - including British citizens - compared to around 16% across England.

South West population



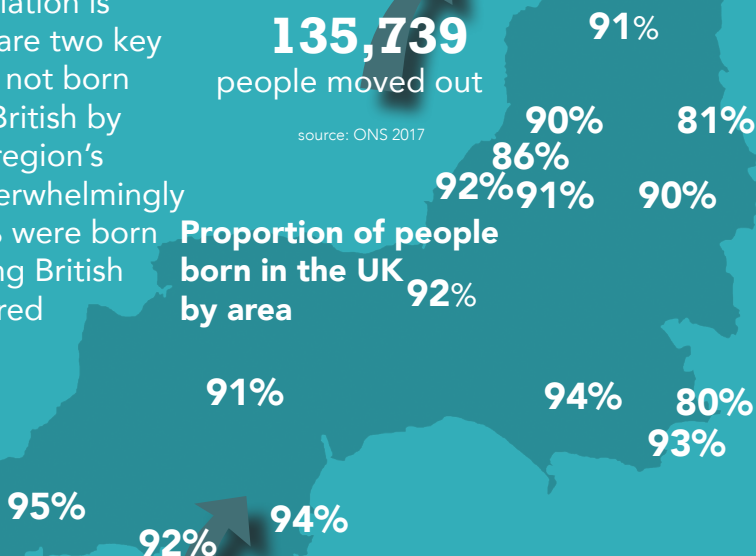
source: ONS 2019, House of Commons 2018

In 2017 **169,758** people moved to the South West from other parts of the UK

135,739
people moved out

source: ONS 2017

Proportion of people born in the UK by area



469 more people moved out of Plymouth than moved in from other parts of the UK

source: ONS Migration Statistics 2019

Population concerns

People move for all sorts of reasons and have always done so. Issues of immigration and population change cause alarm as well as joy. This guide looks at the facts and figures behind the emotional headlines.



photo: Jess Hurd

The issues of immigration and population are hotly debated and rarely out of the news. People want to be confident that the nation has control of its borders. This is not racist but some extremists try to whip up hatred towards foreigners

This can affect how people are treated at work and in communities. Trade unions speak up for working people, including protecting wages and conditions from being undercut. This means supporting workers when they are being exploited by employers and gang masters. Unions have a duty to arm their representatives with the facts on population and migration.

The best way to protect jobs and wages is to crack down on

employers who exploit migrants for cheap labour. And the best way to integrate new arrivals is to make sure they receive the same pay and conditions as other workers and help them to improve their English and knowledge of British life.

Bad employers must not be allowed to divide the workforce. All workers need more power to speak out for decent treatment and fair pay for all, no matter where they come from.

We tend to take for granted our own freedom to travel. The British have been the great migrants around the world and tighter border controls work both ways.

Migration brings economic benefits and the richness of diversity but it can unsettle people. It is not racist to be concerned about migration but people least likely to meet a migrant are most likely to believe the scare stories.

The South West has a small population of people who have moved here from abroad but we need to address the fears with facts and the problems with solutions. I hope this booklet helps do that.

Nigel Costley
South West TUC
Regional Secretary

Why do people come and go?

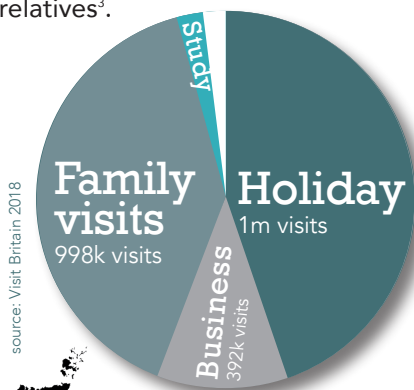
Most people who come to the South West do so for a short duration. The region's beauty and cultural interests attracts tourist from the UK and abroad with some 21 million overnight stays in 2017¹. Population in our tourist hotspots can rise and fall dramatically through the year and by-and-large our services manage this well. It is a major part of the region's economy employing around 200,000 people². Just under a million people come to the South West to visit family or relatives³.

