Oliver Harding

The asylum process in the UK and its impact upon mental health of asylum seekers and refugees between 2020 to 2022

Universidade Fernando Pessoa

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Abstract

In March 2022 the refugee crisis has been raised in everyone's collective consciousnesses as 10 million refugees fled from Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the disparity in which refugees from different backgrounds are treated in Europe and in the United Kingdom. Prior to the invasion 1% of the world population were refugees or Internally Displaced Persons, IDP. The UNHCR observed that by June the number of forcibly displaced worldwide had increased to nearly a 100 million.

In the United Kingdom many refugees face an indeterminate period of time in accommodation before being given 'leave to remain.' The process preceding the decision by the Home Office effectively places the refugees lives on hold. The outcome for them is unknown. The process of dealing with The Home Office and Migrant Help is protracted and frustrates many refugees. It is not unusual for refugees to be in temporary accommodation for more than a year.

Mental health is affected by indeterminate stay in hotel accommodation. Even the most resilient refugees find the process challenging. The Covid-19 pandemic has made this situation worse. Suicides are not uncommon. Suicides and the threat of suicide have been brought to the fore by the first planned deportation flights to Rwanda in June 2022.

Keywords: Accommodation, Asylum seekers, Benefits, Covid-19, Hostile environment, Mental Health, Neoliberalism, Precarity, Refoulment, Refugees, Suicide

Resumo

Em março de 2022, a crise de refugiados ganhou relevância na consciência coletiva de todos visto que 10 milhões de refugiados fugiram da Ucrânia. A invasão russa da Ucrânia evidenciou a disparidade de como os refugiados de diferentes origens são tratados na Europa e no Reino Unido. Antes da invasão, 1% da população mundial eram refugiados ou Deslocados Internos, PDI. O ACNUR observou que, em junho, o número de deslocados à força em todo o mundo havia aumentado para quase 100 milhões.

No Reino Unido, muitos refugiados enfrentam um período de tempo indeterminado num alojamento antes de receberem "autorização para permanecer". O processo que antecede a decisão do Ministério do Interior coloca efetivamente a vida dos refugiados em espera. O resultado para eles é desconhecido. O processo de lidar com o Ministério do Interior e a Migrant Help é demorado e frustra muitos refugiados. Não é incomum que os refugiados estejam em acomodações temporárias por mais de um ano.

A saúde mental é afetada pela permanência indeterminada em alojamento hoteleiro. Mesmo os refugiados mais resilientes acham o processo desafiador. A pandemia da Covid-19 agravou essa situação. Suicídios não são incomuns. Os suicídios e a ameaça de suicídio foram trazidos à tona pelos primeiros voos de deportação planeados para Ruanda em junho de 2022.

Palavras-chave:

Alojamento, Requerentes de asilo, Benefícios, Covid-19, Ambiente hostil, Saúde mental, Neoliberalismo, Precariedade, Repressão, Refugiados, Suicídio. refoulement

Dedication

I dedicate this to my family and friends,
and to the dearest departed of this earth,
and to all those that care for others.

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Abbreviations

AASC	Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts
AIRE	Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Assistance services
ARC	Application registration card
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
DL	Discretionary leave
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
EU	European Union
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
IDL	Indefinite leave to remain
IDP	Internally displaced person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non governmental organisation
NHS	National Health Service
NRPF	No recourse to public funds
PTSD	Post traumatic stress disorder
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UK	United Kingdom
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (often referred to as UN Refugee Agency)
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter I – Introduction

1.1 Background

A world-wide pandemic first identified in Wuhan in 2019 continues to cause problems as the Covid-19 virus mutates and cause a range of illnesses from asymptomatic to a severe illness or death. Some that recover suffered from a condition, termed Long Covid. Vaccinations have helped, but have not been distributed evenly around the world, with the poorer nations having fewer vaccinated people.

According to the mental health charity Mind, around a third of adults and young people said their mental health has deteriorated since March 2020. Asylum seekers and refugees have a higher prevalence of mental health condition than the general population. Those seeking safety in the United Kingdom are often traumatized, some deeply with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) mental health is defined as,

> ‘a state of wellbeing in which the individual realises his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community’

Mental health can effect physical health and our ability to lead a healthy lifestyle. Poor physical health may lead to mental health problems too. A survery by UK Government found that the poorest in society are twice as likely to suffer mental health problems.

The asylum seekers may have experienced devastating loss. Lost their loved ones, seen their friends killed, experienced torture, all before making a perilous journey to the United Kingdom. Many refugees seek passage from Calais by hiding in cargo lorries and more recently in small inflatable boats. With the hostile environment suffered in France is behind them, and they arrive in England, there are another set of problems for them to deal with.

The Home Office is the government department responsible for asylum seekers and refugees in the United Kingdom. The asylum system is complex, and many asylum seekers and refugees suffer from anxiety due to the process and their precarious situation. The hostile environment and threatened deportation of asylum seekers is a constant threat.

The unknown length of stay in hotels is a burden and according to the charity Mind 61% of asylum seekers experience serious mental distress and refugees are five times more likely to have mental health needs than the UK population.

Two years after the pandemic was identified, an unrelated global crisis was precipitated by Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine. Within this context, the number of asylum seekers and internally displace people (IDP) has been estimated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to be 10 million. This brings the total number of asylum seekers and IDP worldwide to 100 million according to some estimates in June 2022.

1.2 Motivation

1.2.1 Inspiration

In 2015, I saw the unfolding refugee crisis when I drove from Slovenia to Vienna. Border encampments highlighted the plight of diaspora in transit. A personal decision to help refugees was made and in the summer of 2021 and from January 2022 I volunteer as lead volunteer for a UK NGO, Care4Calais. The NGO Care4Calais assist refugees in Calais, and in the UK.

I have been to Lviv in Ukraine twice. Once delivering medical equipment for a non-profit, Maidenhead for Ukraine. The second time, I delivered humanitarian aid for the non-profit, Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub. I helped with transport for families from Lviv to a safe hotel in Jaroslav, with visa applications, and transport.

1.3 Focus of the dissertation

The focus of the dissertation is on the asylum process in the United Kingdom and its impact upon asylum seekers and refugees mental health. It considers the political situation, the hostile environment, the impact of Covid-19, and the war in Ukraine. The NGOs where I have volunteered are discussed too. Care4Calais is used as a case study. I volunteered for six months as the lead volunteer in the local Holiday Inn. Food Share is another NGO that I volunteer at. Due to the Russian war in Ukraine, I volunteer for Maidenhead for Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub.

1.4 Research question

'The asylum process in the UK and its impact upon mental health of asylum seekers and refugees between 2020 and 2022.' To address the research question, the country of origin of the asylum seekers and their method of arriving in the UK is explored in the

context of the global refugee crisis during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some asylum seekers will have arrived by aeroplane. Others have broken into vehicles and hidden in transport heading for the United Kingdom. Sadly, there have been many deaths and in one terrible case 39 people suffocated in a lorry in the United Kingdom.

Others have taken the perilous journey across one of the busiest shipping channels in the world, the English Channel. On the 29 November 2021, twenty-seven asylum seekers drowned in the English Channel, with both Frontex and UK Border Force abdicating responsibility.

The process of claiming asylum is examined from when the authorities become involved in the process. For asylum seekers crossing the channel it may be the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI), for others it will be the United Kingdom (UK) Border Force. Some will arrive by more regular means and claim asylum at the airport with Border Force. The process from arrival to being granted 'leave to remain' status and how this impacts upon their mental health is considered.

1.5 Outline of the dissertation

1.5.1 Literature review

The current review of mental health for asylum seekers and refugees is considered within the UK legislative framework. Many asylum seekers find themselves in the system for an indeterminate period of time. Yeo, C. (2021) in his book, Welcome to Britain. Fixing Our Broken Immigration System, writes

> 'Successive governments have allowed the UK's immigration laws to become ever more incomprehensible and increasingly unfair, confident that few will understand what is happening and even fewer will care.'

For the United Kingdom Home Office, a combination of factors including: Brexit; European Union settlement scheme backlog; Windrush compensation claims; and employers applying for visas for skilled workers; Homes for Ukraine. These tasks together have virtually ground the department to a halt. This has resulted in asylum seekers staying in hotels, sometimes for up to two years.

During that time, children will begin school. Families will integrate into the community. The British people on the whole are very welcoming and kind to asylum seekers. Unfortunately, a small vocal minority of right-wing activists are not. The right-wing press is hostile too. One of the problems after being given 'leave to remain' is that the individuals or families are then transferred to another region, sometimes hundreds of miles away.

The indeterminate stay and abrupt upheaval to another part of the United Kingdom hinders integration into the community. The Home Office, the government department for dealing with asylum seekers, was described as, 'not fit for purpose' by the then Home Secretary, John Reid in 2006. Critics claim that the department has become worse since. The hostile environment announced by Theresa May in 2012 has contributed to uncertainty and precarisation of life for asylum seekers.

In the BMC International Health and Human Rights journal, Bogic et al. (2015) examine in a research article, Long-term mental health of war-refugee: a systematic literature review the authors write that,

> 'Existing evidence suggests that mental disorders tend to be highly prevalent in war refugees many years after resettlement. This increased risk may not only be a consequence of exposure to wartime trauma but may also be influenced by post-migration socio-economic factors.'

In their conclusion, they identify two consistent factors from their research. The first past traumatic experiences and the second post-migration socioeconomic situation. High heterogeneity was reported depending upon the refugee's home country and the country they settled in. The UK in 2022 is experiencing a cost of living crisis. To a certain extent, the asylum seekers are shielded from it during their stay in initial accommodation. When granted refugee or protected status, their is a possibility of destitution. The goverment relying on NGOs to deliver help with food banks and homelessness.

Paudyal P, et al. (2021) study of Syrian refugees in the United Kingdom note that the well-being and mental healthcare experiences of integration into United Kingdom society are largely unstudied. Their study noted that there were barriers to access to mental healthcare. These included language competence, stigma, and fear of being misunderstood. In addition, struggling to connect, separation and loss were all highlighted as

mental health stressors.

In a German study, Mental Health and Integration: A Qualitative Study on the Struggles of Recently Arrived Refugees in Germany by Walther L. et al. (2021) the authors state that 'forcibly displaced people are at particular risk of mental health problems.' In their conclusion, they observe that poor mental health hinders societal integration. Difficulty integrating also may contribute to mental health problems.

> 'Our findings shed light on various ways in which, on the one hand, poor mental health negatively impacts the ability to pursue integration, and, on the other hand, difficulties integrating within different domains contribute to mental health problems.'

The cyclical problem is harshly felt by those who are impoverished, and those asylum seekers too traumatized to attempt integration.

