

Migration and the media

June 2014



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Photo by Mulugetta Fikadu



Thank you

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Welcome to this guide on Migration and the Media

The debate on migration is intensifying, and is likely to remain a hot topic. Migration is a complex issue, the range of views is huge and strong positions are often taken – not surprising considering that discussion can involve ethnicity, religion, nationality, jobs, sex, food, personal habits, education, taxes, housing, dress, language, health and much, much more. How the print, broadcast and electronic media report these discussions is crucial. Their reports can echo what is being said or scrutinise it; influence the debate by excluding particular facts and comments or illuminate it by digging out fresh information; muddle it by inaccurately reporting statistics and failing to understand terms or clarify it by balanced presentation; inflame debate by using emotive language or contribute to reasoned discussion by identifying exaggerations, stereotypes, prejudice and generalisations and by presenting all sides of the issue; and put people at the centre of debate by giving a voice to migrants themselves.

This Migrant Voice guide does not set out to exhaustively cover all the issues: its aim is to draw attention to some of the most common pitfalls. We hope it will be useful for lecturers and students of journalism and communications.

Contents

2	Thank You	25	Know the facts
3	Introduction	28	A look at the national press
5	About Migrant Voice	30	Working practices
6	What do you know? – Pub Quiz	30	For discussion
9	Reporting and responsibility	31	Codes, guidelines and principles
10	It's a two-way affair	32	Migrant Voice
11	The numbers game	33	Glossary
12	Define your terms	36	Contacts
16	The missing voice	40	Reading
19	Who speaks for migrants?	43	Bibliography
21	Migrant Voice's migrant voices	46	Contact us

About Migrant Voice

Migrant Voice is a migrant-led charity working to strengthen the voice, participation and representation of migrants in the media to encourage more balanced, well-informed and inclusive media coverage and public debate on migration.

Migrant Voice was established in 2010 in the UK and its network in Birmingham, Glasgow and London aims to increase migrants' skills and confidence in developing and conveying key messages about their experiences and the realities of their lives. We believe that it is essential for migrants to speak directly in debates about migration in order to bring balance to the coverage of their issues. We work with all migrant communities and with the host community in order to ensure that a more diverse range of voices is heard in the debate.

Key areas of our work are to:

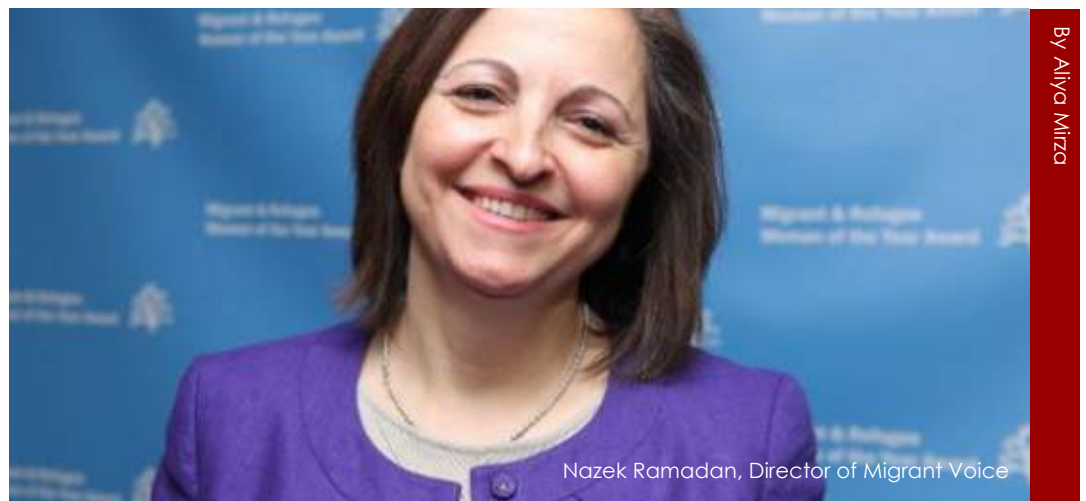
- Promote the voices of migrants in the media, in public and at a policy making level
- Provide media, communication, and engagement training for migrants
- Produce innovative media work
- Facilitate dialogue between migrants, the media and the public

It is essential for migrants to speak directly in debates about migration in order to bring balance to the coverage of their issue



The Face2Face project

An example of Migrant Voice's work is our engagement in the European Commission-funded Face2Face project, which aims to break down negative stereotypes and improve public perception of migrants in the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Italy and Spain by creating a strong and long-lasting basis for interaction and dialogue between migrants and members of receiving communities. Our activities in London include media training for migrants in photography, video-making, social media and interviewing skills; producing a documentary film on the experience of migration from the perspective both of migrants and those born in the UK; and holding public events to bring migrants and the host community together.



By Aliya Mirza



What do you know about
migration?

Pub Quiz

Does the public know the facts about migration?
Do you?

Test yourself with our pub quiz, or try it out on
others.



By Federico Gallo

Q1. How many migrants are there in the world today, excluding internal migrants?

Q2. What percentage of the UK population are migrants?

Q3. What are the top five countries of origin for migrants to the UK?

Q4. How did the number of international students change in 2013?

Q5. What percentage of migrants claim benefits in the UK?

Q6. Which European country receives the highest number of asylum applications?

Q7. What percentage of the UK population are Muslims?

Q8. Which country do most Romanians who emigrate head for?

Q9. What proportion of EU citizens live and work in a different country from their own?

Q10. What proportion of migrants in the UK cannot speak English at all?

Q11. What are the four main reasons for migration to the UK?

Q12. What percentage of total immigration into the UK is made up of asylum seekers' applications?

Q13. At what age do migrants usually come to the UK?