The South West is known for its hospitality and tourism is a valuable part of the economy but it brings its challenges. The sector's workforce is blighted by low pay and poor conditions. They have been efforts to extend the tourist season but many workers rely on casual, short-hours and zero-hours contracts.

Second homes

Much of the region's accommodation plays host to short-term visitors by way of hotels, guest houses, self-catering and holiday homes. This brings a tension between local people on poor wages who cannot afford to live in the place they call home or where they work.

Some coastal communities are torn between the value of tourist visitors and the impact of homes left empty for much of the year. In 2016, more than 80% of residents in St Ives voted to reserve new homes for full-time residents. One in four properties in the town are second homes or holiday lets⁴.



In 2017 **39 million** foreign visits were made to the UK – worth **£25 billion** spending. The top countries were: France, US, Germany and Ireland.

72.8 million visits abroad were made by UK residents in 2014. The top destinations were: Spain, France, Italy and Ireland.

Brits abroad

Many empty properties during winter months are as a result of local people opting to spend time abroad such as Spain and France.

The exact number of British abroad is hard to count because countries have different rules - when does a long holiday-maker become a migrant? Between 800,000 and 1.3 million people born in the UK live in other EU countries¹ with about 900,000 long-term residents in Spain².

Foreign-born in the South West

Almost half of people living in Britain but born abroad are British citizens. This is due to the legacy of British connections and military postings abroad. Boris Johnson, Joanna Lumley and the Duke of Edinburgh are classed as foreigners when the media use this definition.

The most common non-UK born residents in the South West are³:



Polish 43k



German 32k



India 26k



Irish 24k

5.5 million Britons live abroad⁵
785k in the EU⁶ about the same number of non-British people living in England



Students

The UK is an extremely popular destination for international students, attracting more students from abroad than any other country except the US.

428,724 international students came to study in the UK in 2014. They enhance the



experience of domestic students, develop international networks and reputation and boost national and local economies. Foreign students pay around double the UK fees. On and off-campus spending by international students and their visitors generates £25.8 billion for the UK economy⁶.

Some £612 million of export earnings generated by international students in the South West in 2014–15⁷.

More UK students are taking up one of the 1,800 or so English-taught courses on offer across Europe, partly to avoid the high British tuition fees.

Sport

Sport is a global enterprise and British teams search the world for the best players just as top athletes want to travel for training and work.

Population density

South West
233

people per sq km¹

England
427

people per sq km²

Is Britain full?

Government has a responsibility to provide services to meet population demand but is there a limit on space? Horse-grazing takes up as much land as half of all built-up areas. There is twice as much land given up to golf courses as for houses. There are 200,000 long-term vacant dwellings (homes unoccupied for over six months) in England and over 610,000 empty homes³.

Getting older

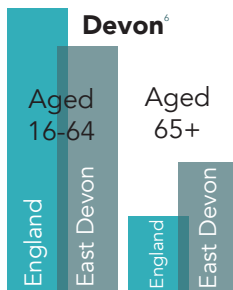
A key reason for population growth is that people are living longer. The West Country has the oldest population of any region in the UK¹. It is a popular destination for people wishing to retire but the region also loses young people in search of good careers elsewhere.

Our population is in long-term decline due to low birth rates. British women had 1.8 children in 2016, less than the 'replacement rate'. In 2001-2 fertility rates fell to a record low of 1.63 children per woman².

In the 2000s, fertility rates went up slightly as women in their late 20s had more children and foreign-born women had families. The rate has slowed again since³.

North Devon councillors recently considered how to increase the number of people of working age to support growing businesses and the rising elderly population⁵.

Working-age v over-65s in East Devon⁶



The proportion of over-65s in West Somerset⁷

34%
2008

48%
2033

In 2012 3,200 more 16-24 year olds left the South West than came⁴

In 1981 there were 2,420 people aged 100 and over. By 2014 there were **13,290**⁵

¹ Plumpot ² Statista ³ Guardian Sept 2018

⁴ ONS 2018 ⁵ ONS Being 18 in 2018 ⁶ North Devon Gazette Jan 2018 ⁷ ONS flows by age ⁸ Financial Times 2015 ⁹ Eurostat and European Central Bank

Coming to work

Most migrants come to the UK to work followed by study. Our economy needs workers but does this mean migrants are stopping local people getting into work and keeping pay down?