1.6 Methodology

This qualitative study uses two approaches. The first is a discourse analysis of social media. The second, a case study, relies on my experience as a volunteer with Care4Calais, Maidenhead for Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub. The qualitative analysis tool MaxQDA is used to code and analyse the data media from social media.

Social media, including podcasts, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, social media from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and news articles is used to understand the nature of the journey that some asylum seekers have experienced. To examine their experiences living in Home Office accommodation. Government guidance together with NGO information available to asylum seekers is also reviewed. This process is considered within the context of living through the Covid-19 pandemic and from February 24, 2022 the war in Ukraine.

Covid-19 has ravaged the world since 2019 and in 2022 is still considered a pandemic. Countries around the world have responded in different ways. It has been accepted that Covid-19 has contributed to a world-wide mental health crisis. Asylum seekers often experience worse mental health than the general population. Indeed, many are deeply traumatised.

Chapter II – The United Kingdom asylum system

2.1 The hostile environment

The hostile environment in the United Kingdom that was started by Theresa May in 2012 is considered. An article that she shared with the Daily Telegraph in 2012 stated that her plan, ‘was to create here in Britain a really hostile environment for illegal



Figure 1. Hostile environment started by Theresa May in 2012. The Guardian

migration.’ Goodfellow, M. (2022) in her book, Hostile Environment: How Immigrants Became Scapegoats, says of Theresa May that, ‘she didn’t even attempt to hide its cruelty. She flaunted it. The plan was to make their lives unbearable.’ The hostile environment required landlords and employers to check the status of applicants.

Goodfellow, M. (2022) suggests this is akin to turning these actors to state border guards. She goes on to talk about a detained immigrant with stage 1 cancer, that was potentially curable. He didn't have the correct documentation and was sent to a detention centre. He now has incurable cancer.

Many though, claim that the term 'illegal immigrant' is not accurate and not neutral. In an online interview with Hillary Clinton, José Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and immigration activist, requested her to stop using the phrase.

An attempt was made to re-brand 'The hostile environment' was re-branded 'the compliant environment' by the then Home Secretary, Sajid Javid. The re-branding to detoxify policies failed. In an article, Compliant environment: turning ordinary people into border guards should concern everyone in the UK, the author details the National Health Service (NHS) withdrew from its agreement to provide information to the Home Office on suspected irregular immigrants.

The 'compliant environment' required landlords, employers, education staff and health professionals to become increasingly responsible for checking the immigration status of their tenants, employees, students, and patients.

The hostile environment and its progress under the Home Secretary, Priti Patel and its impact upon refugees, is reviewed. Opposing views favourable to asylum seekers are explored. The United Kingdom Conservative Party's views are considered and their preparedness to flout international law with disregard is discussed.

The UK Home Office process for asylum seekers, from arrival, to being given refugee status, and leave to remain in the UK is examined. Consideration is given to where international laws have been broken by the government. Yeo, C. (2021) states that, 'The boundary between lawful and unlawful is notably porous in both directions in immigration law.'

Goodfellow, M. (2022) writes about the toll that this lengthy process takes upon asylum seekers mental health.

> 'And then there's the time – the months and years people never get back and the toll it takes on their mental health, trying

> to get their papers in order. 'I've worked with people who've been here ten years, thirteen years, even seventeen years and still waiting for their status,' Peninah says. Why would they put someone through all of this waiting 'if they care about the human'? Interminably long waiting periods or deportation without notice or the ability to appeal – these are the hallmarks of a system that is inhumane. People exist in limbo for years, waiting to hear about their claims, battling a woeful lack of support and endless amounts of confusing bureaucracy. Or they are suddenly faced with a cliff edge – flown out of the country under the cover of night with almost no way to stop what's happening to them.'

The government department responsible for asylum seekers is the Home Office. The woman in charge, the Home Secretary, is Prita Patel.

2.2 International law

2.2.1 The 1951 Refugee Convention

The United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was adopted 70 years ago on July 28, 1951. This legislation requires that signatories recognize and protect people who flee their countries of nationality because of persecution or conflict.

> The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the key legal documents that form the basis of our work. With 149 State parties to either or both, they define the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them. The core principle is non-refoulement, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. This is now considered a rule of customary international law. UNHCR serves as the 'guardian' of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol. According to the legislation, States are expected to cooperate with us in ensuring that the rights of refugees are respected and protected.

2.2.2 What is a refugee?

Asylum seekers and refugees rights are defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The definition of refugees, their rights, and the legal obligations of States to protect them is in this protocol.

Definition of an asylum seeker

> 'An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualised procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognised as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum seeker.'

Definition of a refugee

> 'A refugee is a person who has fled their country of origin and is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.'

Amnesty International has commented that the United Kingdom, Nationality and Borders Act - which comes into effect 28 June 2022 breaks with the UK's commitment to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. The UNHCR says the migration partnership is 'incompatible with the letter and spirit of the 1951 Refugee Convention.'

2.3 The Home Office



The Home Office in the United Kingdom includes the following departments that are involved with refugees: Border Force, HM Passport Office, Immigration Enforcement, UK Visas and Immigration The Home Office is responsible for securing the UK border, controlling immigration, and considering applications to enter and stay in the UK. Issuing passports and visas is in their remit too. The Home Office posts below are, on the left on their Twitter account, and on the right from their Facebook account.



Figure 2. Home Office Twitter



Figure 3. Home Office Facebook

2.3.1 United Kingdom hostile environment Nationality and Borders Bills

Amnesty comment

The Refugee Council label this UK government bill as Brutal. It has taken nearly a year to pass through the government processes. Amnesty's UK's Refugee and Migrant Rights Director, Steve Valdez-Symonds said,

> "The Government's chaotic, obstructive and inept responses to the Afghan and Ukraine refugee crises are part and parcel of the same harmful attitude to people seeking asylum that this fundamentally ill-conceived bill demonstrates. The Lords have given the Government yet another opportunity to recognise what we can all see - that asylum policy as set out in this bill is completely unworkable, out of step with reality and incompatible with the UK's moral and legal obligations."

The UK government under the leadership of the Prime Minister Boris Johnson have become a far-right administration appealing to the populist vote. Diversinal tactics of stoking division and hatred as a smokescreen for governmental indescretions and scandals has become an everday occurrence.

2.3.2 Frontex

Frontex is the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and they should respect the fundamental rights of people in European and International Law. The Geneva Convention forbids refoulment. The principle of non-refoulement is explicitly provided for in Article 33 of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees. Refoulment is the forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to

be subjected to persecution. International and EU law prohibit refoulement.

> The principle of non-refoulement is essential in international law and is a pillar of the right of asylum. Although registered in numerous international and regional texts, this principle is more and more often violated by States, including European States. In order not to respect the principle of non-refoulement and the guarantees attached to it, States frequently resort to bypassing mechanisms aimed at removing migrants from European territory. Migrants and asylum seekers are the first to suffer from these violations insofar as they are susceptible to inhuman and degrading treatment, violence or harm to their lives. In addition, the protection afforded by European case law itself is called into question following a recent decision in the matter.

During Covid-19, there were many instances of refoulement in Europe and worldwide.

2.3.3 Border Force

Border Force is responsible to the law enforcement department within the Home Office. They are tasked with securing the UK border by carrying out immigration and customs controls for people and goods entering the UK. In this article in The Independent, Dan O'Mahoney, the 'Clandestine Channel threat commander' announced a ridiculous plan to stop asylum seeker boats with nets. Border Force employees refused to take part in push-backs as they are deemed unsafe. The UK government promised indemnity from



UK Border Force could strike over Channel refugee 'pushback' plan

Staff may take industrial action over Priti Patel's 'reprehensible' plan to turn back refugees, says PCS union

Nicola Slawson

Border Force officials could strike over Priti Patel's "morally reprehensible" plans to turn back dinghies in the Channel, a union has said.

Figure 4. UK Border Force. **Guardian**

prosecution in the result of asylum seeker deaths from push-backs.

> ‘Under the proposed nationality and borders bill, it has been confirmed that border officials involved in pushing back migrants from the UK (which is currently illegal under international maritime law) will not face prosecution in the UK in the event of deaths at sea.’

Existing laws make it a criminal offence to place people at sea at risk of drowning. International law provides a duty to rescue everyone in peril at sea.

2.4 Application registration card (ARC)

After processing, asylum seekers are issued with an ARC card. The application registration card is issued by the Home Office to show that the individual is an asylum claimant. A credit card size plastic card of the holder’s identity or claimed identity. It is not evidence of identity, it confirms though that the named person has made a claim for international protection in the United Kingdom.



Figure 5. **Sample ARC card**.

It confirms that the claimant is allowed to remain in the United Kingdom while their claim is awaiting processing. The card also shows whether the claimant is permitted to work in the Home Office job shortage occupation list. This is only granted after the claimant has been waiting at least twelve months for an initial decision on their asylum claim.

The shortage occupation list was updated this year to include care home workers, a shortage created by Brexit. Yeo, C. (2022) notes that while asylum seekers may have the requisite skills,

> ‘The Shortage Occupation List mentioned in (i) consists of jobs such as doctors, scientists, engineers, paramedics, architects and nurses, as well as some more niche

> occupations such as dancers and high integrity pipe welders. Most people, whether asylum seekers or members of the general population, lack the skills, training and qualifications that would get them hired in most of these fields.'

2.4.1 ARC query form

At the Maidenhead Holiday Inn, an Iraqi man asked me for assistance. The ARC query form illustrates the system is not without fault. He has been in Home Office accommo-



Figure 6. ARC query form

dation for more than a year and has no documentation. The form below should help to escalate this case. Migrant help now refer claimants to fill in this form.

The young man I spoke to was clearly very worried that he had not received the card. Others at the hotel had received it within a few weeks. He felt extremely anxious about not having the card. The Home Office is very difficult to contact, and Migrant help refer claimants to this form.

2.5 Age assessment.

The children's society state that 9,000 unaccompanied children have applied for asylum since 2016. They comment that the asylum seekers often need mental health support,

> 'Life isn't easy for young refugees. After long and harrowing journeys, they arrive in the UK, not to a warm bed and loving parents but to endless questions from immigration. Tired and traumatised, they're grilled on how old they are and where

> they've come from.'

The Children's Society

In a blog post, Evelien Brouwer (Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and Romain Lanneau (Research and Project Assistant at the Odysseus Academic Network posted in The Refugee Law Initiative in the School of Advanced Studies at The University of London the authors state,

> Age is a criterion of utmost importance in the asylum procedure for identifying vulnerable asylum applicants. In particular, a child, a person below 18 years old, needs to be identified as soon as possible to benefit from special procedural guarantees and adapted reception conditions.