Answers

- A1.** In 2010, some 214 million people – 3% of the world's population – lived outside their country of origin (Source: UNFPA).
- A2.** 13%, according to the 2011 Census.
- A3.** China, India, Poland, USA, Australia (National Statistics 2013).
- A4.** It has dropped 46% (National Statistics 2013).
- A5.** 7% of working age non-UK nationals were claiming a DWP working age benefit compared to 17% of working age UK nationals in 2011 ([GOV.UK](#)).
- A6.** Germany, with 64,500, followed by France (54,900), Sweden (43,900), and UK, with 27,400 (UNHCR 2012 Asylum Trends Report).
- A7.** 4.8% based on 2011 figures. Polls demonstrated that the perceived percentage is 24%. (Ipsos MORI poll for the Royal Statistical Society and King's College London 2013, and 'The percentage of the population with no religion has increased in England and Wales' ONS 2013).
- A8.** Italy. 96 per cent of Romanian migrants to EU countries choose destinations other than the UK (Channel 4 News, [Peoplemov.in](#)).
- A9.** 1.5% (*The PIONEUR project*).
- A10.** 0.3% cannot speak English at all, 1.6% speak very little English (National Statistics, 2013).
- A11.** The four main reasons for migration to the UK are work, study, family and asylum. In 2011, 41% of migrants came for study purposes and 32% for work. Following policy changes in 2013 and a reduction in the number of international students opting for courses in the UK in 2013 more people now come to work rather than to study (ONS, Migration statistics quarterly report, Home office Immigration statistics, July to September 2013).
- A12.** In 2010 asylum application made up 3.1% of total immigration. 19.6% of these were granted refugee status (Red Cross).
- A13.** Migrants to the UK are mostly young, with 80% aged between 18 and 34. (Drinkwater & Robinson).



Reporting and responsibility

There is some brilliant reporting on migration and migrants in all media. Many journalists are careful about checking the facts about migration, about the use of emotive, negative or inflammatory language; and are aware that a misleading headline or an inappropriately selected photo can harm individuals and groups. But journalist's work under pressure: the news editor is demanding the story and other

assignments are stacking up. The temptation is to simply record what is said and get a reactive comment: job done.

There's no time for a scrupulous analysis of the terms used, the statistics being brandished, the claims made.

There's no time for a scrupulous analysis of the terms used, the statistics being brandished, the

claims made. But journalists are more than Dictaphones, simply repeating what is said. The privilege of writing the first draft of history must be matched by responsibilities, especially in areas, such as migration, which can be highly charged and contentious.

The UK is home to migrants from all over the globe. About 13% of the UK population is foreign-born, according to the 2011 National Census statistics. Their main reasons for coming have been work, education, and safety.

In 2012:

- 498,000 people migrated to the UK (13% fewer than in 2011), of whom:
- 158,000 came from the then 27 European Union countries (there are now 28)
- A little over 250,000 were from non-EU countries the rest were British nationals returning
- 180,000 came for work, and 180,000 to study. About 45% planned to stay for only 1 or 2 years

Source: UK Parliament, Migration Statistics, 2014, Migration Observatory, - Long term international migration flows to and from the UK.

Patterns of migration are constantly changing and emerging – from the Polish RAF pilots and Italian prisoners who stayed on after the Second

World War to today's inflow of Premiership footballers. All have interesting – and sometimes extraordinary – stories to tell.

Conversely, the UK has been a world-changing source of migrants to scores of other countries. In the last 200 years millions of Britons started new lives in Argentina, Australia, Canada, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), South Africa, the US and elsewhere: today this emigration continues, albeit on a smaller scale but with new patterns emerging, such as retirees in Spain and France. Migration from the UK In 2012 totalled 321,000, with Australia and the Indian subcontinent the most popular destinations. In May 2014 the Office for National Statistics reported that 314,000 people went to live abroad.

Around half (53%) of British citizens emigrating between 2000 and 2010 said they intended living abroad for more than four years, some 33% intended emigrating for between one and two years

and about 11% for more than two and up to four years. The remainder said they were unsure about their intended length of stay.

Most (61%) Britons who left the UK in 2010 were single, 37% were married and 2% were widowed or divorced.

The majority of UK emigrants are of working age. About 2% are men over 60 or women over 65.

News and feature stories about immigration rarely show this side of the migration picture.

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Numbers about migration are strewn around like confetti, but are mostly used to generate heat rather than light.

Data collected by Rob Ford of Manchester University “shows that the British public generally holds an exaggerated view of the scale and impacts of immigration in the UK, consistently estimating numbers of migrants or asylum seekers in excess of official statistics... In 2002, the average public estimate of migration levels was more than double the actual level.”

Media must take some – perhaps most – responsibility for this and other misconceptions, because of the number, tone, presentation and, above all, the angle of the migration stories they run. Coverage can affect political debate and ultimately decision-making. It can result in violent attacks on individuals and groups of people labeled “problems”, “spongers” or “trouble-makers”.

Journalistically, it is vital to check statistics that you are given, make sure the terms and definitions they use are clear, question them, attribute them. (“Some analysts believe that at

least £600 million a year, one per cent of the entire NHS budget, is going on immigrants who are not entitled to treatment” ... is not a credible source.)

A report by the freedom of expression organisation Article 19 highlighted this point when it said, “The asylum debate focuses overwhelmingly on the number of people entering the country to claim asylum, but the numbers which are presented in print and broadcast reports are frequently unsourced, exaggerated or inadequately explained. Contextual analysis of the relevance and meaning of official statistics is missing from the debate.”

Even when you have attributed figures, don't just accept them: have they been accurately quoted? Is it clear what period is covered? Are there important caveats in the research that produced the figures? Do they really illustrate the relevant point? For example, in a report about unemployment, do the migration figures you have quoted include students – which is a separate issue?

Similarly, opinion polls are often used unquestioningly. But you

need to know (with all polls, not just those about migration) who commissioned the poll and who carried it out. If it was not done by a trustworthy polling organisation, you need to know the question (the phrasing of which will determine the answers), the size of the sample (if it's a small number it will represent nothing except the small number of people asked), whether those questioned are a true cross-section (asking people in a street outside a church on Sunday will produce a different expression of public opinion than questioning passengers at Heathrow); when the poll was conducted (was it, for example, immediately after a sensational incident or political row on a topic closely related to the polling questions?) A properly run opinion poll has a margin of error of four per cent either way, so a 51-49% 'yes' response to a question is not necessarily a majority in favour.

Define your terms



Photo by Mulugetta Fikadu

Words matter. Does the speaker you are quoting give them the same meaning as you?

For example, the following words and phrases are frequently used, often disputed and rarely defined. Sometimes they are used to deliberately obfuscate. Unless you are sure that they mean the same to the speaker, the reporter and to readers, listeners and viewers, your report will be contributing to confusion rather than elucidation. The point here is not tell you what to write or say – this country is proud of its freedom of speech - or to advocate a pedantic political correctness: the point is to emphasise that part of a journalist's job is to think carefully about the words they use and the implications of those words. A journalist, after all, is a wordsmith.

These frames generally conflate all migration with asylum, make the migrant the victim and the object and show migration as a problem.

(continued)

Non-white:

It has negative connotations, defining people as not belonging to the group that constitutes the norm

Indian, Pakistani – or British?:

A British citizen originating from Pakistan or whose parents came from Pakistan is not a Pakistani. It is important to distinguish between nationality and country of origin.