There may be a record number of people in work but the TUC has campaigned against the poor quality of many jobs. Wages have been squeezed with West Country workers losing some £2,000 a year since 2010¹. But if we stopped people from moving for work the situation would be a lot worse.

Some foreign workers take highly-skilled jobs such as computer specialists and health professionals. A few come as senior managers in foreign-owned companies that invest here.

Migrants tend to take jobs locals don't want to do especially in agriculture, food production and social care.

Many migrants are often well-

qualified and quickly move to better paid work or return home when the season ends.

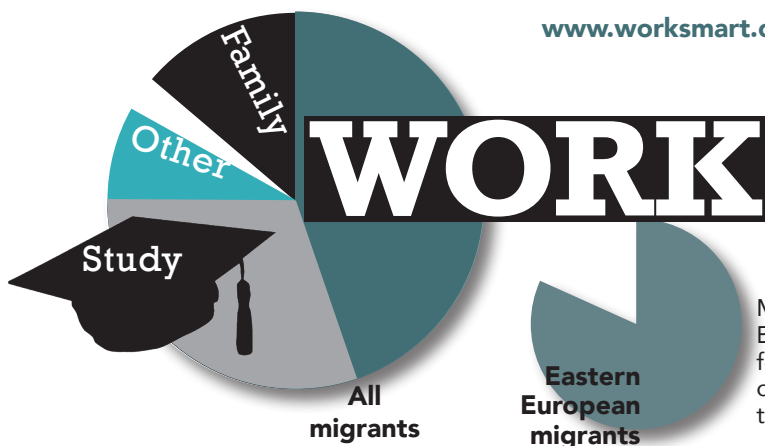
Trade unions have worked hard to protect established pay rates. It has been the recession and bad employers that have squeezed wages, not competition from migrant workers.

Migrants tend to raise productivity levels as they have skills, high motivation and fresh ideas. 17.2% of migrants set up their own firms compared to 10.4% of UK nationals.

Some employers will try to rip off migrants and unions fight exploitation to protect all workers. The TUC believes strong unions, effective enforcement of the Minimum Wage and protection for established pay rates will stop migrants being blamed for the actions of bad employers.

Unions want fair pay for all workers. For more information on joining a union visit:

www.worksmart.org.uk



Most migrants from Eastern European come for work with high rates of employment at more than 80%

¹ TUC 2018

In search of a safe haven

Thirteen-year-old Harry Grenville arrived in the UK after fleeing the Nazis in 1939. Along with his sister, he was helped by the Kinder transport system from his home in Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, to a new life with a foster family in Camelford, Cornwall.

"I wasn't scared to be in a foreign country because my new family were so friendly, I felt at home straight away," he says. "We were pretty convinced at that time that we would see our parents again because they planned to emigrate to the United States." Tragically, his parents never made it across the Atlantic. Instead they were rounded up and taken to Auschwitz where they were murdered in the gas chambers.

Harry started a job in the biochemistry laboratory of Hammersmith Hospital. Later he joined the Army and spent the next four years working as an interpreter in prisoner of war camps, including Cattistock in west Dorset.

Harry achieved a science degree, which led him to teach chemistry and



Harry with his sister in Germany in 1939 just before they fled to Cornwall

biology at schools in Gloucestershire before moving to Dorset to retire. "I married a Dorset girl," he says. Harry now lives in Dorchester, where he is very much involved in the community.

He returned to Germany last year, where he was invited to speak at the dedication of a memorial placed on the site of his old synagogue torched by the Nazis. "The contrast being kicked out in 1939 and being welcomed back 76 years later was very impressive," he says, "but I would never want to go back to live in Germany because I have made my life here."