In January 2020 for the EU Commission's proposed Pact on Migration and Asylum, UNHCR argues for a common method for age assessment is in the best interest of the child.

Incorrect age assessment has several implications. It is more convenient for the Home Office to classify an asylum seeker as an adult. However, this can have a negative effect on the young person's mental health.

Many asylum seekers have no documentation and this creates problems with assessing age. The Home Office policy used its on social workers to carry out age assessments when there was, "reason to doubt the claimant's age". A court ruling in 2021 deemed that the assessments were not Merton compliant. Merton compliance stipulates the following conditions have to be fulfilled.

Two qualified and appropriately trained social workers must be present to conduct the Age Assessment

* A reputable interpreter who speaks the required language. The interpreter's role and expectations must be clarified before and in the interview.
* An Age Assessment may take place in one session or over a period of several interviews.
* Sessions should not be more than 2 hours.
* The social worker should ensure regular breaks during interview, i.e. every 45

minutes and provide beverages.
* Local Authorities to explore where a young person comes from to obtain background information relating to origin and culture in order to determine age.
* The young person should be made to feel comfortable in an unfamiliar environment.
* The young person should feel supported.
* Questions must be addressed to the young person and not the interpreter.
* Language barriers should be overcome.
* Ensure young person is aware that accommodation is provided.
* Social worker to acknowledge any emotional health issues and trauma.
* The Assessment must be conducted in a suitable space/interview room that is well ventilated.

The Home Office have a 64 page document, entitled Assessing Age.

2.6 Non Governmental Organizations

2.6.1 Migrant Help

> Migrant Help have also been awarded the contract for the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Assistance services (AIRE), which will be a single integrated and national service for asylum seekers.
>
> The AIRE service will provide advice and guidance to service users on the asylum process, their rights and signposting different services.

It will also provide asylum seekers with a single point of contact, independent of the accommodation providers and the Home Office, to report issues.

Migrant Help is one of the first point of contact for many asylum seekers. They provide assistance with many of the trials and tribulations that refugees face on a daily basis. They have a government contract to support asylum seekers with their application.

NGOs support the refugees with basic needs. However, there are gaps in the provision of care. Long waiting times for making contact with the Home Office by telephone can frustrate refugees. Life in the hotels, even five-star hotels, is not a normal experience of

staying in a luxury hotel.

2.6.2 Refugee Action

Refugee Action

2.6.3 Refugee Council in the UK

Refugee Action help with support and advice about accommodation for asylum seekers Asylum seekers live at subsistence level and are not allowed to claim mainstream welfare benefits. Asylum seekers can only work when their application is undetermined after a year, in which case they can apply for permission to work. New rules in January 2022 allowed work in jobs that appear in the occupation shortage list.

2.6.4 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is a division of the Home Office responsible for the United Kingdom's visa system. It was formed in 2013 from the section of the UK Border Agency that had administered the visa system.

2.7 Asylum Applications

According to the United Kingdom NGO, The Refugee Council, there were 48,540 asylum applications in 2021. The number of people awaiting an initial decision on their status was 100,564.

The Home Office is overwhelmed and this results in many thousands of people putting their lives on hold while they wait for a decision from the UK Home Office. Effectively, they are left in limbo, uncertain of their future. Uncertain of where they will be moved to restart their lives. If they are able to integrate into society at some point they will be moved and have to start integration afresh.

As of December 2021, the back-log of cases reached a record high, although that has almost certainly been beaten now. More than 100,564 waited for the outcome of their initial claim. Sixty percent had been waiting for more than six months. Covid-19 has been attributed to this stall in the decision making process.

For the asylum seekers at the Holiday Inn, Maidenhead, I tell the new arrivals that they could be here for 18 months or more. Living on £8 a week dictates that choices are very limited on travel, entertainment and eating out. Essentially, they are living in poverty, and those seeking asylum are not allowed to work unless their skills are in the occupation short-list.

A recent addition to the occupation short list as a result of Brexit has been the care worker job. Under current rules, asylum seekers are not allowed to work unless their claims has been outstanding for 12 months. They must seek then seek permission from the Home Office and can only apply for specified jobs on the official shortage occupation list.

2.8 UK Asylum seeker as of December 2021

	December 2020	December 2021
People seeking asylum were being supported by the Government.		84,457[1]
Individuals in receipt of support under Section 98	12,235	24,175
Section 95 support		54,669
Section 4 support		5,613

Table 1. **Asylum seeker numbers**

2.9 Immigrant Removal Centres

In 2002 the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 ‘Immigration detention centres’, were re-branded ‘Immigration removal centres’. Typically, the centres are used for failed asylum seekers awaiting deportation.

The Home Office guidance states that someone can be detained in an immigration removal centre when the person is likely to abscond if given temporary admission or release; the person’s removal from the UK is imminent; detention is needed whilst alternative arrangements are made for the person’s care; or release is not considered conducive to the public good. The Home Office guidance stipulates that detention centres should only be used when there is a“realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable period”.

Controversially, there is no minimum time limit in place for people held in detention, meaning people may be held indefinitely.

1 This includes people supported under Section 95, Section 4 and Section 98 of the Immigration Act 1999.

	December 2021	December 2020
People in detention	557	334
	December 2021	December 2020
Asylum seekers	622	373

Table 2. **Numbers in immigration removal centres**

2.9 Care4Calais case study

Care4Calais

Care4Calais is a volunteer run refugee charity supporting refugees in Northern France, Belgium and the UK. The NGO was founded by Claire Molesey in 2015 to support refugees in the infamous 'Jungle' in Calais. Care4Calais operation year round and their focus in France is providing warm clothing, sleeping bags, food and medical assistance. In the United Kingdom, the support is more focussed on the asylum seeker's support in the hotel and dispersed accommodation.

Charitable objects:
The relief and assistance of people in need, in particular but not exclusively victims of war, natural disaster, trouble or catastrophe by such means as the trustees think fit, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of food, water, shelter, healthcare and legal support.

What the charity does:
The advancement of health, Saving of lives

Care4Calais was founded at the height of the refugee crisis in 2015 to address the needs of asylum seekers that had gathered in Calais to attempt passage to the United Kingdom. Care4Calais on their website states that it is a volunteer run charity delivering humanitarian aid and support to refugees living in the UK, Northern France and Belgium. The organization believes in a fair and tolerant society. Care4Calais advocate for a welcoming and inclusive attitude towards refugees.

The charity has grown quickly, and last year The Charity Commission started an inquiry and appointed two interim managers to work with their trustees. Two aspects of the investigation are safeguarding and financial controls.

The latest financial accounts show that Care4Calais had an income of £877,000 last

year, including the value of donated goods, and spent £586,000. It relies on volunteers and has no paid staff. Care4Calais encourage local volunteers and help asylum seekers with day to day living, clothing, administration, entertainment. Care4Calais work with other local partners to provide English lessons, links to community clubs, and churches.

2.10 Churches

Maidenhead churches of all faiths have been very welcoming to asylum seekers and refugees. The support for the Ukrainians has been higher profile with civic welcomes, whereas the asylum seekers are on the periphery. Many are concerned about confrontation with the right wing. Despite the lower profile welcome of the asylum seekers, the community has generally been welcoming and very generous.

2.11 Schools and colleges

The response from the schools that I have assisted with student placements has been fantastic. The schools have supplied everything a student needs from school uniform, shoes, physical education clothes, laptops free of charge. Extra English tuition and a really warm welcome. Non English speakers will typically be in a class below their year giving them a year to learn English. This particular girl was very anxious and the school were outstanding in their support.

The local mosque provided food and a welcoming environment. However, there was some pressure to pray six times a day at one mosque I visited.



Figure 7. First day at school for asylum seeker in Maidenhead

2.12 Accommodation

The UK government has awarded The new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts (AASC), which were designed following engagement with local authorities, potential providers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have been awarded today, following an open and fair procurement exercise.

2.12.1 Clearsprings

Clearsprings

Clearsprings

Asylum accommodation awarded

The new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts (AASC), which were designed following engagement with local authorities, potential providers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have been awarded today, following an open and fair procurement exercise. Awarded to: Midlands and East of England: Serco, North East, Yorkshire, and Humberside: Mears Group, North West: Serco, Northern Ireland: Mears Group, Scotland: Mears Group, South: Clearsprings Ready Homes, Wales: Clearsprings Ready Homes.

2.12.2 Food at the Holiday Inn

There are three hundred residents in the four-star Holiday Inn, Maidenhead. Seventy-five are children. There are many complaints about the food being too bland or too spicy. We have agreed with the hotel management that a representative from each community will liaise on behalf of their group for a suitable diet. There is no central dining room. The food is collected and taken to their rooms to eat. Some of the asylum seekers qualify for food from the food bank if their doctor refers them for medical conditions, for example celiac disease. Asylum seekers at Reading hotel have struck over 'horrible' food and hotel conditions.



Figure 8. Food complaints

It can be argued that neoliberalism popular since the 1990s with Conservative governments choosesthe lowest bidder to provide the service. The budget is £6.00 a person per day. In the case of the Holiday Inn, it was Clearsprings that won the competitive tender bid. The residents of the hotel receive an allowance of £8.00 a week, which is credited to their aspen card. It should be noted that the 4-star Holiday Inn in Maidenhead is a very comfortable hotel and rooms there would normally be in excess of £100 a night.

2.12.3 Ex army barracks

Corporate watch

Allocated accommodation is a lottery and while some is very comfortable, some accommodation has been criticised. Adapted military bases turned into camps for asylum seekers who have just crossed the English Channel to get to the UK. Refugees and local volunteers have been speaking out about the camps and the grim conditions inside. Especially during Covid-19, the overcrowded dormitories were a real problem.

Napier Barracks, a dilapidated army building, has been used to house up to 400 male asylum seekers. In early 2021, 197 were infected in a Covid-19 outbreak. In June 2022, the High Court found the use of the barracks illegal. The barracks had become the focal point for right-wing protestors.

2.13 Home Office statistics

There were 31,115 asylum applications in the UK in the year ending June 2021, a 4% decrease on the previous year. There is an expectation that 20,000 Afghan refugees are to settle in the UK, with 5,000 expected to arrive by the end of 2021.

2.14 Indefinite leave to remain (IDL)

Asylum seekers may be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain if they have either refugee status or humanitarian protection. The route to settle in the UK is to have IDL. It gives you the right to live, work and study here for as long as you like, and apply for benefits if you're eligible. You can use it to apply for British citizenship.

2.15 Discretionary Leave (DL)

DL applies to those asylum seekers who provide evidence of exceptional compassionate circumstances or there are other compelling reasons to grant leave on a discretionary basis. It will also be considered where return would breach the ECHR.

