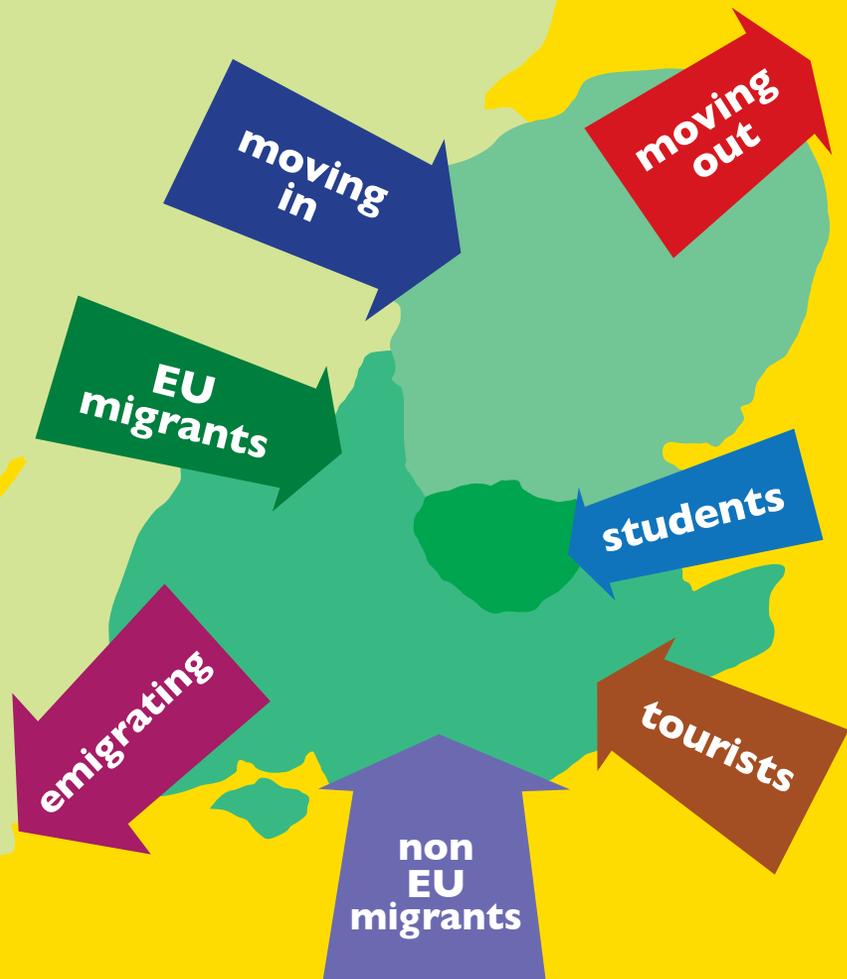


# Truth, lies and migrants

A guide to population  
and migration

**SERTUC**  
the TUC in London, the  
South East and Eastern Region



# London, the South East and the East of England

**31%**

Polls show that on average people think there are far more immigrants than there really are

**13%** of the resident population of England and Wales was born abroad

In 2012 **596,000** people moved into this region from other parts of the UK



**608,000** people moved out

**9.2 million households in this region**

**22.7 million**

people live in London, the South East and the East of England, a rise of **9.6%** from 2001

In 2012 **240,000** moved into the region from abroad

In 2012 **162,000** people from the region moved abroad

**Net migration into the region in 2012 was +66,000**

sources: Ipsos MORI poll for the Royal Statistical Society and King's College London 2013, ONS Census 2011

# Truth, lies and migrants

The issues of immigration and population are hotly debated and affect how people are treated at work and in our communities. Trade unions speak up for working people. That means protecting wages and conditions from being undercut. It also means supporting workers when they are being exploited by employers and gangmasters. So we have a duty to arm trade union representatives with the facts on population and migration.

This booklet tries to bridge the gulf between how people think the population of our region is made up and how it really is. It challenges the scaremongering and racist views of some groups and newspapers.

We take for granted our freedom to travel. Migration brings economic benefits and the richness of diversity but it can unsettle people.