Asian:

Who's included in this category? Does it refer to national origin? To race? To some British people?

Gypsy, Traveller, Romany:

Do you know the difference? Does the speaker? Do your readers?

Immigrant

Is this synonymous with migrant? Or do you mean someone who arrives with the intention of settling permanently?

Expatriate, expat:

The UK media usually uses the term to mean Britons working abroad, such as aid workers and managers (WE are expats, THEY are migrants).

Illegal immigrant:

Human rights' campaigners say the term is vague and dehumanising, and prefer 'undocumented immigrant'. Migrant Voice does not use the term 'illegal immigrant' – we believe actions are illegal, not humans

Ethnic:

Is this a genuine category or a "code word" for people of colour? Are Poles an ethnic group?

Black:

Does this mean any person of colour, or only those from Africa and the Caribbean?

Immigrant:

Is this synonymous with migrant? Or do you mean someone who arrives with the intention of settling permanently?

Student:

Migrant numbers generally include students, but students are here to study, not to get a job. Has the person you interviewed deliberately conflated the two in order to cite a higher figure? Does the inclusion of statistics of students from other countries muddle your story about unemployment in Britain?

Refugee, migrant, asylum seeker:

They are not the same. Interviewees often start talking about one category and slide imperceptibly into another.

Clandestine (used as a noun):

Sometimes used by government officials. Do you know what it means? Do your readers?

Illegal asylum seeker:

There's no such category. Everyone has the right to seek asylum

(continued)

Word selection can change the tone of a neutral report – by, for example, turning an ‘issue’ into a ‘problem’, an ‘increase’ into a ‘flood’, a person drawing social security into a ‘benefits scrounger’.

Migrant Voice does not use the term ‘illegal immigrant’ – we believe actions are illegal, not humans

A report by the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory, ‘Portrayals of Immigrants, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in National British Newspapers, 2010 to 2012’, analysed collocates (words used immediately before and after key words) and found that the most common modifier of ‘immigrant’ throughout the 43 million words

scrutinised was ‘illegal’.

The words ‘flood’, ‘influx’ and ‘wave’ frequently accompanied the words ‘migration’ and ‘immigration’.

This was true for both broadsheets (or compacts, as the restyled smaller versions call themselves) and tabloids.

The computer analysis showed that the word ‘immigrants’ was associated with words such as ‘million’ and ‘thousands’. Again, this applied to all types of newspaper.

Similarly, an Oxfam-financed analysis by Cardiff University researchers found that when the word “asylum” is used on TV it is often synonymous with “illegal immigrant”, “bogus”, “scrounger”, “criminal” and “terrorist”. Part of the reason for the negativity and confusion, the researchers said, was the government’s constant stresses on the need for asylum-seekers to prove themselves to be deserving instead of emphasising the human rights of those seeking asylum and the responsibility to offer hospitality to those in need.

The study reported that asylum is rarely the main focus of TV coverage: instead, the focus is on the success or failure of immigration controls. Media coverage has shifted from what asylum seekers do while living in the UK to their “removal”.

The media contributes to a perception that immigration is in perpetual crisis

(continued)

The report criticised TV's lack of "context, histories or connections" that would allow the viewer to engage with asylum issues. And it pointed out that asylum and refugee issues are dealt with very differently when the individuals concerned are British.

'Media and Migration in the United Kingdom, 1999-2009', by Terry Threadgold of Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, concluded that "The media use a template to frame stories about migration. These frames generally conflate all migration with asylum, make the migrant the victim and the object and show migration as a problem.

"There is a focus on numbers and statistics (particularly on figures that imply a burden on scarce public resources), on political debates on immigration and on language that evokes the theme of 'invasion'. Stories on immigration are often unconsciously collocated in the news with reports of 'foreign threats' (for instance war, drugs, crime, or terrorism) – implying a connection between the two".

"The media contributes to a perception that immigration is in perpetual crisis..."

Immigration has become a highly politicised issue in the UK and the print and electronic media reflects – and sometimes fuels – this politicisation. This in turn is reflected and re-fuelled by parts of the social media, often in even more intemperate language, and then picked up again by the mainstream media in an endless excitable cycle.

The most common modifier of 'immigrant' throughout the 43 million words scrutinised was 'illegal'.

In this highly charged context, balanced, accurate reporting and editing becomes particularly important. Checking and analysing facts, digging out fresh and concealed information, careful use of language, headlines that do not exaggerate and go beyond what is justified by the story, appropriate photographs – all have a role to play. But there is another factor, one that is often missing from the debate and yet offers tremendous opportunities to the media



Photo by Mulugetta Fikadu

The missing voice

“News and feature articles on asylum rely heavily on politicians, official figures and the police as sources of information and explanation. Individual asylum seekers and refugees are only quoted when they themselves are the subject of a report and rarely contribute directly to the policy debate.” That was the verdict of the media freedom organisation Article 19, and it is a view shared by Migrant Voice.

Yes, there are problems, not least the nervousness of many migrants in dealing with media that often appear hostile. But migrants are a primary source of information about migration; they provide a powerful human interest element in what otherwise are often dry, doctrinaire reports; and they have moving, dramatic, funny, tragic, inspirational personal stories to tell.

Most important of all: not giving space and airtime to their voices is unfair and therefore bad journalism.

In addition, for journalists, they are a barely tapped source of stories:

(continued)



Photo by Mariko Hayashi



Photo by Cedoux Kadima

Royal migrants: freshening up the bloodline – migrants in ermine

This is a very rewarding country but it requires a bit of patience' – the Indian who was assaulted going to football matches but became a top British sports writer

Outsiders' gift to the capital of fashion –the migrants behind our glad rags

A free ride to Spain in Portobello Road – the experiences of the family behind the first Spanish shop in the capital

Muslim women soccer stars achieve their goal – Birmingham's Muslim team looks for Sikh and Christian players

Migrants are a primary source of information about migration

Knitted breasts to the rescue of mothers – a group of women asylum-seekers knit a new future

Wanted: funder for UK 'Ellis Island' migration museum - the struggle to establish a Migration Museum

Where the streets are paved with celebs – stars who have set up home here ("Why did I buy so many houses here if I didn't like it?" - Madonna)

Brits abroad: the other side of the immigration debate – people from UK who seek fun and fortune overseas

Balti – Brum born and bred – the men behind Birmingham's Balti triangle.