2.16 Section 98

Section 98

Asylum seekers and their dependants who appear to be destitute can access Section 98 support. Those who applying for asylum at entry to the UK may be taken to initial allocated accommodation immediately, providing they show that they are destitute.

The Home Office guidance says that, 'after some days, weeks, or sometimes months in initial accommodation, asylum seekers will be taken to new accommodation'. In June

2022, this is more likely to be in the region of two years. For the Maidenhead asylum seekers their initial accommodation is the Holiday Inn.

Later they will be allocated a flat or shared house, somewhere else in the country. Asylum seekers will now qualify for what is known as “Section 95 support”, which is housing plus £40.85 per week for each person. Adults and children receive the same amount per person. A couple with no children will receive £81.70, as will a lone parent with one child.

Universal Credit received by those in need in the United Kingdom and, also available to Ukrainian refgees receive £509.91 per month for a couple both over 25 and at £324.84 per month for a single person over 25. An Application Registration Card (ARC) is used for identity. The supplied ASPEN can be used like a debit card, to withdraw money from cash machines (ATMs) or to pay for items in shops.

There is no choice about where in the UK asylum seekers are housed. This may be to anywhere in the UK. I have dealt with an LGBT asylum seeker with mental health conditions that had friends in Camden, London and his request to be housed there was granted. Some of the remote Scottish Island have benefited from refugees revitalising diminishing populations.

2.17 Section 4

Section 4

This is a form of support for refused asylum seekers, named after Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This support comes in the form of accommodation and a financial payment via an Aspen card (you cannot get financial support only). There is no choice about where the accommodation is located in the UK.

2.2 Ukraine

2.2.1 Homes for Ukraine

There has been condemnation of the UK response to the Ukraine crisis. The criticism is on two fronts. The first on the complexity of the process and the delay in establishing a pragmatic solution. The second is in the way that the refugees are treated in comparison to asylum seekers in the United Kingdom.

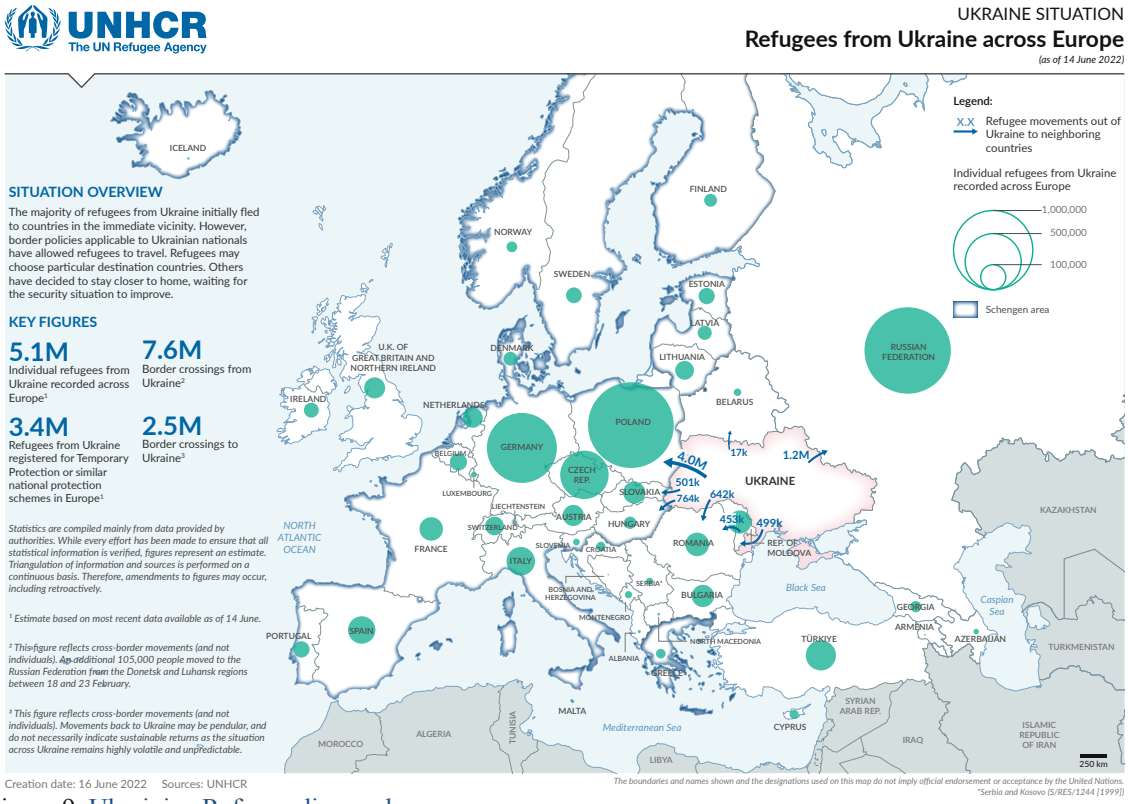

Figure 9. Ukrainian Refugee dispersal

Critics have argued that Ukrainians have been treated very differently from asylum seekers seeking refuge in the United Kingdom. A government's scheme, Homes for Ukraine incentivizes UK residents with payments to host Ukrainians and to make benefits available to the Ukrainians.

The slow response from the United Kingdom and bureaucratic system frustrated many applicants. The UK responded by 18 March 2022 with an uncapped sponsorship scheme. On the UK Government website the message to the people of the United Kingdom is, 'The UK will welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come and for whom there

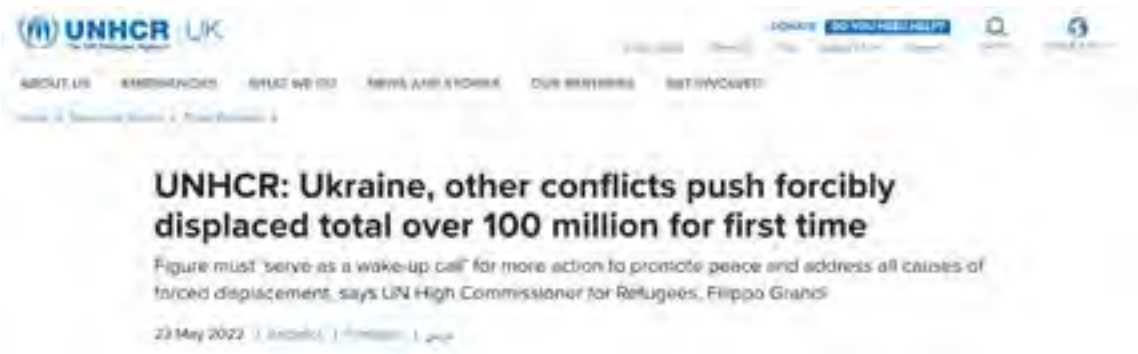

Figure 10. Forcibly displaced over 100 million

are sponsors. This is a huge humanitarian crisis, and we are urging the British public to come forward and help where they can.'

2.2.2 Super sponsors

The Scottish and Welsh Governments are directly sponsoring Ukrainians. Individuals can apply through the form but should choose the Scottish or Welsh Government as their sponsor. This scheme has been popular with large families that may otherwise not been able to find a family to sponsor the.

2.2.3 Maidenhead for Ukraine

In May 2022, I delivered humanitarian medical aid from the United Kingdom to Lviv. Maidenhead for Ukraine was founded by a Ukrainian cardiologist with contacts in Kviv Hospital Cardiology department.

2.2.4 Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub

The second trip in May 2022 I delivered a pickup truck, stayed two weeks and helped transport families from Lviv to Poland and assisted with visa applications. I saw first hand the frustrations Ukrainians experienced dealing with the United Kingdom bureaucracy. Some requirements were simply not feasible, the requirement for both parents to provide documentation for a child's visa application didn't take into account that most families were separated, one mother commented, "their fathers are on the front-line and there is no way to reach them."

Social media has played an important role in providing information in the absence of government advice. The processing of Ukrainians documentation has been a problem TLSContact, which operates 150 visa application centres on behalf of governments around the world, has been widely criticised for promoting paid services for Ukrainians in their visa application process and leaving applicants queuing for hours in application centres in Poland.

2.2.5 Homes for Ukraine

The department responsible for the Homes for Ukraine scheme is the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and is led by Michael Gove, the Secretary of State. The scheme has been widely criticized for being bureaucratic. The Ukrainians fleeing war have been warmly welcomed into family homes in Europe and across the world. Free transport on trains, planes, and ships were often offered. Initially, the visa requirements for the UK were criticized for being unworkable, and this was a

fair criticism.

The UK public response has been outstanding, with local initiatives supporting and helping the newly arrived assimilate into the community.

> ‘Ukrainians fleeing war are being forced to spend hours translating application forms for the UK’s resettlement scheme because the government has not provided a Ukrainian language option.’

> ‘Britons who have signed up for the Homes for Ukraine programme told openDemocracy that the expectation that people fleeing war would be able to complete the application was

Countries neighbouring Ukraine

Country	Data Date	Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe	Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes	Border crossings from Ukraine*	Border crossings to Ukraine**
Russian Federation***	16 June, 2022	1,230,800	Not applicable	1,230,800	Data not available
Poland	15 June, 2022	1,169,497	1,169,497	4,201,523	1,577,811
Romania	16 June, 2022	90,297	37,832	659,009	342,686
Republic of Moldova	16 June, 2022	85,497	Not applicable	502,716	132,371
Slovakia	16 June, 2022	78,300	78,113	510,014	239,599
Hungary	16 June, 2022	24,452	24,452	782,743	Data not available
Belarus	15 June, 2022	9,000	Not applicable	16,655	Data not available
Total		**2,687,851**	**1,309,894**	**7,703,857**	**2,592,467**

****The figure for individual refugees recorded in the country is an estimate as potential further movements or returns cannot be factored for the time being.*

Other European countries

Country	Data Date	Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe	Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes
Germany	13 June, 2022	780,000	647,000
Czech Republic	14 June, 2022	373,865	373,623
Italy	1 June, 2022	129,623	97,314
Spain	12 June, 2022	119,820	119,742
France	13 June, 2022	87,972	87,972
Bulgaria	14 June, 2022	78,196	114,872
Austria	14 June, 2022	71,422	71,831
United Kingdom	6 June, 2022	70,500	70,500
Netherlands	13 June, 2022	64,480	64,480
Lithuania	14 June, 2022	56,221	46,547
Switzerland	14 June, 2022	55,921	55,921
Belgium	14 June, 2022	47,477	46,852
Estonia	14 June, 2022	42,257	27,489
Portugal	14 June, 2022	42,248	42,151
Sweden	13 June, 2022	39,769	39,046
Ireland	13 June, 2022	35,675	36,911
Latvia	13 June, 2022	31,561	26,758
Denmark	9 June, 2022	30,246	28,290
Finland	9 June, 2022	26,629	26,753
Georgia	6 June, 2022	20,586	Not applicable
Norway	14 June, 2022	18,511	18,511
Greece	8 June, 2022	14,887	14,887
Croatia	14 June, 2022	14,259	14,259
Cyprus	14 June, 2022	13,000	13,049

Table 3. **Ukrainian dispersal around Europe**

"ridiculous".'