People least likely to meet a migrant are most likely to believe the scare stories. We need to address the fears with facts and the problems with solutions. I hope this booklet helps do that.



**Megan Dobney**  
Regional Secretary, the TUC in London,  
the South East and Eastern Region

share of migrants  
asylum seekers

perception  
62%

reality  
4%

source: IPPR, ONS

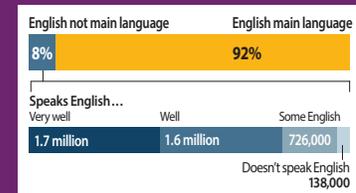
Opinion polls show that people are confused about population and migration. Strong opinions are formed, based not upon life experience, but on newspaper scare stories and gossip. Myths have far more power than the truth.

## Born abroad and resident here

The most common non-UK born residents in our region come from India, Poland, Bangladesh, Ireland, Nigeria, South Africa, Germany, USA, France and China.

English is the first language of 92% of the resident population of England and Wales. Only 138,000 people resident in England and Wales in 2011 did not speak any English at all.

source: ONS from BBC





## Peak baby

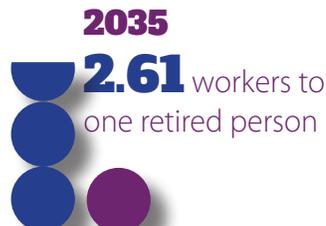
Women around the world are having fewer babies.

# 1990

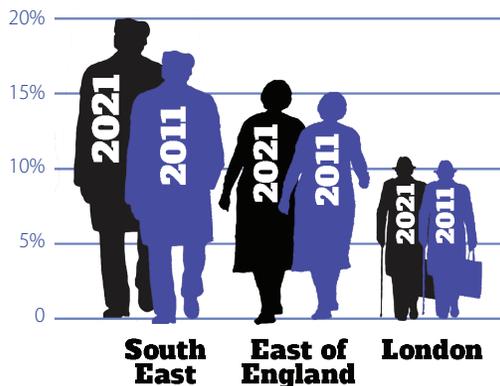
was the peak year for births. Fewer babies have been born since then. The rise in global population is expected to level off as this peak dies out.

4

# Ageing population



## Percentage of population aged over 65



source: ONS 2011



source: ONS

In 1981, there were **2,420** people aged 100 and over. By 2012 the figure was

# 12,320



**A third**

of all people aged between **22 and 30** who left their home town in the UK moved to the South and most will never return home.

**Meads in Eastbourne has the oldest resident population in England & Wales**

England & Wales average age

**39.7** years

Meads

**71.1** years

source: Bigiton Angus

source: Guardian and Centre for Cities report, 2014



# Being born abroad doesn't mean foreign



(1) Provisional source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_pop (cz))

## Here or abroad? What do you think?



<b>Boris Johnson</b>	<b>Duke of Edinburgh</b>	<b>Cliff Richard</b>	<b>Helen Mirren</b>	<b>Ed Miliband</b>	<b>Ashley Cole</b>	<b>Joanna Lumley</b>	<b>Saint George</b>	<b>David Cameron</b>	<b>Nick Clegg</b>
Here <input type="checkbox"/>									
Abroad <input type="checkbox"/>									

Answers on page 19



## Unity through education

The United Migrant Workers Education Project is a non-profit organisation formed under the umbrella and sponsorship of Unite the Union. It promotes equality and diversity through education and by providing networking opportunities. Its services are open to migrant workers and minority ethnic community and campaign groups.

The project offers free education courses including English for Speakers of Other Languages, using computers, numeracy and workshops on health and employment rights.