Secrets of success – Hussein Chalayan, known for dressing Lady Gaga and as creative director for Puma

Glasgow's kinetic wonderland – the Russian Jews behind Scotland's strangest show

'A date? Book the whole restaurant for me' – the Filipino union organiser with three children and hundreds of domestic workers on her books

A dream that will put ndolle and alloco on the menu – West African women who want African restaurants to join the Chinese, Indian, Turkish, Italian, Thai and other cuisines that are now a part of our diet

A plastic hurdle for the British-American-Nigerian Olympic hopeful – the athlete who ran into a storm of criticism

(continued)

Paralympic powerhouse helps tomorrow's stars – the wheelchair-bound Iranian who helps train Nottingham youngsters

'In reality, there aren't that many differences' – stories from the million-plus Britons who ticked the 'mixed race' box in the census

Heard the one about the migrant who came to Britain? – migrants who give us something to laugh about

Moving House: migrants in parliament – MPs who are migrants or children of migrants

Cyrus Todiwala and Tony Singh want to spice up your life – the spice men cometh

Glasgow's Roma sweep away prejudice – members of "Europe's most discriminated against minority" talk about their environmental clean-up project

The inspirational survivor – arrested at her school, blindfolded and handcuffed, pushed down the stairs to the interrogation room, for writing a children's play without glorifying the name of Saddam Hussein

No borders in Muzikstan – The Midlands dances to a new tune thanks to refugee and migrant musicians

Couples separated by marriage – divided we stand as regulations keep people apart

This list is a small, rapidly-assembled sample from the many stories with which Migrant Voice has been involved. All these stories are about migrants, all of them quote migrants, and all reflect migrant experiences. A quick glance at the headlines indicates their diversity. Most of the stories are not about migration as an issue, but about people who have done interesting things.

A good story is the first objective, and migrants offer good stories. A secondary consideration is that migrants also offer a way into under-reported communities – and all media are looking for new audiences.



Photo by Mulugetta Fikadu



Photo by Mariko Hayashi

Who speaks for migrants?



Photo by Imogen Thomas

Migrant Voice wants to see and hear more migrant voices in the debate on migration, because it believes such a policy would contribute to a more accurate representation of migrants and a more factual debate. So it conducted its own research in 2014 - and was surprised at the results.

Before the research, the organisation had a sense that migrants are under-represented in stories about them and about migration, but the research showed that their representation is lower than expected.

It found that politicians and academics were more likely to be interviewed than migrants.

The research showed that their [migrants] representation is lower than expected

The BBC, ITV, SKY News, The Times, The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Sun, and The Evening Standard were monitored. In an 11-week period in early 2014.

The Evening Standard carried most stories on migration, 99 (The Guardian 94, Daily Mail 89, BBC 82, Times 68, ITV 67, The Sun 59, Sky 19), while The BBC had the highest total number of named individuals quoted with 220. The BBC

also had the highest total number of migrants quoted, with 34. The Guardian had the highest total number of unnamed sources in their stories with 100.

Data gathered included:

- The highest number of migration articles published by a single news site in a seven-day period was 14 (The Guardian and The Daily Mail)
- The BBC quoted the highest number of migrants in a seven day period: 11 migrants were quoted in 13 stories.
- ITV went nine straight weeks without quoting a migrant, despite running 43 stories.
- The Guardian was the only online media outlet which never went a week without quoting a migrant.

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The graphs to the right illustrate the two media outlets with the best and worst percentage of migrants quoted over the 11 weeks.

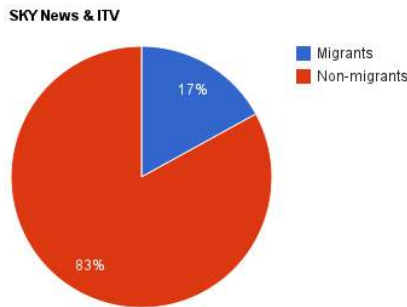
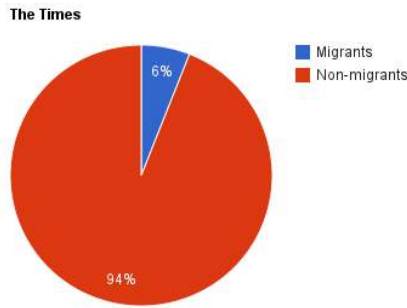
For the other five media outlets the percentages of total quotes in stories coming from migrants are as follows: all excluding unnamed sources

- BBC 15% (34 migrants quoted out of 220 total quotes)
- The Guardian 16% (31 migrants quoted out of 194 total quotes)
- Daily Mail 8% (15 migrants quoted out of 186 total quotes)
- Sun 13% (14 migrants quoted out of 105 total quotes)
- Evening Standard 10% (20 migrants quoted out of 208 total quotes)

Most of the quotes from the stories on migration come predominantly from politicians and academic experts even when excluding unnamed sources.

The Daily Mail was most likely to publish both positive and negative stories about individual migrants while also publishing mostly negative stories on groups or communities of migrants.

Based on the monitoring exercise, Migrant Voice recommends:



The Times had the lowest percentage of migrants quoted with 6% of the quotes in stories concerning migration coming from migrants. (9 out of 144 named sources quoted. This excludes unnamed sources. The figure is only 5% if unnamed sources are included.)

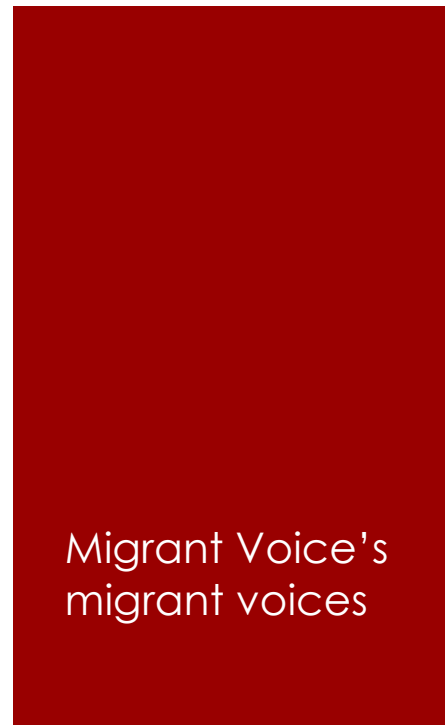
SKY News and ITV tied as having the highest percentage of migrants quoted with 17% of the quotes in stories concerning migration coming from migrants. For ITV 11 migrants quoted out of 65 named sources quoted, for SKY News 9 migrants quoted out of 52 named sources quoted. The percentages are lower when including unnamed sources. (12% for ITV and 12% for SKY News)

- Online versions of broadcast news quote fewer migrants than in their original story. There should be as many migrant voices online as in the broadcast news.
- In accordance with general journalistic principles, media outlets should interview migrants for stories that affect them or are about them. For example, in stories about migrants taking British jobs or 'benefits tourism', migrants' perspectives would add depth, dimension and colour.