As of the 14 June 2022, according to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) report Where are refugees going? Updated figures, according to the UNHCR, as of 14 June 2022, more than 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. More than 3.2 million have applied for temporary residence: Others have moved on to other destinations, especially those who crossed into Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. These nations have open borders with other EU countries.

The UN says there are now more than 780,000 Ukrainians in Germany, 366,632 in the Czech Republic. It says 145,000 are now in Turkey. The government has refused to release any data on how many Ukrainians have applied to its Homes for Ukraine scheme. More than 150,000 people have so far registered their interest in hosting refugees.

United Kingdom Ukraine Scheme

The United Kingdom Home Office reported that as of 14 June 2022 that 155,600 Ukraine Scheme visa applications had been received. In May, the Housing Secretary, Michael Gove announced the Ukraine Family Scheme which allows immediate and extended family members of British nationals, people settled in the UK, and certain others resident here, to come to the country. A three year-visa is granted. The Ukraine Family scheme has attracted 48,700 refugees.

Ukraine Sponsorship scheme

The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme has attracted 106,900 to the United Kingdom. Applicants must be Ukrainian, or an immediate family member of a Ukrainian national, and they had to have been residing in Ukraine on 1 January 2022. In addition, they have to have a UK-based sponsor who is eligible for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The number of people that can apply for the scheme is uncapped.

Although the United Kingdom was slow with their response and the system is still seriously flawed, the range of benefits available is quite generous. The welcome from local government and local communities brings into stark contrast the difference in the way that we help those in need.

According to UN agency the International Organization for Migration, more than 7.7 million people have been internally displaced in Ukraine since Russia invaded six weeks ago, and hundreds of thousands have fled to the relative safety of western Ukraine, which has so far been spared the brunt of the violence.



Goal	Contribution made by the Global Compact on Refugees	Relevant SDG Targets	Relevant GCR paragraphs
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Refugees often live in socioeconomically deprived areas, making poverty part of daily life for them and their host communities. The Global Compact on Refugees seeks to improve socioeconomic outcomes for refugees and their hosts, including through the provision of timely, predictable, adequate and sustainable international support to: • build the resilience of refugees and their hosts, including relative to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters • expand and strengthen social protection systems; and • facilitate socioeconomic reintegration when refugees are able to return home, and ensure that housing, land and property issues are addressed	1.3 1.4 1.5 1.a	51 89 23, 64, 67 12
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	The Global Compact on Refugees provides for States and other relevant partners to "contribute resources and expertise to facilitate access by refugees and host communities to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, and promote increased self-reliance in food security and nutrition, including by women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons". Support will also be provided to build resilience of households and food and agricultural production systems in refugee-hosting areas, including by promoting purchases from local farmers, and addressing bottlenecks along the food value chain	2.1	60, 61
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	The Global Compact on Refugees seeks to mobilize "resources and expertise to expand and enhance the quality of national health systems to facilitate access by refugees and host communities". Depending on the context, this could include resources and expertise to build and equip health facilities or strengthen services, including through capacity development and training opportunities for refugees and members of host communities who are or could be engaged as health care workers	3.7 3.8 3.c	CRRF (iii) 72, 73 13

Table 4. **Global Compact on Refugees**

2.2.6 The Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact on Refugees

Global compact and SDG and Global compact

Its four key objectives are to:

Ease the pressures on host countries; Enhance refugee self-reliance; Expand access to third-country solutions; Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

2.3 Suicide

Suicides and deaths that occurred in Calais have been included as the only reason for being in Calais was to transit to the United Kingdom. The interactive map from List of deaths

Chapter III Methodology

The analysis is a mixed methods qualitative study using a discourse analysis of social media. The second element is a diary of my volunteer experiences with Care4Calais in the sumer of 2021 and over a six-month period from January 2022. I also draw on my experiences volunteering for Maidenhead for Ukraine, The Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub, and Maidenhead Food Share.



I am very grateful to Geert Antes for sharing the UNITED List of Refugee Deaths and have permission to use the data from Geert Ates of United. UNITED for Intercultural Action - European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of mi-grants and refugees

* UNITED for Intercultural Action - campaign office Fatal Policies of For tress Europe
* UNITEDAgainstRefugeeDeaths.eu
* facebook.com/UNITEDAgainstRefugeeDeaths -listofdeaths@unitedagain stracism.org

Campaign Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe

Postbus 413 • NL-1000 AK Amsterdam • Netherlands

phone +31-6-48808808

listofdeaths@unitedagainstracism.org

General campaign info: UNITEDAgainstRefugeeDeaths.eu

Twitter @UNITED__Network #AgainstRefugeeDeaths

Facebook UNITED Against Refugee Deaths

Instagram: unitedlistofdeath

Social media

The analysis of social media together with volunteer diary is analysed. Otter.ai was used for transcribing audio. The MaxQDA qualitative data software was used for analysis of

Twitter posts and document analysis. The process of coding allows comparison of data. Website data is analysed from NGOs that support refugee mental health.

Suicide statistics are analysed and compare the number of suicides of refugees from different countries.

The United Against Death spreadsheet documents nearly 50,000 deaths from 1993 to date. I have examined deaths from 01/01/2020 to date, for deaths, including suicides that occurred in both France and the United Kingdom. The accounts of death make grim reading. I have attached in Appendix II the origin, and when known how the asylum seeker died. From January 2020 to date 16 asylum seekers have died in the United



Figure 11. **Fatal policies of Fortress Europe**

Kingdom and 82 in France. From the UK. Afghan 1, Africa 1, Ivory Coast 2, Morocco 3, Sudan 2, Syria 1, and Uganda 1. Many more have died in France from drowning or suicide.

Chapter IV Discussion

4.1 Crossng the English Channel

The English Channel is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. From Dover to Calais it is 34 km. The passage in a small overloaded inflatable is incedibly dangerous. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) state that since 2014, 166 migrants have been recorded dead or missing in the English Channel. In the Mediterranean Sea a further 22,930 have been recorded dead or missing. This Sky News report attracted 768 comments. The analysis in MaxQDA reveals that in the twenty-five most liked comments twenty-four were negative. See the Appendix I for details.



Figure 12. Channel crossings: Migrants allowed to leave for the UK from Northern France. **YouTube**

Several of the residents at the Maidenhead Holiday Inn recounted to me the nature of this journey. One Iraqi told me that at least it wasn't as bad as the eleven day crossing the Mediterranean where he had not cared if he lived or died.

Novemeber 2021 was a terrible month for asylum seekers attempting to cross the channel with many tragedies. In this detailed report from United against refugee deaths details of one uknown soul are documented. There are a further fourteen documented deaths in Britain, and eighty-one in France in this two and a half year period.

Record number: 5884
Date of death: 03/11/2021
Name: Not kown
Country of origin: unknown
Found unconscious on sinking boat in English Channel, declared dead upon returning to the dock
Source: Independent / HLN / InfoMigrants
Counrty of death: Great Britain
Place of death: English Channel, off department of Pas-de-Calais
Coordinates of death: 50.989859 1.825338

News articles:

* infomigrants
* HLN
* Independent
* HLN 2

> 4 Nov 2021 - 'French maritime authorities have rescued more than 400 migrants who were trying to reach Britain from France in small boats, according to French officials. One migrant died and one went missing. During the night from Tuesday (November 2) to Wednesday, "many boats" were sinking in the Channel en route to Britain, French maritime authorities said on Wednesday (November 3). "More than 400 people were saved. Unfortunately, despite efforts, one was declared dead," the responsible French maritime prefecture wrote in an online statement. The person who perished was found unconscious and "pronounced dead upon returning to the dock," according to the statement. The rescue operation involved several ships from the French Navy, coast guard and customs authority.'

C4.2 Claiming asylum

If you want to stay in the UK as a refugee, you must apply for asylum. The Home Office web site states that 'to be eligible, you must have left your country and be unable to go back because you fear persecution.'

4.2.1 Eligibility

To stay in the UK as a refugee, you must be unable to live safely in any part of your own country because you fear persecution there. The eligibility status lists the reasons you may fear persecution. This is asylum seekers and refugees rights are defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

* your race
* your religion
* your nationality
* your political opinion
* anything else that puts you at risk because of the social, cultural, religious or political situation in your country, for example, your gender, gender identity or sexual orientation
* You must have failed to get protection from authorities in your own country.

If you're stateless, your own country is the country you usually live in. The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion estimates 4.5 million people as stateless in August 2020. The UNHCR estimate that only half of the world's countries report statelessness. The Rohingya from Myanmar are still the largest stateless population. The table below shows the countries with the highest reported stateless populations.

Ten countries with highest reported stateless populations reported in UNHCR Global Trends data:

End of 2019	End of 2018	End of 2017	End of 2016
Côte d'Ivoire (955,399)	Bangladesh* (906,635)	Bangladesh* (932,204)	Myanmar (925,939)
Bangladesh* (854,704)	Côte d'Ivoire (692,000)	Côte d'Ivoire (692,000)	Côte d'Ivoire (694,000)
Myanmar* (600,000)	Myanmar* (620,939)	Myanmar* (621,763)	Thailand (487,741)
Thailand* (475,009)	Thailand (478,843)	Thailand (486,440)	Latvia (242,736)
Latvia (216,851)	Latvia (224,844)	Latvia (233,571)	Syria (160,000)
Syria (160,000)	Syria (160,000)	Syria (160,000)	Kuwait (93,000)
Malaysia* (108,332)	Kuwait (92,000)	Kuwait (92,000)	Russia (90,771)
Uzbekistan (97,346)	Uzbekistan (79,942)	Uzbekistan (85,555)	Uzbekistan (86,524)
Kuwait (92,020)	Estonia (77,877)	Russia (82,148)	Estonia (82,585)
Estonia (75,599)	Russia (75,679)	Estonia (80,314)	Saudi Arabia (70,000)

* Figures includes stateless Rohingya displaced from/in Myanmar.