## Learning and organising

"In 2004 I came to England for a year to learn the language and earn enough to buy a washing machine. My first job was as a coffee barista at Winchester Motorway Services. I still make pretty good cappuccinos. Trade unionism transformed my life. I joined the GMB and became a shop steward and in 2007 became Secretary of the GMB Migrant Workers' Branch in Southampton, with 500 members. Later as an Education Project Worker, I worked mainly with migrant Poles who, like me, came to the UK in search of a better life. My work ranged from advising migrants on their rights as workers and citizens, to organising English Language courses in workplaces and in the GMB Learning and Organising Centre in Southampton. So through trade unionism, my professional career developed too. In 2011 I got a job with SERTUC unionlearn, supporting workplace learning, union learning reps and community organisations. I learned a lot at the TUC and with my passion for art I had a chance to provide union members with some 'roses' to go with their 'bread'. I bought the washing machine long ago, but have greater ambitions now. I am the



Joanna Lucyszyn



migrant workers' rep on the GMB's National Equality Forum, working to ensure that migrant workers and trade unions have a great future together."

## HACKNEY UNITES

"Hackney Unites was formed to oppose racism and hate politics, to expose inequality as the real root of problems in our community and to support the growth of a new

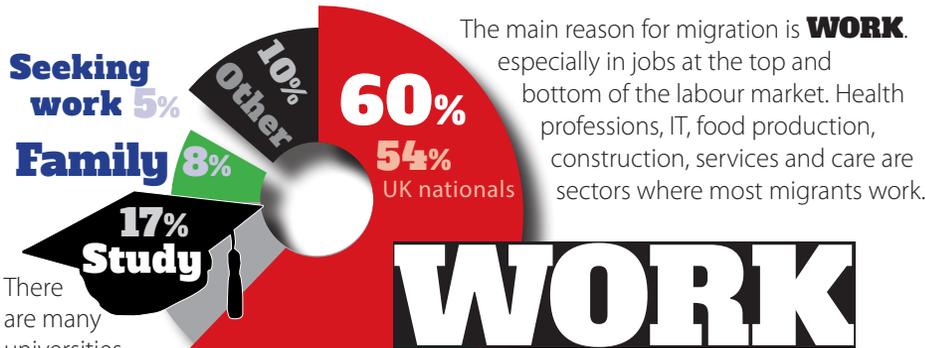
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generation of community activists. It provides training courses in organising and campaign skills, it has produced and distributed tens of thousands of 'myth busting' newspapers to challenge the lies told about issues such as migrant workers and it has run

community campaigns. Now it has activists from diverse backgrounds, organising and campaigning to build power for their communities, so that they can create the change they need."

John Page, Community Activist

# Comings and goings



There are many universities and colleges in London, the South East and the East of England with a world class reputation. **184,355** students paid to study in the region in 2011-12, **19%** of the student population. **Nine** of the UK's top recruiters of international students in 2012-13 were universities in our region.  
source: UKCISA, UK Tourism Survey 2010



**56.5 million** visits abroad by UK residents in 2012  
**31.1 million** visits to the UK by overseas residents  
source: ONS

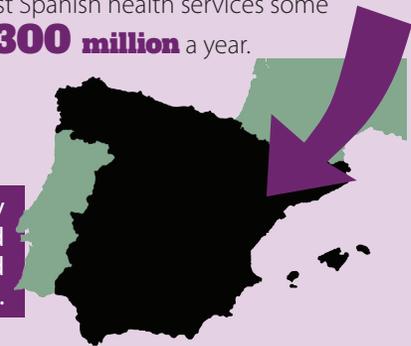
**Luxembourg** has the highest proportion of foreign-born residents in the EU. England ranks **9th**

The Brits are poorly integrated into Spanish society. A survey of 340 British migrants in Málaga, found that one third rarely or never met Spanish people, apart from in shops and restaurants, and that 60 per cent did not speak Spanish well.