0.2%

The proportion of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in the UK¹.

Asylum seekers are dispersed around the country while their cases are heard. They are not entitled to social housing and the private accommodation used is 'hard-to-let' and has sometimes been criticised as being of poor standard².

106 Gloucester

71 South Glos

322 Bristol

187 Swindon

asylum seekers

February 2019³

344 Plymouth

£36.95

per week benefit payable to asylum seekers⁴

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work

Migrants and benefits

An issue of concern has been foreign migrants arriving in Britain to claim benefits. There is little evidence of this and work and study are the main attractions for migrants. They draw less from our welfare system than their UK counterparts. European migrants to the UK pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits, helping to relieve the deficit and contribute to public services¹.

Out-of-work benefits
Proportion of claimants

4% of UK nationals claim
1% of migrants claim

There are stringent tests that require migrants to prove they 'habitually' live in the UK and have done so for a period of time.

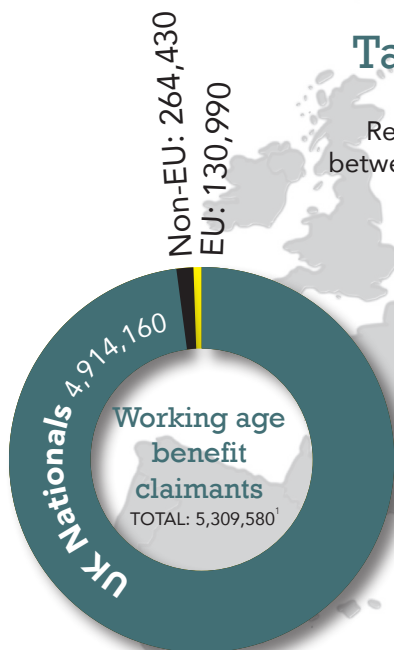
Government reports have found migrants are often reluctant to claim benefits due to language barriers and lack of advice.

The UK does not have a generous benefit system compared to most EU countries. Germans, for example, in paid employment for at least a year before, receive unemployment benefit worth 60% of their net salary for a year and 67% for a family².

30,000
Britons claim more generous benefits in the EU³

Taking out or putting in

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility has calculated the balance between taxes EU migrants give and what they take in public services and benefits⁴.



Pre-2004 European Union migrants



Post-2004 European Union migrants



¹ MAC Report 2018 ² Daily Telegraph Nov 2014 & DWP ³ Guardian Jan 2015

⁴ European Commission, JCP, Institute for Fiscal Studies & University College London 2014

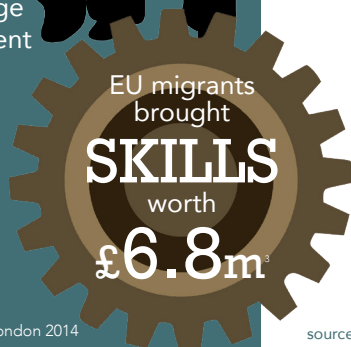
⁵ Office for Budget Responsibility 2013

Migrant benefits

Most migrants who come to Britain are young, fit and in work and are far less likely to claim benefits than local people. If they do claim, they must pass the **Right to Reside** and **Habitual Residence** tests.

In 2016/17, European migrants paid around **£4.7bn** more in taxes than they received in welfare payments and public services. This contrasts with the UK-born population who had a deficit of £41.4bn¹.

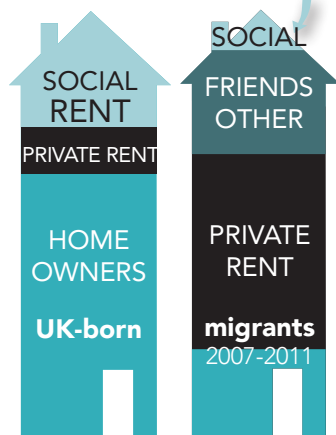
In 2017 the average adult migrant from the European Economic Area contributed **£2,300** more to the UK public finances than the average adult resident in the UK²



Housing pressure

9%

Britain's housing crisis is caused mainly by the lack of house building and the mass sale of council homes. A key barrier to house building is the shortage of skilled labour. Unions want better pay and conditions for all construction workers, direct employment and council housing.