In addition, the lack of migrant voices in the media leaves gaps that present journalistic opportunities – such as a column giving a migrant's-eye-view of aspects of British life.



Photo by Ricardo Zagotto



In working with migrants, Migrant Voice finds itself working with people from an enormous range of societies, cultures and backgrounds. Many have fascinating pasts and presents, others are struggling for better futures. They possess many different qualities but almost all are hardworking, resourceful and humane. In various Migrant Voice projects – in print, online, in the broadcast media and on film – we have learned of previously untold stories: heart-breaking and inspirational, dramatic and poignant. Here are just two: they stand for the literally hundreds of personal stories that we have uncovered and which are so rarely featured in the mainstream media. Together they represent a body of experience waiting to be tapped by journalists, stories that, if told, would give a human face to the abstract term, 'migration'. They are surely one of the biggest untapped sources of human interest stories, a category in which the British media rightly considers itself a leader

We have learned of previously untold stories: heart-breaking and inspirational, dramatic and poignant.



Sir Geoff Palmer, professor of grain science and historian, Penicuik

I left Jamaica in 1955 when I was 14. My mother had eight or nine sisters: I can never remember how many. They all lived in the same house, managed by my grandaunt. One day in 1948 I was told that my mother was going to London and I was to live with my aunts. In 1955, my mother sent for me. The idea of going to London on my own at 14 worried me a little, but my mother wanted me to come to live with her. So my aunts got my passport, a ticket to travel, a suit, and a small suitcase, which I still have.

Before I left for the plane, my grandaunt wrapped me in newspaper because she said London was cold. That the trip by plane and ship took nearly two weeks was not considered by her...

The day after I arrived in London, my mother woke me early and told me to get ready. Fortunately for me, as we were leaving, there was a man at the door asking my mother where she was taking me, and she said "to work". The man told her, "You can go to work but he can't, because he's not 15."

I had to go to school. I was 14 years and 11 months old - one month changed my life.

My mother was upset because she had found me a job in a grocery shop. It had cost her £86 to bring me to London and it took her seven years to save that money.

In 1958 Professor Chapman gave me a job as a junior technician at Queen Elizabeth College in London. One day he called me into his office

and said "I don't think you're as stupid as you try to make out. I think you should go to university." So I went to Leicester University in 1961 to do an honours degree in botany.

The beginning of my career was a matter of chance and circumstances. What I've learnt in life is that no matter how able you are, it is the people you meet that determine what you achieve in the end.

What people need is a cup of kindness. Burns was speaking metaphorically in *Auld Lang Syne*. Whisky in Scottish culture is just like Russian vodka, or American bourbon, or French wine. When somebody asks you to take a drink with them, that is an act of kindness... this drink of kindness does not have to be alcoholic. But how many migrants have been asked to join in such a drink? If somebody is not prepared to eat or drink with you, then you're not part of the system. I think you get that relationship of kindness in a society if somebody sees you as equal.

In 1707 there were hardly any Scots in Jamaica: by 1800 there were about 300,000 slaves in there, and about 10,000 Scots, mainly men. Three-quarters of the surnames in the Jamaican telephone book are Scottish, so many Jamaicans have some Scottish blood or history in them, whether they like it or not.

So as I tell many Scots, your ancestors were not in Jamaica doing missionary service alone! Many Scottish people are fascinated by this history, because their historians never told them. Why should historians hide the truth? It is the truth that sets people free to be fair to all.

I retired in 2005 as professor of grain science in the International Centre for Brewing and Distilling at the Heriot Watt University. I am proud that many of my students have made successful careers in the malting, brewing and distilling industries worldwide. I still do experiments at home in my kitchen!

However, I now spend most of my time on the boards of various charitable organisations and give lectures to the community on Scottish/Jamaican/ Caribbean history. This history is outlined in my book, *The Enlightenment Abolished*.

Interview by: Migrant Voice

Photo by: Karen Gordon



Efat Mahbaz, author, feminist and human rights activist

Efat Mahbaz was born in 1958 in Langerood in Iran. As a child, she says, "I was treated as an equal to my brothers". She comes from an open-minded family who in her own words were "more similar to Europeans". Her father was a men's tailor and her mother worked in agriculture. The family went on to own a rice farm and become financially well off.

Efat confesses that "as a child, I was wild, I loved nature and flowers and my hobbies were going to the river where I went fishing" - though she says she caught more frogs than fish.

All this ended at the age of 14. She was arrested with her father, and interrogated for two days because of what she had been found to be reading and writing. She was warned that she would be imprisoned like her brother, who was tortured for two years.

"This experience influenced me," she says. "This was during the Shah's regime where we had enjoyed some freedom, but as for speech, reading and writing as a young woman I did not know what rights we had.

"We did not have a model of good practice for democratic institutions to learn from."

Shortly after the 1979 Iranian revolution, Efat met her husband, Shapoor, at a meeting of political activists. It was love at first sight;

The changing political climate forced Efat and Shapoor into hiding. They feared for their lives,

not because they had committed a violent act but because of their ideas. They were both members of the Fadaian Majority, a movement originally modelled on Che Guevara's paramilitaries but which later renounced this policy in favour of social democracy and peaceful change.

However, on 21 March 1983 Efat and Shapoor were spotted and arrested. They were separated, interrogated and tortured. Efat spent the next seven years in the notorious Evin prison; Shapoor was executed after five years in jail.

Efat vowed that if she survived her ordeal, she would tell the world about the atrocities committed by the regime against political prisoners. And she did. Forget-me-not is a detailed, painful account from the day she and her husband were arrested to her escape to Germany. The book is in Farsi, but she plans to translate it into English and other languages. Her dream is to become a full-time writer on the lives of women in Iran.

Her account of the incidents she witnessed during her time in Evin includes seeing prisoners return from interrogations with horrific injuries. Some never returned. She witnessed a mother and her playful and happy baby son walking to the interrogation room in the morning and returning in the evening - the mother limping, barely able to walk, and the child screaming. The boy lost his childhood that day.