Almost **1 in 10** British citizens live overseas. The majority live in Australia, Spain, the US and other English-speaking nations. Like migrants who come here, most go to work. There are at least **761,000** British nationals resident in **Spain** but estimates put the true figure up to **1 million**



Older people tend to migrate to Spain whereas younger – and fitter – migrants come here. Despite health insurance and UK charges, the British cost Spanish health services some **€300 million** a year.



source: ONS Census 2011, European Commission, EESC

# Population density



**England**

**401**

people per sq km

**East of England**

**309**

people per sq km

**South East**

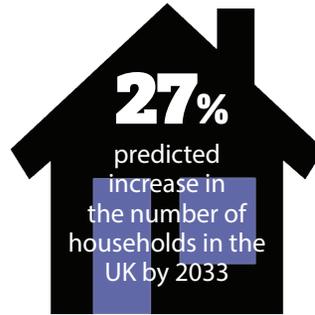
**458**

people per sq km

**London**

**5285**

people per sq km

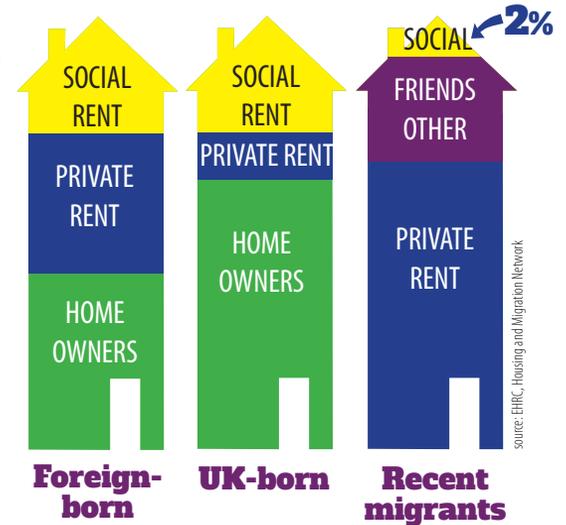


**64%** of the predicted increase in the number of households is attributed to growth in the native population, by longer life expectancy, by more people living alone etc

**36%** of the predicted increase in the number of households is attributed to net international migration

**Drivers of the increase of number of households in the UK**

# Housing



source: DCLG

# Migrant news

◀ Immigration soars 20%. The true figure was 4%!



It is not surprising that we are confused about migration issues. There is a daily diet of scare stories. In a 31-day period in 2003, the *Daily Express* ran 22 front page articles on a supposed threat of a flood of refugees.

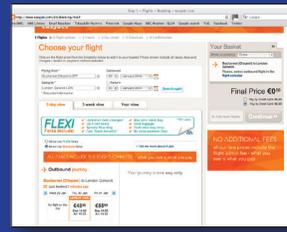
The pressure to twist the news led *Express* NUJ journalists to lodge a formal complaint to the Press Complaints Commission against their own newspaper. Reporters on the *Daily Star* refused to work on a mock-up front page attacking Muslims.

When challenged about a front page story headed “Swan Bake” about asylum seekers stealing swans, *The Sun* could offer no real evidence to back up the claims.

The hype reached fever pitch around 1 January 2014 when the regulations for Romanians and Bulgarians changed. Scaremongering turned into farce when very few migrants arrived.



◀ *Daily Mail* Flights full £3,000 a ticket  
**The truth** ▶  
 cheap seats available, demand down



EasyJet web site, January 2014



### Migrants and the NHS

You are far more likely to be treated by a migrant worker than meet one in the waiting room. Migrants use the NHS less as they tend to be younger and fitter than UK nationals



**18** hospitals alone earned

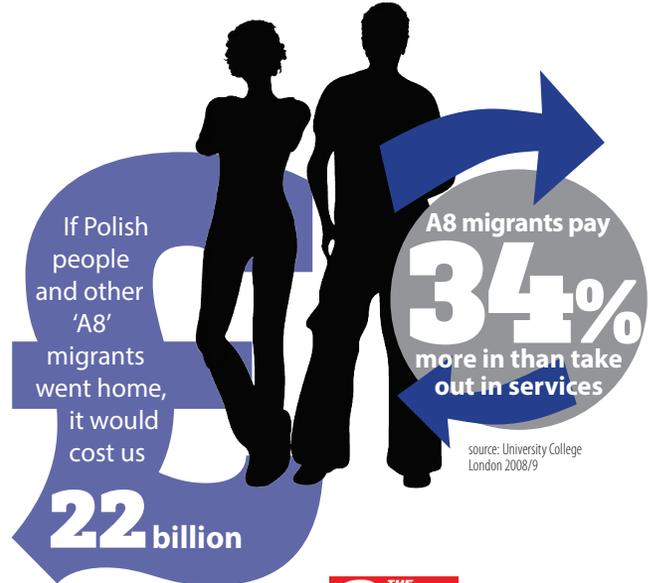
**£42m**

in 2010 from overseas patients

## The NHS would close before breakfast if it wasn't for the work of migrant doctors, nurses and other staff

In the NHS, and community health sector, 11% of all staff are not British, 14% of all clinically qualified staff are not British and 26% of all doctors are not British.