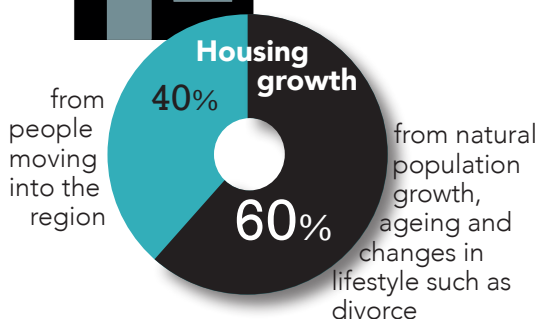


Most new arrivals to the UK rely on private renting, friends and family for accommodation.



Population surprises

Bristol in
1950: **548,530**
2018: **459,300**



Mind your language

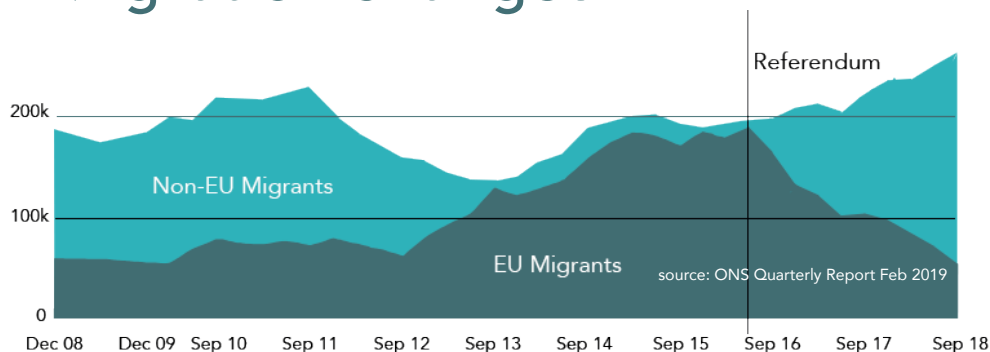
Just **0.1%** of the population cannot speak **ENGLISH**

96.7% speak **ENGLISH** as first language

¹² MAC Report 2018

³ University College London 2014

Migration changes



The EU Referendum in 2016 was dominated by the issue of migration and border controls. The vote led to a sharp decline in EU migration caused by the perception of Britain as an unwelcome place, fears over future rules and the fall in the value of sterling.

Driven by the demands of the UK economy, the fall in EU migrants has been largely offset by a rise in non-EU migration despite strict controls for visas and work permits.

Government ministers talk of still welcoming people with the skills we need and calls on employers to train local workers. The dilemma is that migrants tend to fill jobs at both ends of the labour market. The specialised, highly skilled jobs, from doctors to footballers, are a feature of the global labour market and Britain competes to attract the best. Our young people want to be able to travel the world for a good career just as others come here.

The Government's Migration Advisory Committee has set a

high bar for what is a 'skilled' job and wants to set a £30,000 salary threshold for migrants¹. Valuable care workers are not classed as 'skilled', leading the sector to worry how it will cope, given it already has some 110,000 vacancies². The NHS needs more staff but they cannot recruit migrant nurses as they are not paid £30,000.

With almost full employment, many employers will find it hard to attract local people to do jobs such as seasonal agricultural work. Since the referendum, labour providers have struggled to find EU workers leading to fears that crops will go unpicked³.

The Migration Advisory Committee acknowledge that there are already difficulties in recruiting staff in certain rural and remote areas and regions. The response may be a mixture of automation, higher food prices and work permit schemes to recruit non-EU workers. Without stronger rights at work, unions fear this will lead to more exploitation and undermining of local people not less.

¹ Migration Advisory Committee Report 2018 ² Skills for Care 2018 ³ House of Commons, Feb 2018

Devon migration story

Nigel Costley reflects on the Polish arrival in the West Country
Names have been changed to protect identities.