After 18 months in prison, Efat stood trial, charged with supporting a counter-revolutionary organisation plotting to overthrow the regime. The trial consisted of a question and answer period of five to eight minutes without a lawyer. She was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Other memories include an inmate, Sara, who lost her mind under torture and attacked other prisoners. The guards chained her to the central heating pipes in the corridor where she was left to cry, laugh, weep and urinate. Another prisoner, Elham, had three children with her in prison, one of whom was six years old. Yet another, Fariba, a young woman detained for months after the end of her sentence, slashed her artery.

In her first five years in prison, Efat saw her husband only a few times. One of those occasions was her final (continued)

goodbye, separated by a small pane of glass, speaking through a phone connecting the two, shortly before his execution.

"I did not want the meeting to end," recalls Efat. "We touched our hands together against the glass, and then someone took me away. I had to put my blindfold back on. Later a guard gave me two pictures passed on from my husband, I knew it meant goodbye. I cried behind my blindfold. Three days later I received a letter from my husband [prisoners were only allowed to write five lines]. He spoke about our love and our last meeting and told me how brave I was. He told me in the letter that he appreciated seeing me for the last time and asked me to say goodbye to everyone we knew."

Efat spent two more years in Evin, enduring solitary confinement and torture. She was whipped five times a day for refusing to pray while on a dry hunger strike until she succumbed to her torturers and signed an agreement promising to pray.

After her release, she was left with little choice but to leave Iran: "I was not allowed to go back to university - after two-and-a-half years I travelled to Germany."

She praises German democracy: "People are kind and I have learnt a lot from German people."

She has not returned to Iran and was unable to see her seven surviving brothers and sisters again until two years ago, in Turkey: "My feelings for them, and their feelings for me, were the same as they were 18 years ago."

It was an emotional reunion, not least because her father had died in the interim.

After graduating in Germany, Efat moved to the

UK to learn English: "I settled in the UK because London is a more multicultural society."

She has continued to be politically and socially active. She set up Mourning Mothers in 2009 after many were killed in pro-democracy demonstrations in Iran.

"I wish my country would change one day and have some democracy - during my life time. My people deserve this," she says. "I wish for women in Iran to become stronger and equal."

Efat has set up Sharzad, a project aimed at supporting Farsi speaking Iranian and other deaf migrants and enabling them to know their rights and to have a voice. She helps them to learn English and gain access to services and information to assist their integration into British society. Efat has become like an ambassador for the human rights of Iranian women and political prisoners. She travels and speaks at universities and events in many countries, including Belgium, Canada, France, The Netherlands, Sweden, the USA, and at the United Nations in Geneva.

Efat's strength of character and perseverance has supported her through many atrocious acts.

"I will forgive the people who tortured me if they would say sorry to me,"

"I will forgive the people who tortured me if they would say sorry to me," she says, as this would indicate that the perpetrators had demonstrated that they can change: for her, this is the

change that brings about a better world. Her courage and determination in supporting others comes from her understanding that many people have suffered in this world but still fight for what they believe.

Article by: Nazek Ramadan

Photo by: Migrant Voice

Know the facts



Photo by Cedoux Kadima

In 2013, worldwide, there were:

- 232 million international migrants, of whom:
- 136 million were living in the Global North (82 million originated from the Global South and 54 million were born in the North)
- 96 million were living in the global South (82 million from the South and 14 million from the North)
- Seven out of ten migrants were between 24 and 60 years old

(Source: UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS)

(continued)

At the end of 2012, there were 45.2 million forcibly displaced people worldwide (UNHCR). Of these:

28.8 million were forcibly uprooted and displaced within their own country (and therefore not refugees). Colombia had 4 million internally displaced people and Syria 2 million. (UNHCR)

15.4 million were refugees and 893,700 were asylum-seekers

* On average, 23,000 people left their country every day in 2012 because of conflict and persecution

* 12.3 million refugees (80%) were living in developing countries

* The country hosting the largest number of refugees: Pakistan, with 1.6 million

* Biggest source country: Afghanistan. A quarter of refugees worldwide are Afghan and 95% of them live in Pakistan or Iran)

* 46% of refugees are under 18

* Women and girls make up 48% of the refugee population

* Country receiving the largest number of asylum applications: USA (70,400), followed by Germany, South Africa and France

(UNHCR)

(continued)

The EU and migration

- In 2011 1.3 million people previously residing in one of the 27 member states migrated to another member state.
- About 1.7 million people migrated to one of the EU's 27 member states from outside the EU. (The 28th member, Croatia, joined on 1 July 2013.)
- So 3 million people migrated to one of the EU 27 member states.
- At least 2.3 million emigrants left an EU-27 member state.
- Britain admitted the largest number of migrants in 2011 (566,000), followed by Germany (489,000), Spain (458,000) and Italy (386,000). Out of the number of migrants to the UK, approximately 232,000 were students.
- The same year Spain reported the highest number of emigrants (508,000), followed by the United Kingdom (351,000).
- Relative to the size of the resident population, Luxembourg recorded the highest number of immigrants in 2011 (38 immigrants per 1,000 people), followed by Cyprus (26) and Malta (13).

(Eurostat – Migration and Migrant Population Statistics, ONS Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, August 2012)

Country of origin	Number living in the EU
Turkey	1.9 million
Morocco	1.5 million
China (including Hong Kong)	714,000
Ukraine	633,000
India	610,000
Albania	518,000
Russia	449,000
Ecuador	414,000
Pakistan	392,000
United States	361,000



Photo by Bobbie Johnson



A look at the national press

Daily Star

The headline drives a wedge between us, the citizens, and them, the non-citizens. It damages integration and social cohesion



Independent

The Independent's headline - also a comment – offers a directly contrary view.



Editors will often argue that this style of headline has a source in the story– that is, it is news not comment – but at a quick glance, which is all many readers give, the headline looks like a statement of fact and an editorial comment.

Both are doctrinaire. An issue such as the impact of immigration on jobs is complex, and over-simplification does not contribute to understanding



The Sun

Another bold, aggressive headline, of the sort favoured by tabloids. Again, it over-simplifies, painting a picture of a nation unitedly and threateningly demanding a halt to immigration

The Observer

The Observer looks at the maltreatment of migrants detained in immigration centres in the UK. Concerns for the well-being of migrants are rarely given such attention.