source: The Guardian



source: University College London 2008/9

source: OECD Report



forced to admit "no evidence" for "benefit tourists" story:



source: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and York University 2010

# Seeking asylum

## Seeking refuge

**1685** Huguenots flee persecution from Louis XIV in France

**1800s** German refugees arrive in Bristol

**1890s** Jews escape Russia to settle in UK

**1937** 4,000 Basques flee Spain

**1933-39** 50,000 Jews escape Nazi Germany

**1939** 100,000 refugees run from the threat of war

**1945-60** 50,000 cross the Iron Curtain of the Eastern bloc

**1956** 21,000 Hungarians flee the Soviet invasion

**1972** 28,000 Asians expelled from Uganda arrive in the UK

**1973-79** 3,000 Chileans escape the Pinochet murder squads

**1975-92** 24,000 'boat people' get out of Vietnam

**1992-96** 2,500 Bosnians flee war and 'ethnic cleansing'

**1995-99** 4,000 Kosovans flee war

**2002** 14,570 seek sanctuary from Saddam Hussein's Iraq

7,000 flee the Taliban in Afghanistan, 7,655 flee from Zimbabwe

**2004-8** Claims for asylum in the UK fall dramatically

**2008-today** Conflict remains the main reason for people seeking refuge.

source: UNHCR 2012 Asylum Trends Report, South West Migrant Forum, Refugee Council, Home Office

Those applying for refuge after fleeing a fear of persecution



## Asylum Seekers – UK 2012

**14,062** enforced removals  
**29,265** voluntary departures  
**13,789** refused entry at ports

**£36.62**  
 per week benefit payable to asylum seekers



One person in 370 in the UK is a refugee, asylum seeker or a stateless person

**Asylum seekers are not allowed to work**

## Where do UK asylum seekers flee from?

**2012 TOP TEN**

**Pakistan** 3,280

**Iran** 2,659

**Sri Lanka** 1,744

**India** 1,087

**Bangladesh** 1,057

**Afghanistan** 1,008

**Syria** 998

**Nigeria** 959

**Albania** 819

**Eritrea** 728

Terms used can sometimes confuse and are often mixed up to mislead. So here is a brief glossary:

## **Migrants**

Those who come to the UK mainly for work, most stay less than two years.

## **Economic migrants**

Those seeking a better life abroad, such as Britons emigrating to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and almost every part of the world!

## **Immigrants**

Those who come in order to settle.

## **Asylum seekers**

Those who apply for protection under the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

## **Refugees**

They are people fleeing persecution who have been granted asylum.

## **Foreign students**

The British education system has long attracted many students from abroad. They pay fees and must be able to support themselves, including having the fare to return home.

## **Posted workers**

Workers posted temporarily by their employer to work in another country.

## **Work permits**

An old system to allow migrants to work in the UK. These are being replaced by Certificates of Sponsorship.

## **Points-based system**

Migrants from outside Europe must have a sponsor and pass a points test before they can enter the UK. Points are awarded for ability, experience, age and the level of need within the sector the migrant will be working. They speak English and have sufficient funds to survive without public funds. Employers must show that no suitably-qualified settled worker can fill the job.

## **European nationals – EU28**

Workers in the European Union have freedom to travel between countries. This has been one of the founding principles of the Union. It provides rights for around the same number of UK citizens to work across Europe as EU workers to come here.

## **Accession countries**

In 2004 the European Union expanded to take in eight new countries (A8): Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. People from Bulgaria and Romania (A2), have been free to enter the UK since 2007. For people from these two countries, the restrictions on working were lifted by all EU countries in January 2014.