Table 5. UNHCR **Highest reported stateless population**

4.2.2 Asylum screening

After an initial screening interview with an immigration officer to register your asylum claim and tell them your situation. This could be at the UK border or in the UK if you become eligible for asylum. A case in point would be a Russian asylum seeker, a merchant seaman whowas here in the UK to join a ship but feared persecution for his anti-war sentiment. Once screened, you are eligible for asylum. There will be biometric

procedures undertaken including photographs and fingerprints.

4.2.3 Immigration Removal Centres

At this stage, you will either go to initial accommodation or in some cases to one of the immigration removal centres.

* Brook House, Gatwick
* Colnbrook, Middlesex
* Derwentside, County Durham
* Dungavel House, South Lanarkshire
* Harmondsworth, Middlesex
* Larne House short term holding facility, Antrim
* Manchester short term holding facility
* Tinsley House, Gatwick
* Yarl's Wood, Bedfordshire

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

The podcast on Twitter @ByDonkeys was widely shared in the run-up to the ECHR hearing. The ECHR granted a request for an "urgent interim measure to the UK government". Interim measures are only granted when there is an, 'imminent risk of irreparable harm.'



Figure 13. Brook House Immigration Removal Centre podcast

Summary Keywords

Syria, Rwanda, refugee, deported, prison, treated, family, plane, stand, Jordanian border, Russia, Jordanians, catastrophe, imprisoned, Britain, connections

‘First I lost my mother, then I lost my brother. He was injured, and we took him to the Jordanian border. He lost all his blood standing on the border because the Jordanians refused to let him in. I was in prison twice. There are no words I can use to describe the experience of being imprisoned. I lost more than 10 people from my family. They did nothing wrong, but they still died. I wanted to stay in Syria. I never wanted to be called the refugee. But what could I do? In the end, I had to leave.

I stayed there as long as I could, hoping that things would change, then Russia came with their Air Force. Russia is responsible for the mass destruction in Syria. Russia used weapons that nobody could even imagine rockets and airborne weapons, the planes used to come over neighbourhoods and leave them completely destroyed. Nothing is left. There were massacres. I feel happy for Ukrainians because they felt someone to stand with them to help them. But in Syria, everybody watched us die.

As a refugee. There shouldn’t be a difference based on nationality. We are all humans. And if nobody wants to be treated as one, we feel happy for any refugee. No matter where they come from. They are being treated well. To reach Britain, I crossed the Libyan sea. I saw death 100 times during that journey. And then I had to cross another see between France and Britain. Imagine the feeling of finally reaching your destination, coming to a place where they are members of your family. But instead of seeing them, you find yourself in prison.

The fear of deportation we are living through now is worse than the fear we lived through when we were detained by the Assad regime in Syria prison. The guards here are treating us well. I haven’t seen anything bad from them. But they tell us that they don’t have anything to do with what’s happening. The idea of being taken to another country that’s not safe, where you have no connections. This is going to destroy you, and it’s going to destroy your family. We don’t have anyone there in Rwanda. We don’t have any connections there. If you fall sick there, nobody will take care of you. If you feel upset or depressed, there is nobody to talk to, no one to understand you. Get beyond description, the guys I’m here with don’t look human any more. Nobody is sleeping. It’s not just me. No one is sleeping here. Nobody can eat. Nobody can drink. It’s a tragedy. We all agree. If they tried to deport us to Rwanda, we are going to kill ourselves either here before they take us on the plane because going there is complete destruction not just for us, but for our children. Now, it’s better for us to die here.

I haven't been able to tell my family that I'm about to be deported. They don't know. I can't tell them the news. They have been waiting, and then I tell them that I'm going to be deported. It's a catastrophe. People ask why we don't bring our women and children on this journey. It's because it's a very dangerous route, and it's full of debt to reach IUI so deaths hundreds of times we slept in the streets. We got sick, we got called. Our hope was that by reaching here we would find the country that would take us in, to give us a chance to live.

I want to say to the British people that I'm just a human who has escaped the war. I escaped destruction, I escaped detention just to reach here. Please accept me as part of this society. We have great hope and people that they will listen to us and stand with us and our cause and help us to be released because the British people are kind people. We only hear good things about them.'

This audio was widely shared on other social media too. The power of social media for garnering support for refugees is very powerful. However, the opposite is also true for the racists and bigots. There is a stark contrast in the United Kingdom between the caring and sharing members of the population and those that are racist.



Figure 14. **Justin Welby audio from ITN News**

4.2.4 Archbishop Justin Welby

ITV News

Archbishop Justin Welby created controversey by criticising the government openly about their proposed Rwanda policy.

Summary Keywords
Rwanda, divisive politics, archbishop, high seas, voters, subcontracting, Patel, UK, responsibility, message, country, plans, opponents, criticism, comments, shy, Justin Welby, attack, place, crossings

Speakers
John Redwood Conservative MP, Archbishop Justin Welby, Journalist

Journalist 00:00
Message for ministers. He's (Archbishop Justin Welby) is not known to shy away from political comments, but today launched a direct attack from the pulpit over plans to send some refugees from the UK to Rwanda. He said the principle was ungodly.

Archbishop Justin Welby 00:14
subcontracting out our responsibilities, even to a country that seeks to do well, like Rwanda, is the opposite of the nature of God who himself took responsibility for our failures.

Journalist 00:32
His comments add to the criticism of the Home Secretary, who announced the 120 million pound deal with Rwanda on Thursday. People arriving into the UK on small boats like this one seen crossing the Channel yesterday could be sent 4000 miles (6,437.38 kilometres) for processing. Some conservatives have attacked the plans. Others have criticised the archbishop,

John Redwood, Conservative MP 00:56
I think that it is a pity there's an Easter message on the one time when the archbishop has the attention that many more people in the country is used for a bit of domestic divisive politics rather than for a much greater message. The intent is to stop this evil trade which puts people in danger of death on the high seas.

Journalist 01:15
But Priti Patel's opponents don't agree this policy will crack down on people smugglers or help deter people from making crossings in the first place. And even among voters in her constituency. There's some concern.

The Borders Bill and the ongoing division with Parliament about the problems faced by the Home Office is causing deep division within the UK.

4.3 Mental Health

In the journal, Public health aspects of mental health among migrants and refugees: a review of the evidence on mental health care for refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants in the WHO European Region, Zsuzsanna Jakab WHO Regional Director for Europe writes,

> 'It is often been noted that the health of refugees and migrants is generally similar to that of their host populations. However, the physical and mental effects of leaving their home countries and the long arduous journeys they

> undertake increase their overall health risks and may worsen their health conditions.'

In addition, insecurity caused by waiting whilst the threat of deportation is always in asylum seeker's thoughts. Precarity is their everyday existence, even if granted leave to stay in the United Kingdom the final destination for them remains unknown. Many aspects of life are transient. Children attending school, making new friends, integrating in the local community are all temporary.

On the 23rd May 2022 UNHCR posted about the staggering rise in displaced populations to 100 million.

> 'According to new data from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide rose towards 90 million by the end of 2021, propelled by new waves of violence or protracted conflict in countries including Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Nigeria, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, the war in Ukraine has displaced 8 million within the country this year, and more than 6 million refugee movements from Ukraine have been registered.'

This is unprecedented and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi has said, 'this must be a wake-up call'. Many of the recently arrived refugees from Ukraine will be traumatized.

4.3.1 Mental health core stressors

Davis, S. et al. (2021) research indicates that refugees suffer from four core stressors. The first is widely known and is expected, and that is trauma. The second is acculturative stress felt by adapting to our culture. The third stressor is resettlement and the difficulties associated with that. The fourth is isolation. Integration into the community may help address these stressors. However, poverty level subsistence is a barrier to integration for many.

4.3.2 Care4Calais activities

Integration remains a challenge for asylum seekers. A number of activities are provided for the well-being of the Holiday Inn, Maidenhead residents. There is a nearby golf course, and here I led a group walk on a 10 km walk to a local park. Only the Central American asylum seekers signed up for this outing. A nearby community arts centre, Nordern Farm, offer free places for asylum seekers at cinema films and theatre plays.

They also provide language lessons at the Holiday Inn.

We have provided many of the asylum seekers with bicycles that have been donated especially for our residents. We are running a trial bike share scheme where the Brett Foundation have funded five bicycles, and if the scheme is successful, will supply another fifteen. Maidenhead Cycle Hub will provide the bicycles and train five asylum seekers in the skills necessary to maintain bicycles.



seekers to train on their astro turf pitch

Maidenhead has a population of 70,000 residents, now, in June 2022 we have 300 residents in the Holiday Inn and about the same number of Ukrainians. The warm welcome for Ukrainians is welcomed, but it really highlights the difference in treatment for asylum seekers.

I have met very few people that are not supportive of the asylum seekers, but there is a genuine fear of confrontation with the right-wing element in our society. In the background though there is support from all the different churches.

Integration remains a challenge for asylum seekers, as most have no money. Activities undertaken must be free. Activities like Park Run are available in most towns can cities

in the United Kingdom. Maidenhead Athletic Club have been very welcoming to the asylum seekers too with generation donations of running shoes.

Football is one of the most popular activities at The Holiday Inn, Maidenhead and the asylum seekers have a very enthusiastic football team that train in a nearby park. A local charity donated goal posts when the local football club would not allow the asylum seekers to use their goals. Maidenhead Town Football Club allow them to use their astroturf training ground.

4.4 Volunteering on the Ukraine border

Putin's invasion of Ukraine began on the 24th February 2022. I joined a solidarity march in London and volunteered for Maidenhead for Ukraine. We delivered humanitarian aid to Lviv in an old transit van. On the way back I met Richard who was transporting a stroke victim to England.

Richard featured on a BBC podcast, Ukrainecast. Richard, a retired university Vice Chancellor recommended I contacted Nick Hills who had started the Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub based in Jaroslav close to the Ukrainian border. The Ukrainian Humanitarian Hub are a crowd funded NGO helping to deliver aid in Ukraine and transport people out. I contacted Nick and and volunteered to drive a Mitsubishi Animal pick-up truck with humanitarian aid and to leave it for the Ukrainian humanitarian aid effort. I stayed two weeks to help with transport, logistics and assist with visa applications. Small NGOs are nimble and adapt quickly. I met some very interesting people with big hearts.

4.5 Sustainable Development Goals

In the United Kingdom, the emphasis on immigration is on economic need and not humanitarian need. This neoliberal policy strengthens the divide between rich and poor. It feeds from the precarisation of life. It sows division and thrives on disharmony.

There has to be a political will from world leaders for change. The first SDG is

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

In the United Kingdom, asylum seekers are living below poverty levels. One of the reasons is to make to reduce the so-called pull factor.