- Attribution, as in all reporting, is vital. If you refer to the 'problem of irrigation', you are making it a fact. If you report a person as saying that immigration is a problem, it's their opinion.
- Stereotypes and generalisations are lazy, dangerous and inaccurate – because even if some people fit the generalisation, many don't. What's a 'typical English person' – a Christian or an atheist? A sharp-suited businessman or a football hooligan? Or is she a woman?
- Identifying someone as, for example, a Muslim or Christian rather than a Briton or a Tunisian – or, for that matter, a teacher – is to tell readers, listeners and viewers that the label you have chosen is of overriding importance in assessing their actions and views.
- Beware the use of "we" or statements about the "national interest" (which usually means the interest of the party in power). Who are "we"? Who is excluded?
- Make sure you understand – and correctly use – the meaning of all terms used: is an asylum-seeker a refugee? Should a story about jobs and migrants include statistics for people fleeing their countries because of fear of persecution? Is an asylum-seeker an immigrant who is in the country illegally? What is 'leave to remain'?
- If you report someone's ethnicity, colour or religion in a news story aren't you, deliberately or accidentally, linking a particular look or affiliation to a behaviour or perhaps a crime?
- Photos, captions, headlines, cartoons and presentations can tell their own story: one new Editor of a Midlands newspaper was told: "Your paper has lots of black faces – they are all on the Crimestoppers page."

For discussion

- "Journalists are objective, but media are not": what are your responsibilities – or do you just follow the editorial line? Should you question editorial policy if it seems to conflict with fairness in reporting about migrants and migration?
- To what extent is it your job to challenge the views and assumptions of individuals, groups, and governments?
- Should newsrooms adopt affirmative action policies to bring about greater diversity?
- Is your job simply to report, or are there wider considerations, such as contributing to tolerance, or social integration?

Codes, guidelines and principles:

Declaration of Principles on the Conduct of Journalists: International Federation of Journalists

http://ethicnet.uta.fi/international/declaration_of_principles_on_the_conduct_of_journalists

National Union of Journalists: Code of Conduct:

<http://www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code>

NUJ Guidelines on Reporting Race

<http://www.nuj.org.uk/news/updated-nuj-race-reporting-guidelines-and-efj-manifesto>

Reporting on refugees: Guidance by & for journalists, National Union of Journalists

<http://www.unhcr.ie/images/uploads/pictures/pdf/reportingonrefugees.pdf>

UNHCR: Reporting on Refugees

<http://www.unhcr.ie/images/uploads/pictures/pdf/reportingonrefugees.pdf>



About Migrant Voice

Migrant Voice is a migrant-led organisation set up prior to the 2010 UK general election amid concerns about the debate on migration and the absence of migrant voices in that debate. We respond to the need to strengthen the voices of migrants by increasing their skills and confidence in developing and conveying key messages about their realities to promote more balanced media coverage and public debate on migration.

Who we are?

Migrants working with Britons, Citizens, the media and academics and other interested individuals or organisations.

What we do

Engage in media work with national and local media. MV trains migrants to contribute interviews and articles to mainstream media. In previous years our

members have made their voices heard on national and regional media such as Channel 4, BBC radio West Midlands and the Daily Record, Scotland.

Provide training that promotes a better understanding of how the media works, how to engage with and produce media. MV organises training sessions and workshops on photography, basic filmmaking, social media and how to pitch stories to media outlets.

Facilitate dialogue between migrants, the media and the host community, including an annual conference. The conference holds a debate on migration, examines public attitudes and media representation of migrants, and raises alternative voices and messages.

Produce the annual, free Migrant Voice newspaper to respond to the need for migrants to have a voice in the migration debate and to address the British public directly. Every year we distribute 100,000 copies to the public and policy makers in Birmingham, Glasgow and London and other areas across the UK.

Mobilising Migrants

The foundation for our work is our Migrant Voices for Change network in Birmingham, Glasgow and London.

The network welcomes individuals and organisations concerned about the way migrants are portrayed in the media, public attitudes toward them and the impact of policies on their lives, and who want to influence the immigration debate and help change public attitudes.

The network is an opportunity to engage in a discussion to develop migrant-led short- and long-term media and communication strategies and work to positively influence the debate on migration.

The network also hosts public meetings to facilitate an open dialogue with the media and host community opinion-formers and policymakers about media reporting and public attitude.

Asylum Applicants / Asylum Seekers

Individuals who come to the UK to apply for protection as refugees and who are still waiting for a decision on their claim.

Commonwealth

Voluntary association with historical origins in the British Empire, made up of 54 countries.

Dependant

In the migration context, a family member of a migrant permitted to come to Britain or settle in Britain along with that migrant. Most commonly a spouse or a child under the age of 18. Alternate spelling: dependent.

Discretionary leave to remain

A possible outcome of an asylum case that grants the applicant the right to remain in the UK temporarily and leads to a further review at the end of the temporary period.

EEA

European Union (EU) countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

EU

Economic and political union of 28 member states. The member states are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Foreign born

Anyone born outside the UK.

Foreign nationals

Anyone who does not have British citizenship.

ICTs

People who work for multi-national companies and are being transferred by their employer from an overseas location to a UK branch of the company. Those from non-EEA countries require a visa to enter the UK and are counted in Home Office Control of Immigration statistics.

Indefinite leave to remain

Permission to stay in the UK permanently without being subject to immigration control. Also known as settlement.

International student

In UK usage, someone attending an educational institution in the UK whose nationality is either not British, or in some usages, not from any EEA country nor from Switzerland. Also known as foreign students.

IPS

A survey of passengers entering and leaving the UK. See our data sources and limitations page for a detailed description.

Ipsos MORI

A commercial polling firm that conducts surveys of public attitudes toward migration and other issues.

Leave to remain

Permission for a foreign national to remain in the UK (also see discretionary and indefinite leave to remain)

Naturalisation

The act of acquiring a new citizenship or nationality.

Overstayers

International migrants who remain resident in a country after their legal permission to stay ("leave to remain") has expired.

Refugee

Under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country".

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

The office of the UNHCR is responsible for leading international action to protect refugees' rights and resolve refugee crises. It has an office in London.

Voluntary departures

Voluntary exits from the UK of people who the government is seeking to remove.

Blue Card Directive

makes it easier for highly-qualified immigrant workers to access the EU labour market.

Single Permit Directive

provides a single residence and work permit and a common set of rights for non-EU workers.

Directive on family reunification

gives legally residing immigrants the right to bring into the EU their close family members.

Directive on the entry and stay of students, interns and volunteers

sets down common rules for this category of immigrants' entry into the EU.

Researchers Directive

provides a fast-track admission procedure for researchers.

Directive on long-term residents

grants immigrants who have legally resided in the EU for at least five years rights similar to those of EU citizens.