## **Net migration**

This measure is the difference between those arriving in the UK and those leaving. The number of people leaving the UK has fallen making this a difficult measure to control.

## **ESOL**

English for Speakers of Other Languages is a term used for courses at different levels often organised through unions and the community.

## **No Recourse to Public Funds**

A term used to describe migrants who need assistance but have no right to get it from public bodies.

# Trade unionists working in their communities to oppose racism

Chelmsford Trades Council launched its 'Statement Against Racism, Fascism and Islamophobia' in 2007. It has been signed by the Town's Council, local MPs, religious leaders, community bodies, employers, unions and nearly 1,000 individuals. It became the stimulus for a community coalition that is a buttress against racism and the prejudice against migrant workers. In 2013 Cambridge Trades Council



designed and printed a leaflet called 'Busting the Toxic Myths About Migrants'. It printed 20,000 and distributed them via street stalls in Cambridge, at the Strawberry Music Festival, at Love Music Hate Racism events, through union branches and door to door. Its objectives included challenging the myths and propaganda about Bulgarian and Romanian migrant workers.



## Migrant Working Strategic Partnership

The arrival of migrant workers does affect housing, health, education and employment. However, the government's antipathy to regional partnerships and its spending cuts, has hampered or destroyed much of the collaborative work that existed, that aimed to maximise the positive impacts of migration and minimise any problems arising from it.



If you have an **AFRICAN** or **ASIAN** sounding name you will need to send almost

**TWICE** as many **JOB APPLICATIONS** just to get an **INTERVIEW**

source: Runnymede Trust

Polls show that people think the UK Muslim population is

**Muslim myths**

**24%**

**5%**

What it actually is

source: Ipsos MORI poll for the Royal Statistical Society and King's College London 2013, ONS

# Bulgaria and Romania

Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union in 2007. Freedom of movement is one of the great achievements of Europe and one that most of us take for granted. Bulgarians and Romanians have been able to travel to the UK, live here and have had limited rights to work here. From 1 January 2014 they have been able to work in the same way as other workers from the EU.

Some newspapers and politicians have tried to whip up scare stories using words such as “flood”, “swamp”, “invasion”, etc.

UKIP, for example, warned that 29 million people could come to the UK and this posed a serious threat to public services. 24,000 citizens of Romania and Bulgaria

arrived in the UK in the year to September 2013, nearly three times the 9,000 who arrived in the previous year. About 70% came to work, while 30% came to study. And many Romanian and Bulgarian workers and students left the UK in that year too. Official statistics for the number of Romanians and Bulgarians that have come to the UK since 1 January 2014 will not be available until later in the year.

It is clear that the additional number of Romanians and Bulgarians that have come to the UK since the lifting of the restrictions on their right to work is small. Problems in our public services are due to spending cuts not a few foreign workers.

Unlike when the borders were lifted for Poland and other Eastern European countries,

the Bulgarians and Romanians have been travelling for work and study for some years. The reality is that the vast majority of migrants come to the UK to work or study, and widespread ‘benefit tourism’ is a myth. Of 5.7million working age benefit claimants in the UK last year, only 1,740 were Romanians, which represents 0.03% of the total claimants. So only one claim out of every 3,276 was made by a Romanian.

source: The Guardian

Around **144k** Romanians are in the UK **85%** are in full-time work. Most are under the age of **35** **40%** have university degrees.

**46%** Romanians are in a trade union. More than the 30% of UK workers.

source: ICTWSS 2010

Around **6.6%** Romanians are considering leaving their country in 2014. The top country will be **Italy**. The UK is their third choice.

source: BBC



source: CRCE 2010, Stat-Xplore, Dept. for Work and Pensions

## Networks build trust and remove barriers



"Originally I am from the Philippines, as are very many workers in the health sector. Migrants come to this country from the Philippines to work in the health sector because

of the employment opportunities, but also because of the good reputation of the NHS and its public service ethos. But there are some perceived obstacles to joining a union, to getting the maximum value for their union card, and to becoming involved in campaigns and organising.