Figure 16. Asylum seekers on a hike in Maidenhead



Figure 17. A happy family receiving a donated bicycle. Maidenhead Holiday Inn



Figure 18. Solidarity with Ukraine video

Chapter V Conclusion

The unprecedented events unfolding in 2022 have led to an increase in precarisation of life for many people in the world. The worst pandemic for more than one hundred years have emphasised the divide between rich and poor. The unequal vaccination roll out, leaving the poorest and most vulnerable with no protection.

Covid-19 has impacted upon the mental health of many and contributed to a worldwide mental health problem, with asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented refugees being particularly vulnerable. The mental health problems have been psychological and physiological. Psychological from the enforced isolation and associated anxiety experienced by many. The ravages the disease inflicted physiologically varied from asymptomatic to death. Long Covid is reported as causing mental health problems in some.

Many refugees have PTSD from their experiences that led them to flee, and from their journey. The hostile environment of the United Kingdom is brought into sharp focus with the two tier system. Civic welcomes for Ukrainians while those, as the UNHCR would like to call, those 'forced to flee' have no civic welcome in case it upsets the right wing.

The inefficiencies of the Home Office as they battle with the effects of Brexit, Windrush Compensation, EU settlement, and asylum seekers has led to lengthy delays to processing asylum seeker's claim to asylum. Observers are fiercely critical of Priti Patel, who has responsibility for the Home Office.

The neoliberal outsourcing to the lowest bidder compromises health provision and leaves a gap for NGOs to fill in the provision of care and support for the most vulnerable in society. Mental health provision is limited, and asylum seekers are seen by professionals as the overstretched system allows.

Russia's continuation of the war started in 2014 and followed by a full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022 surprised most of the world. Their brutal tactics in Syria are being replicated in Ukraine. Wars force people to flee, and so too does climate change. These are global challenges and necessitate a global response.

The European Union (EU) response has been lamentable. The externalization of border control has resulted in many deaths on far away shores. Out of sight, but not out of mind. The prosecution of rescue ship crews and funding of the so-called Libyan coast

has created appalling conditions for the detained and led to exploitation, human trafficking and slavery.
Amnesty International are one of the observers citing a report of the complicity of the EU in supporting the Libyan coast guard pushbacks.

> 'This horrifying report sheds new light on the suffering of people intercepted at sea and returned to Libya, where they are immediately funnelled into arbitrary detention and systematically subjected to torture, sexual violence, forced labour and other exploitation with total impunity. Meanwhile, Libyan authorities have rewarded those reasonably suspected of committing such violations with positions of power and higher ranks, meaning that we risk seeing the same horrors reproduced again and again.'

Safe migration routes would deter criminals. The argument that border controls prevent trafficking does not hold. Those forced to flee are left vulnerable in the irregular routes that they choose.

The Rwanda policy has not deterred asylum seekers from taking the dangerous crossing across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. For many, this is just another dangerous step in their perilous journey. Statistics in the UK show that most asylum seekers are granted refugee status. The Refugee Council note that 75% of initial decisions made in the year to March 2022 were granted refugee status or humanitarian protection.

The Rwanda policy that has been on hold, as the European Court of Human Rights deemed the deportations illegal has not been forgotten by Priti Patel and Boris Johnson and, they strive to find a way of overcoming the defeat. The conservative government under Boris Johnson has shown a contemptuous disregard for international law.

The externalization of border controls remains a problem and while the United Kingdom has justifiably received international condemnation, the European Union and the externalization of border control is equally controversial. Frontex's collaboration with the so-called Libyan coast guard being a case in point. The former Head, Policy Development & Evaluation, at UNHCR, Crisp, J. (2022) has observed that 'While it is no longer a member of the EU, the institutionalization of inhumanity in European refugee policy has been particularly evident in the case of the UK.'

For the asylum seeker in the United Kingdom, the added uncertainty of possibly being deported to Rwanda is another mental health burden. The indeterminate stay in the hotel and unknown final destination places life on hold for many asylum seekers. Integration into society becomes harder in temporary accommodation. When granted asylum, the next step that the refugee takes is to avoid destitution and to find work. Life remains precarious.

Home Office records show that Eighty-two asylum seekers have died since January 2020. Seventeen of the deaths were suicide or suspected suicide. Half of that number according to Purkiss J. Et al. (2022) of Liberty Investigates had been identified as having safeguarding issues.

Stuart McDonald, MP and SNP Shadow Home Affairs Spokesperson, has requested the publicaiton of the numbers of deaths of asylum seekers.

> "What is also deeply troubling is that the huge increase in deaths coincides with significantly increased use of institutional accommodation instead of community housing. Yet this is precisely the model that the UK government is seeking to move towards, alongside its appalling Rwanda plans."

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of deaths in the last two years. Covid-19 may have contributed to the increase in mental health problems experienced by asylum seekers. It seems highly likely that an uncertain future and an indeterminate stay in accommodation with enforced poverty is a significant contributing factor.

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Appendix I

Sky News – Channel crossings: Migrants allowed to leave for the UK from Northern France

MaxQDA analysis of: 1. the most liked comments. 2. Negative comments. 3. Neutral comments. 4. Positive comments.

The most popular comment 'This is being allowed by our governments… think about that.' with 233 likes and 15 replies

1. Likes

* 1. "A British Armada is what's needed."
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|12 - 2|12; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 2. "The crossing can't be that dangerous thousands have made it."
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|32 - 2|32; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:52; Weight score: 0]
* 3. "They are taking as many risks as a channel swimmer with 11 support boats." [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|41 - 2|41; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 4. "What to do all this people most of them run to western country. Not many go to muslim country"
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|42 - 2|42; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]
* 5. "And the French want us to give them fishing licences. Give us our money back"
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|46 - 2|46; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:55; Weight score: 0]
* 6. "They can't wait for their pizza on arrival ."
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|64 - 2|64; Created by: ollieharding;

29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 7.“THE PISS TAKE IS OVER BORIS .” [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|69 - 2|69; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]
* 8. “I’m sure there is a truck driver in that boat.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|82 - 2|82; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:55; Weight score: 0]
* 9. “This is economic migration. Remember they’re leaving France not Africa or the middle east .”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|85 - 2|85; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 10. “The French police and authorities watch the illegal immigrants and boats launch and actively help them and we the British taxpayers donate millions for the privilege, Patel the chocolate teapot utterly pointless and box ticked.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|110 - 2|110; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]
* 11. “look at the help they got...priti patels private taxi company”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|137 - 2|137; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:55; Weight score: 0]
* 12. “I don’t know what’s more shocking. The footage or Sky doing some reporting.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|147 - 2|147; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:52; Weight score: 0]
* 13. “Can’t blame them, they are magnificently treated on arrival what’s not to like.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|166 - 2|166; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:55; Weight score: 0]
* 14. “cant think what to say about this without it being deleted”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|181 - 2|181; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]

* 15. “I’m surprised Sky hasn’t blamed Brexit.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|184 - 2|184; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]
* 16. “Why are Sky only just covering this now? Farage was out reporting on this months ago, I’m not saying I like the guy, but, he wasn’t wrong and he was being labeled all sorts of things for doing so...some even saying it was fake news.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|196 - 2|196; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 17. “This is being allowed by our governments… think about that.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|206 - 2|206; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:51; Weight score: 0]
* 18. “”Taking back control” - UK style - Come on in folks!”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|228 - 2|228; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 19. “What a weak nation we have become”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|239 - 2|239; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]
* 20. “Send all of them to politicians homes & rich areas. Watch how fast they do something about it then.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|266 - 2|266; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]
* 21. “So this is why I struggle to get a hotel room when I am working away from home during the week, another 1000 people to put up rent free & fleeing war torn France.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|273 - 2|273; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:52; Weight score: 0]
* 22.“Aren’t we surposed to be in a pandemic but happy to let thousands in”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|283 - 2|283; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]

* 23. “Everyone who welcomes this should be made to take them in. Enjoy sleeping with one eye open.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|300 - 2|300; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:54; Weight score: 0]
* 24. “The UK that my parents were born into and that I was born into is gone.
* I’ve seen the slow destruction of my own country for the last few decades. My parents and grandparents gave so much over two world wars. All their lives, they worked hard, raised us well and paid taxes.
* Now it’s our generations turn to endure hardship. it seems like somebody want’s the older Brits gone and will replace us with people from poorer countries.
* One thing is for certain, the comfortable lifestyle we all got used to from the seventies onward is over. I don’t think people will have much left by the time the Great Reset is over.
* Please don’t encourage your sons and daughters fight for this country in the event of a war. They’ve betrayed us all.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|305 - 2|305; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:52; Weight score: 0]
* 25. “On remembrance Sunday I watched our veterans march to the monument, and I felt so sorry for them. All their fighting for this pathetic, spinelss country we have become.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|540 - 2|540; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:53; Weight score: 0]3.

2. Neutral comments

* 1. “The crossing can’t be that dangerous thousands have made it.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|32 - 2|32; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:47; Weight score: 0]
* 2. “Is this real? Or set up by Sky News?”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|57 - 2|57; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:48; Weight score: 0]
* 3. “What happened in France?
* Why everyone want to leave?”

* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|129 - 2|129; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:49; Weight score: 0]
* 4. “Can’t blame them, they are magnificently treated on arrival what’s not to like.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|166 - 2|166; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:49; Weight score: 0]
* 5. “What polices can do ? They are not breaking the France’s law, instead they are breaking the uk’s law”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|173 - 2|173; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:48; Weight score: 0]
* 6. “I’m surprised Sky hasn’t blamed Brexit.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|184 - 2|184; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:46; Weight score: 0]
* 7. “This is being allowed by our governments… think about that.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|206 - 2|206; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:46; Weight score: 0]4.

3. Negative

* 1. “Iraqi Kurds, but Saddam Hussain is gone now.... Ffs what’s going on?”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|2 - 2|2; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:47; Weight score: 0]
* 2. “A British Armada is what’s needed.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|12 - 2|12; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:48; Weight score: 0]
* 3. “And the French want us to give them fishing licences. Give us our money back”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|46 - 2|46; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:46; Weight score: 0]
* 4. “They can’t wait for their pizza on arrival .”

* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|64 - 2|64; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:49; Weight score: 0]
* 5. “THE PISS TAKE IS OVER BORIS .”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|69 - 2|69; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:48; Weight score: 0]
* 6. “Send them back”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|76 - 2|76; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:49; Weight score: 0]
* 7. “This is economic migration. Remember they’re leaving France not Africa or the middle east .”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|85 - 2|85; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:47; Weight score: 0]
* 8. “The Waterboys classic Old Egland is dying.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|99 - 2|99; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:48; Weight score: 0]
* 9. “The French police and authorities watch the illegal immigrants and boats launch and actively help them and we the British taxpayers donate millions for the privilege, Patel the chocolate teapot utterly pointless and box ticked.”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|110 - 2|110; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:45; Weight score: 0]
* 10. “What a weak nation we have become”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|239 - 2|239; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:47; Weight score: 0]
* 11. “so we pay the french police to stand a watch them for over 10 mins and do nothing? So what is their excuse? They say “we cant patrol all the coastline” But here they stand watching so again WHAT IS THEIR EXCUSE???”
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|254 - 2|254; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:49; Weight score: 0]
* 12. “So this is why I struggle to get a hotel room when I am working away from

home during the week, another 1000 people to put up rent free & fleeing war torn France."

* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|273 - 2|273; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:47; Weight score: 0]
* 13. "The UK that my parents were born into and that I was born into is gone.
* I've seen the slow destruction of my own country for the last few decades. My parents and grandparents gave so much over two world wars. All their lives, they worked hard, raised us well and paid taxes.
* Now it's our generations turn to endure hardship. it seems like somebody want's the older Brits gone and will replace us with people from poorer countries.
* One thing is for certain, the comfortable lifestyle we all got used to from the seventies onward is over. I don't think people will have much left by the time the Great Reset is over.
* Please don't encourage your sons and daughters fight for this country in the event of a war. They've betrayed us all."
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|305 - 2|305; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:46; Weight score: 0]
* 14. "On remembrance Sunday I watched our veterans march to the monument, and I felt so sorry for them. All their fighting for this pathetic, spinelss country we have become."
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|540 - 2|540; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:48; Weight score: 0]5.
*

4. Positive

* 1. "Host them, educate them, fly them home . Be generous and decent towards these human beings."
* [YouTube: Channel crossings..m Northern France\Channel crossings..orthern France - Comments 1 - 657; Position: 2|20 - 2|20; Created by: ollieharding; 29/06/2022 10:47; Weight score: 0]

Appendix II

The country from which the asylum seeker had fled. All data from United Against Refugee death with permission.

82 Deaths in France

Africa – presumed suicide, hit by freight train in Calais (FR), was lying on the track in a sleeping bag

Sudan – suicide, found hanging in trailer in Transmarck near Calais (FR); was rejected asylum in 3 countries

Eritrea – electrocuted, jumped on train wagon headed for Calais at station of Valenciennes (FR); 3 survived

Sudan – hit by vehicle while walking along A16 motorway near to Nouvelle-Eglise (FR) on way to Britain

Sudan – hit by train in Marck (FR) near Calais, right next to the living site he was staying in; 1 survived

Libya – found dead after party with drugs & alcohol in hotel in Givors (FR) where child welfare care placed him

Sudan – stowaway, died being crushed by truck he tried to climb on in Marck near Calais (FR) on way to Britain

Sudan – drowned, fell overboard when tide returned boat to beach of Berck (FR) on way to GB; 30 rescued

Morocco – found dead at Barrage del Freney near Modane (FR) after trying to cross the Alps on foot from Italy

Sudan – stowaway, died in hospital in Calais after he fell from truck in Marck near Calais (FR) on way to Britain

unknown – presumed drowned, body found on beach in Les Hemmes de Marck near Calais (France)

unknown – drowned, overloaded boat capsized in rough sea off Saziley, southeast of Mayotte (FR); 16 rescued

unknown – presumed drowned, dead body found in nets of fishing boat in The Channel off the coast of Calais (FR)

unknown – died of unknown cause, body discovered floating near the shore of Sangatte (FR)

Iraq –Kurd, drowned, inflatable boat deflated off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR); arrival supposed to be surprise for her fiancé in GB

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; she traveled with 3 children all died

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; she traveled with mother & 2 siblings

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; he traveled with mother & 2 siblings

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; she traveled with mother & 2 siblings

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; wanted to meet brother living in GB

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; wanted to join his sister living in GB

Afghanistan – drowned, boat sank off coast Calais(FR) on way to GB; Undocumented in GB, had returned to family

Iran –Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais(FR) on way to GB; body is returned to his family in Iran

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; left to earn money for care ill sister

Afghanistan – drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; on way to join his family in England

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; traveled with cousin who also died

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; traveled with cousin who also died

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, inflatable boat deflated off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB

Afghanistan – drowned, boat sank off coast Calais (FR) on way to GB; undocumented in GB since 2019, visited family

Afghanistan –drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; married in Pakistan and returned to work

Egypt –drowned, inflatable boat deflated off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB

Somalia – drowned, inflatable boat deflated off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB

Ethiopia – drowned, inflatable boat deflated off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB;

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; dreamed of a

better life in the UK

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; all his hopes were to get to the UK

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; set off to find a new life in the UK

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; set off to find a new life in the UK

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; set off to find a new life in the UK

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; set off to find a new life in the UK

Iraq – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; set off to find a new life in the UK

Vietnam – Kurd, drowned, boat sank off coast of Calais (FR) on way to GB; set off to find a new life in the UK

Eritrea – hit by train while walking along the tracks near Calais in Northern France; 3 hospitalised

Sudan – body found in small boat filled with water that washed up on a beach near Calais (FR); 2 survived

unknown – died of electrocution on top of a train from Italy to France, body found at station of Menton (FR)

unknown – drowned, vessel capsized off coastal town of Dunkirk (FR) on way to Britain; 15 brought to hospital

Sudan – died of cardiac arrest in hospital in Calais (FR), was hit by truck in Transmarck area on way to Britain

unknown – hit by train while sleeping or lying on the tracks in Ciboure (FR) near Spanish border; 1 survived

Algeria – hit by train while sleeping or lying on the tracks in Ciboure (FR) near Spanish border; 1 survived

Algeria – hit by train while sleeping or lying on the tracks in Ciboure (FR) near Spanish border; 1 survived

Sudan – stowaway, fell while trying to climb into a high-speed trailer in Marck near Calais (FR) on way to Britain

Eritrea – died of cardio-respiratory arrest in hospital in Calais (FR); found unconscious on boat in The Channel

Eritrea – presumed drowned, his girlfriend saw him jump in the Channel when boat sank off coast of Dunkirk(FE)

Sudan– missing, fell near Val-des-Prés (FR) in the Alps in fear of guards after crossing Italian-French border

unknown – hit by train while walking in railway tunnel of Banyulson near Cerbère at Spanish-French border

Ivory Coast – drowned while trying to swim to Hendaye in France, body found in border river Bidasoa in Irun (ES)

East Africa – drowned, boat sank in rough sea on way from Anjouan to Mayotte (FR); 5 missing, 16 rescued

unknown – stowaway, found dead on truck on parking lot in Rouvignies (FR) near Bel-

gian border; 2 survived

unknown – drowned, boat capsized at port of Calais (FR) on way to England; 3 rescued & transported to hospital

Iran – Kurd, stowaway found dead in top of lorry parked in Prouvy (FR), was on way to Great Britain; 1 surv.

Sudan – died of unknown cause, body found floating in Calais harbor (FR); probably staid 3 weeks in the water

Afghanistan – hit by car while walking on road at night in Auchy-au-Bois near Calais (France); 1 survived but injured

unknown – drowned, body in advanced state of decay found floating in port of Calais (FR)

Sudan – stowaway, hit by car trying to escape police tear gas aimed at him from back of a lorry in North France

unknown – drowned, missing after boat capsized and sank in English Channel on way to Great Britain; 14 rescued

Iran – Kurd, drowned, father, mother & 3 children died when boat capsized in English Channel; 14 rescued

Iran – Kurd, drowned, father, mother & 3 children died when boat capsized in English Channel; 14 rescued

Iran – Kurd, drowned, father, mother & 3 children died when boat capsized in English Channel; 14 rescued

Iran – Kurd, drowned, father, mother & 3 children died when boat capsized in English Channel; 14 rescued

Iran – Kurd, drowned, father, mother & 3 children died when boat capsized in English Channel; 14 rescued

unknown – died after being pulled from water when boat sank in Channel on way to Great Britain; 15 rescued

unknown – died of heart failure in camp at Grand-Synthe (France), exact circumstances are not known

Iran – drowned, body wearing life jacket washed up on beach of Sangatte (FR), attempting to reach Britain

Iraq – Kurd, died after premature birth, police harassed her pregnant mother on beach near Calais (FR)

Sudan – drowned, inflatable dinghy with shovels for oars capsized on way from Calais (FR) to England; 1 resc

Sudan –drowned, found in Saint-Denis canal near Paris, not far from camp where he lived with 100s others

unknown – body, in advanced state of decay, found floating in the waters close to the harbour of Calais (France)

Iraq – hit by train near Metz (FR), trying to reach UK; had been unaccompanied minor in Dunkirk camps (FR)

Morocco – suicide, hung himself at Bayonne prison (FR) after escaping from detention centre at FR/ES border

Somalia – found dead inside his tent in clandestine migrant camp in Paris (FR); he was seeking asylum

Sudan – found dead in lake of former “Jungle” of Calais (FR), was disabled after stowa-

way accident 10 y before

Senegal – stowaway, found dead at Paris Roissy airport (FR) in landing gear of plane from Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

16 Deaths in United Kingdom

unknown – found unconscious on sinking boat in English Channel, declared dead upon returning to the dock

Afghanistan – fell from 9th floor window of asylum hotel in Sheffield (GB), Home Office was aware of safety concerns

Afghanistan – suicide in fear of deportation, found dead in the garden of his accommodation in Birmingham (GB)

Africa – badly decomposed bodies found on boat near Grand Turk Island (GB), on way from Mauritania to ES

Eritrea – suicide at mental health facility in Coventry (GB); fled Eritrea age 14 to avoid military service

Ivory Coast – found dead in his room in London asylum hotel (GB) after having requested ambulance multiple times

Ivory Coast – found dead in his room in Home Office accommodation in a north London (GB) hotel; had back pain

Malawi – presumed suicide, fell from building in Glasgow (GB), after refusal to renew application to stay in UK

Morocco – presumed drowned, missing since boat on way from Nador (MA) to Spain sank near Gibraltar (GB)

Morocco – presumed drowned, missing since boat on way from Nador (MA) to Spain sank near Gibraltar (GB)

Morocco – presumed drowned, missing since boat on way from Nador (MA) to Spain sank near Gibraltar (GB)

Sudan – neglected to death inside asylum accommodation in hotel near Heathrow airport London (GB)

Sudan – shot by officers during knife attack in Glasgow (GB); contacted Home Office 70x before he attacked

Syria – presumed suicide, in hotel used to house asylum seekers in Glasgow (GB), was refused mental help

Uganda – found dead in flat in Glasgow (GB) beside her starving baby, due to inhumane UK asylum system