A chicken factory in the heart of rural Devon sums up the story of EU migration in recent years. Lloyd Maunder was first established in 1898 as an egg packing plant near the quiet town of Cullompton. Its company expanded into the meat trade in 1958 and now turns out around a million chickens a week.

In the early 2000s the company faced a crisis caused by the shortage of labour. Few local people wanted to take the jobs on offer even though the unionised plant paid slightly more than similar firms. Some workers would bet on how long a local recruit would last – five minutes was said to be the shortest!

Workers were taken on with few questions asked leading to immigration raids in the middle of the night shift. The shortage of workers limited production and cut investment.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain and the expansion of the EU, workers from Eastern Europe were allowed to travel. Much of Europe restricted entry but the UK, Ireland and Sweden allowed access. The UK received an influx especially from Poland's well-educated and highly motivated workforce.

At first Lloyd Maunder used a labour

provider to supply Polish workers. The recruits helped the firm increase production and add shifts. New jobs were created and the business grew.

The Unite union steward befriended the recruits and discovered the awful conditions they were being kept in. Like many Poles at that time, they had been promised good pay and conditions only to find excessive deductions from their wages and forced to sleep in 'hot-beds' in overcrowded rooms. Thanks to the union, the company took on the workers directly and the agency was prosecuted.

The arrival of foreign workers to the overwhelmingly white, British Devon town unsettled some locals. English classes were arranged, local community events held and soon the Polish families settled in to community life. The congregation of the local Catholic church increased. Schools that initially struggled to cope with Polish children soon found they learnt quickly and did well. There are now around 12,000 EU-born people in Devon,

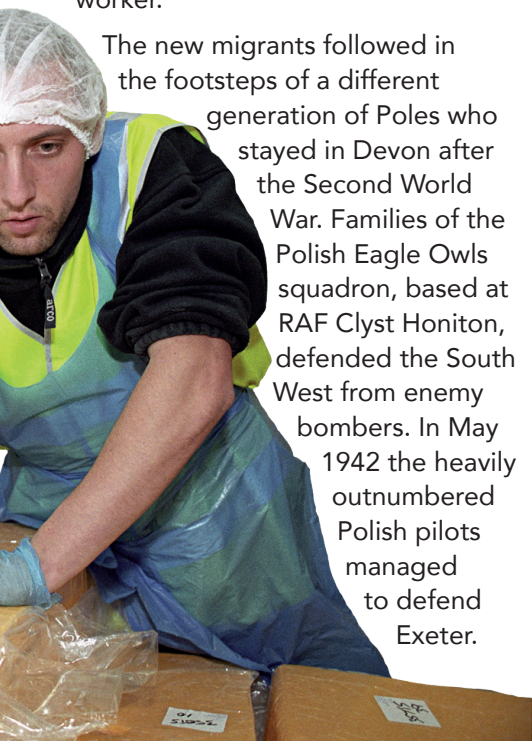




some 1.7% of the population.

Jakub first came so he could save to buy a horse. He came through a recruitment agency as most did and worked hard at the chicken factory. He loved Devon and decided to stay with Natalia his wife who is a care worker.

The new migrants followed in the footsteps of a different generation of Poles who stayed in Devon after the Second World War. Families of the Polish Eagle Owls squadron, based at RAF Clyst Honiton, defended the South West from enemy bombers. In May 1942 the heavily outnumbered Polish pilots managed to defend Exeter.



Typically the new Polish migrants were young, fit and healthy. So they claimed little from local public services. The only exception was maternity provision!

Pawel signed on with a recruitment agency and arrived in Devon looking for a better life. Julia joined him to get married and they now have a young son. She works as a catering assistant and he has moved on as a skilled CNC machine operator.

Trade unions have sought to support the new workers and ensure equal treatment. Studies show that such immigrants are more likely to trust unions than native workers even when they come from countries where unions were tied to the state.