"The Filipino Activist Network within UNISON was formed in 2011. We seek to make people aware of trade union history and culture in Britain, and trade unions' established role in the workplace. This reassures people that it is safe to join a union, to recruit, to organise and to campaign in the workplace in Britain. We act as a first point of contact for members from the Philippines, oiling the wheels of UNISON's representation and democratic processes.

"We help overcome any language and cultural barriers that there are to getting effective representation. And we recruit and train reps. So the Filipino Activist Network assists UNISON members, who are originally from the Philippines to be full and active members of the union."

### **Rommel C. Abellar**

Assistant Branch Secretary, South West London Community Health UNISON Branch 20048. Member of the Filipino Activists Network



# Clara

"I am originally from Nigeria and I came to London to work in 1996. I became a cleaner on the London Underground. It was an awful job; we were treated like slaves at the hands of the cleaning contractor. We had to fight back, we had to get organised. I joined RMT and I was one of the first workplace reps for the cleaning grade of workers. We recruited, educated people about their rights, organised and raised people's confidence, and we campaigned for better pay and better terms and conditions.

"Now we are unionised. It isn't paradise at work but it is very different. We have a voice and we have respect at work. And we won the fight to secure the London Living Wage, which was a massive victory for us, and a big pay rise! Being an RMT member has changed my life. I wake up in the morning a proud trade unionist and I go to bed at night a proud trade unionist. London is built on the good work of migrant workers. A migrant worker's place is in a union."

### **Clara Osagiede**

Cleaning Supervisor, RMT Workplace Rep and Cleaning Grade Secretary



# Migrants and benefits

## Disability benefits

Proportion of claimants **7%**

of UK nationals claim



**3%**

of UK migrants claim



## Out-of-work benefits

Proportion of claimants **4%**

of UK nationals claim



**1%**

of UK migrants claim



# Benefit tourists?

The Government has not been able to produce evidence to back up claims that migrants are coming to the UK to take advantage of welfare benefits. Most are young, fit and in work and are far less likely to claim benefits.

16

source: European Commission, JCP, Institute for Fiscal Studies

# How to win a pay rise



Cleaners and porters working at the world famous Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London, recently secured trade union recognition through their union, Unite.

Their next step was a campaign to get the London Living Wage. The cleaners and porters are employed by the giant services sub-contractor, Mitie. They were earning just £7.00 an hour. But

they won their campaign and so since 1 April 2014 as many as 50 porters and cleaners are being paid the London Living Wage of £8.80, that's a 26 per cent pay increase.

Carolyn Simpson, their UNITE full-time officer said, "This shows the value of trade union membership, of workplace organisation and activism, and the benefit of having a clear strategy for winning gains in the workplace. The cleaners and porters at the Royal Opera House deserve this boost in pay, but it would not have happened without effective and robust representation by their union and a dynamic campaign by the members themselves.

"I hope this victory is an inspiration to many other groups of migrant workers and low paid workers who also deserve a pay rise, and a voice at work."



# Whose work and at what pay?

Most migrants come to the UK to work. But does this mean they are stopping local people getting into work and keeping pay down?

Unemployment levels in the South East and in the East of England are lower than the national average.

In our region many workers have taken jobs below their skill level, or part-time jobs when they really want a full-time one, and the level of pay has been squeezed. But the cause of that hardship is the banking crisis, the recession and the government's austerity programme.

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. In these jobs,

international recruitment pushes up pay – consider footballers for example.

In the less skilled labour market, migrants take jobs locals don't want to do especially in agriculture and food production. These tend to be low-paid jobs protected by the National Minimum Wage. Past experience has shown that migrants tend to start on low pay but quickly move on to better paid work.

Trade unions have worked hard to protect established pay rates and 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 scarce skills, high motivation and fresh ideas. 17.2% of migrants set up their own firms compared to 10.4% of UK nationals.

**JOBS JOBS**  
**14%** of all new jobs are created by migrant start-up firms.  
source: Financial Times 2014

A government report that studied the impact on jobs found "little evidence of displacement" caused by migrants.

