

# WHAT THE BRAP?

Help me understand terminology about migration!

Not everyone who flees their home goes to another country. '**Internally displaced persons**' are people who have moved within their own country to find refuge from war, persecution or natural disasters. Even though they may have fled for the same reasons as asylum seekers, they remain under the protection of their own government because they have not crossed any international borders.

Once someone has been granted asylum in the UK they can apply for their family to come and stay with them. This is called 'family reunion'. Applications can be made for a partner (as long as the relationship pre-dates their departure from their country of origin) or children (under 18 years old) if they became separated when the refugee was forced to flee their country.



## REFUGEE

If the government deems that an asylum seeker's fear of returning to their country of origin is well founded they will be granted asylum. They are then a refugee. At the end of 2014 the number of refugees and asylum seekers made up just 0.24% of the total UK population.



## ASYLUM SEEKER

An asylum seeker is someone who has left their country of origin and applied for protection ('asylum') in another country. Asylum seekers apply for protection in other countries because they fear persecution in their own country, perhaps because of their race, religion, political opinion or membership of a particular social group. Under international law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum and remain in the country in which they're applying until a decision is made about their application. In the UK asylum seekers are not permitted to work and must rely on state support, which can be as little as £5 a day. As a result many are living in poverty and experience poor health.



## IMMIGRATION

Immigration refers to the movement of people in to a new host country or region – i.e. it means the people entering. For example, in the year ending March 2015, 636,000 people immigrated to the UK. According to the British Social Attitudes Survey people who are most likely to be directly exposed to migration in their daily lives have the most positive views about immigration.

**Illegal immigration** refers to people entering covertly or by deception (e.g. using false documents) – i.e. entering a country in a way that violates that country's immigration laws.



## EMIGRATION

Emigration refers to the movement of people from their own country or region of origin to another – i.e. it means the people leaving. For example, in the year ending March 2015, an estimated 307,000 people emigrated from the UK. Of those people, 43% were British citizens. The most common reason given for emigration was work-related (54% of emigrants were moving to look for work or because they had a job elsewhere).



## MIGRATION

Simply put, migration is the movement of people from one place to another. This could be

- 'international migration', when people move from one country to another, or
- 'internal migration', moving from one area to another within the same country.

## AND NOW...?

Once someone's been granted the right to stay in the UK you start to get into the murky waters of assimilation, multiculturalism, and community cohesion – but, after over 60 years of community relations policies, are we anywhere nearer to solving the problems of integration? For further reading, have a look at our report 'Interculturalism: a breakdown of thinking and practice', which explores these ideas.