The EU referendum led to a rise in hostility and some of the migrants felt unwelcome. Julia said: "At first it was good but over the past few years I have become very disillusioned. Some people at work have become quite spiteful." The family are planning a new life in Canada. A few have opted to go home where the economy is doing well. But most consider Devon their home now. Some have made more use of their education and skills and have gone on to better jobs or started their own business. Their children speak English as their first language and they love the Devon way of life.

Zofia came with her parents as a baby. Now 15 she says: "I feel English at school and Polish when I



Cullompton high street

am at home". She loves school and wants to study law, economics and languages. "I want to develop a career in the UK, support my family and make a contribution to society. Brexit has cast a deep shadow across my aspirations. I try not to think about it but it is a worry."

Jakub and Natalia don't see their future here any more. Natalia said:

A lot of people in the UK have been very kind to us but recently

I feel the mood has changed a bit.

Perhaps this is irrational but I feel inhibited about talking to my husband and friends in Polish when in public. Some friends were shouted at in the street for talking to their children in Polish – speak English, you're in England! I wonder if these people would talk to their family in a foreign language if they were visiting or living in a foreign country."

The chicken factory is now part of the Two Sisters group, and has faced

what a spokesperson for the Group described as a "harsh external environment." This includes the fall in the pound since the Brexit vote.

Where will future workers come from to work in places like this? The Government's answer, in its recent White Paper called *The UK's future skills-based immigration system*, is

to relax rules for non-EU migrants but only allow them to work here on temporary permits.

This 'guest worker' status will mean similar numbers of workers coming from abroad but from further afield and from poorer countries. Unions fear this will lead to more exploitation and less integration.

Uncertainty over future workers is compounded by fears over a new trade deal with the US that may bring cheaper chlorine-washed chickens. Now is not a time to invest.

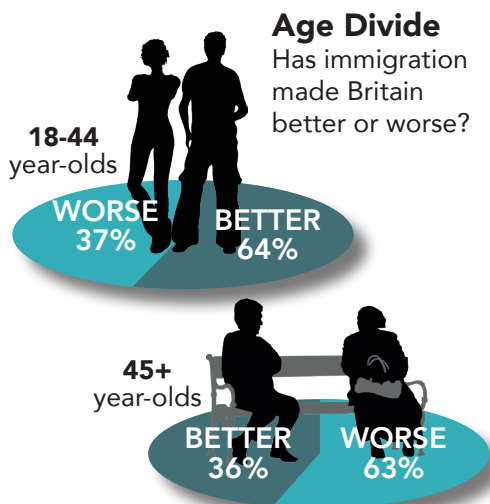
It is a time to join your union.



More reason . . . less hate

People have strong views about immigration and Brexit has divided the nation. Lively debate is good but not the abuse and name-calling that has become commonplace in the last couple of years, especially online.

Everyone's life experiences, that help shape our views, are different. Age is a major factor on how people think about immigration and Brexit.



source: Global Future, *Open Owns the Future* 2018

Racist abuse and race hate crime has risen since the Brexit referendum. Unions will oppose racism wherever it occurs and will fight those who deliberately and dishonestly stir race hate to further their political aims.

It's not racist to be concerned about immigration but the debate needs to be informed by facts and real evidence not prejudice and lies.

Tackling the hatred of the far-right

Since the EU referendum racist comments and hatred has increased.

The year before the vote Avon and Somerset Police investigated



1,453 incidents of race hate. This jumped to 2,048

the following year¹. Union reps have had to deal with a rise in cases of racist abuse. Extremists from far-right groups are spreading lies to foster divisions for their own political ends.

Unions stand-up to hatred

An online briefing or **eNote** is available free from the TUC. It gives practical tips on how to hold difficult conversations with people who may have been influenced by far-right propaganda.

www.tuc.org.uk/resource/tackling-far-right

Other groups are campaigning against the far right including:



www.hopenothate.org.uk

Show Racism the **Red Card**

www.theredcard.org

Searchlight

www.searchlightmagazine.com.uk



www.standuptoracism.org

¹ Avon and Somerset Police FoI request

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