Some employers will try to rip off migrants and unions will fight exploitation to protect all workers. The TUC believes 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.

source: Fiscal Sustainability Report, LFS, Institute for Fiscal Studies



# Roma people



**The Roma are one of the most abused and marginalised communities in the world. They trace roots back to 'untouchables' in India and have been forced to survive through marginal work for generations.**

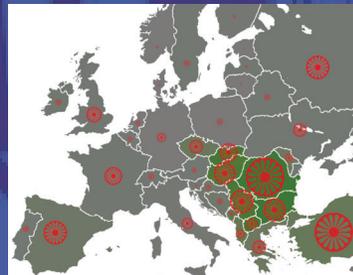
200,000-800,000 Roma were killed in the Nazi holocaust. Half of all Roma people were discriminated against last year.

Following the recession, the attacks on Roma communities has escalated. They are an easy target for far-right groups and

some newspapers in the UK. There are around one million Roma in Bulgaria and two million in Romania, mostly living in remote rural areas. 70-90% are unemployed.

Statistics are unreliable because Roma often hide their background for fear of discrimination. Strong family ties are part of Roma culture.

There is a 30% illiteracy rate and Roma face a short life due to poor housing, health care and immunisation rates.



**Roma across Europe**

## Southampton Fair Employment Fortnight

Southampton is a vibrant city with a world famous port, so there is a long history of migration into the area. And many new migrant workers have arrived there in the last decade. Migrant workers have added to both the economy and the communities in which they live. But ignorance of employment rights and how to best secure those rights, poor employment practice and exploitation by rogue employers, are enduring problems. Awareness raising, education, networking and building organisation is part of the way ahead for all workers in Southampton.

The Labour Party, led by local MP, John Denham, unions, including UNITE, UNISON and UCATT, Thompsons Solicitors, the TUC recognised Unemployed Workers Centre, (the Southampton Advice and Representation centre), Southampton City Mission, the Quakers and the Student's Union at Southampton University, combined to organise a 'Fair Employment Fortnight', 17-31 March 2014. Activity during the two weeks included street campaigning, training for volunteers who were interested in learning how to advise people about their employment rights and an employment rights telephone helpline. For more details see **#hardworkfairdeal**





# We are Norwich

The English Defence League announced its intention to march in Norwich in the summer of 2012. In response the local community formed 'We are Norwich'; a diverse coalition of trade unions, trades councils, politicians, individuals, anti-racists, anti-fascists, community groups and faith groups. Over 25 groups and hundreds of individuals pledged their support. When 200 EDL supporters did march in the city, in November 2012, 'We are Norwich' organised a peaceful counter-demonstration of 2000 people, who rejected the politics of hatred and came out to defend their city's reputation. Subsequently 'We are Norwich' has continued to work to build community cohesion. It has produced an information leaflet about migrant workers. It has sought to welcome migrants to Norwich and to celebrate and build multiculturalism, through events featuring music, food and arts.



## Here or abroad? How many did you know?



**Boris Johnson**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
New York



**Duke of Edinburgh**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
Greece



**Cliff Richard**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
Lucknow,  
India



**Helen Mirren**

Here   
Abroad   
Born Ilyena  
Vasiliievna  
Mironov in  
London



**Ed Miliband**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
London, son  
of Jewish  
refugees



**Ashley Cole**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
London



**Joanna Lumley**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
Srinagar,  
India



**Saint George**

Here   
Abroad   
Patron saint  
of England  
was born in  
East Turkey



**David Cameron**

Here   
Abroad   
born London  
descendant  
of King  
William IV



**Nick Clegg**

Here   
Abroad   
born in  
Buckinghamshire





King's Lynn and District Trades Union Council



Norwich & District Trades Union Council



This booklet is an adaptation of that produced by our colleagues in the South West TUC. SERTUC records our thanks to Nigel Costley, SWTUC Regional Secretary, for his original work, and to Mike Carver for preparing the artwork for this SERTUC version.

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June 2014