19 Princelet Street

19 Princelet Street
London, E1 6QH
Tel: 020 7247 5352
<http://www.19princeletstreet.org.uk/>

Action For Social Integration (AFSI)

45-51 The Market Square
London, N9 0TZ
<http://www.afsi.org.uk/>

The Aire Centre

Third Floor,
17 Red Lion Square,
London, WC1R 4QH
Tel: 020 7831 4276
<http://www.airecentre.org/index.php>

Amnesty International UK

99-119 Rosebery Avenue
London, EC1R 4RE
Tel: 020 7814 6200
www.amnesty.org.uk

ASIRT

c/o Bangladesh Workers' Association
97 Walford Road
Sparkbrook
Birmingham, B11 1NP
Tel: 0121 772 6233
<http://www.asirt.org.uk/>

Asylum Aid

28 Commercial Street
London, E1 6LS
Tel: 020 7377 5123
<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk>

British Future

Kean House
6 Kean Street
London, WC2B 4AS
Tel: 020 7632 9069
<http://www.britishfuture.org>

British Red Cross Refugee Support

Aztec Row
5 Berners Road
London, N1 0PW
Tel: 020 7704 5670
www.redcross.org.uk

Detention Action

3R Leroy House,
436 Essex Road,
London, N1 3QP
Tel: 020 7226 3114
www.ldsg.org.uk

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

Secretariat
Rue Royale 146, 1st floor
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 234 3800
<http://www.ecre.org/>

Glasgow Refugee Asylum Migrant Network (GRAMNet)

10 The Square
University of Glasgow
Glasgow, G12 8QQ
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/gramnet/about/>

Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR)

c/o The Runnymede Trust
7 Plough Yard
Shoreditch
London, EC2A 3LP
Tel: 020 7377 9222
<http://www.icar.org.uk/>

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

11 Belgrave Road
London, SW1V 1RB
Tel: 020 7811 6060
www.iomlondon.org

International Rescue Committee

3 Bloomsbury Place
London, WC1A 2QL
Tel: 020 7692 2727
www.rescue-uk.org

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

115 Old Street
London, EC1V 9RT
Tel: 020 7251 8708
<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/>

Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network

Ebor Court
Westgate
Leeds, LS1 4ND
Tel: 011 3373 1759

Migrants Rights Network

33 Corsham Street
London, N1 6DR
Tel: 020 7336 9412
<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/>

The Migration Observatory

COMPAS (Centre on Migration, Policy and Society)
University of Oxford
58 Banbury Road
Oxford, OX2 6QS
Tel: 018 6527 4701
www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS)

143 University Street
Belfast, BT7 1HP
Tel: 028 9024 6699
<http://www.nicras.btck.co.uk/>

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

Rue du Congrès/Congresstraat 37-41, post box 5
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 210 17 80
<http://picum.org/en>

Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London (RAMFEL)

Redbridge Office
Cardinal Heenan Centre
326 High Road
Ilford, IG1 1QP

Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London (RAMFEL)

Barking and Dagenham Office
Ripple Centre
121-125 Ripple Road
Barking, IG11 7PB
<http://www.ramfel.org.uk/>

RAPAR

6 Mount Street
Manchester, M2 5NS
Tel: 016 1834 8221
<http://www.rapar.org.uk/>

Refugee Council

Head Office
PO Box 68614,
London, E15 9DQ
Tel: 020 7346 6700
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Action

Victoria Charity Centre,
11 Belgrave Road,
London, SW1V 1RB
Tel: 020 7952 1511
<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/>

The Runnymede Trust

133 Aldersgate Street
London, EC1A 4JA
Tel: 020 7600 9666
www.runnymedetrust.org

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Strand Bridge House
138 - 142 Strand
London, WC2R 1HH
Tel: 020 7759 8090
www.unhcr.org.uk/

Articles, and reports on migration

International Migration Report 2013

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/migration/migration-report-2013.shtml>

International migration: Social Indicators page

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02652/international-migration-social-indicators-page>

Immigration in the EU

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/infographics/immigration/migration-in-eu-infographic_en.pdf

Leveson report finds sensational or unbalanced reporting in relation to immigrants and asylum seekers concerning

<https://www.ein.org.uk/news/leveson-report-finds-sensational-or-unbalanced-reporting-relation-immigrants-and-asylum-seekers>

Long-term international migration flows to and from the UK

<http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/long-term-international-migration-flows-and-uk>

The New Commonwealth Migrants 1945-62

<http://www.historytoday.com/zig-henry/new-commonwealth-migrants-1945-62>

Examples of negative reporting on immigration related issues

Asylum seekers continue to be stigmatised by the British press

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2012/oct/31/asylum-seekers-stigmatised-british-press>

How politicians and the media made us hate immigrants

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/transformation/chitra-nagarajan/how-politicians-and-media-made-us-hate-immigrants>

Is Ethics Still A Meaningful Word In The British Press?

<http://migrantforum.org.uk/leveson-inquiry/>

The United Nations Alliance of civilisations: Covering Migration: Challenges Met and Unmet

<http://www.unaoc.org/2013/01/covering-migration-challenges-met-and-unmet/>

UK Poles attack Daily Mail 'bias'

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/mar/14/dailymail.pressandpublishing>

Bad News for Refugees, by Greg Philo, Emma Briant, and Pauline Donald, PlutoPress

<http://www.plutobooks.com/display.asp?ISBN=9780745334325>

Statistics

European Commission: Asylum statistics

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics

European Commission: Migration and migrant population statistics

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

UK migration: real figures v the headlines

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/reality-check/interactive/2014/jan/06/uk-migration-statistics-v-headlines>

Facts and Figures on forcibly displaced populations

<http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/key-facts-and-figures.html>

Five main citizenships of (non-EU-27) asylum applicants, 2012

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php?title=File:Five_main_citizenships_of_\(non-EU-27\)_asylum_applicants,_2012_\(1\)_number,_rounded_figures\)_YB14.png&filetimestamp=20131211142240](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php?title=File:Five_main_citizenships_of_(non-EU-27)_asylum_applicants,_2012_(1)_number,_rounded_figures)_YB14.png&filetimestamp=20131211142240)

Non-UK Born Census Populations 1951-2011 - Full infographic

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2011/may/26/foreign-born-uk-population>

Emigration from the UK

4.6 million British expats living and working abroad

<http://www.trinityfinancialgroup.co.uk/4-6-million-british-expats-living-and-working-abroad>

British Expats Have The Whole World in Their Hands

<http://britishexpats.com/news/latest-news/expats-world-hands/>

Where do expats live?

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2012/nov/26/where-do-uk-expats-live>

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