



**9 September**  
**Migrant Voice press statement**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Disturbing pushback proposals risk lives**

The Home Office's [proposal](#) to pushback boats of people seeking asylum is disturbing and risks lives. It sets a dangerous precedent and turns the treatment of asylum seekers into a race to the bottom.

The government is breaking its international convention obligations by engineering an impossible situation for those seeking asylum. It wants to prevent people from getting to the UK to exercise their legitimate right to claim asylum, yet is not providing any other way to come to the UK - all the while insisting that people can only claim asylum if they are in the UK.

The great majority of those arriving by boat are from countries such as Iran, Syria and Afghanistan. We know that the UK is already granting asylum to an increasing proportion of asylum seekers arriving from these countries in recognition of their protection needs.

The government's rhetoric focuses on alarm about the level of people seeking asylum in this country. In reality, there has been no great increase in the number of asylum applications over the last few years.

The UK takes in significantly fewer people seeking asylum than many of its nearest neighbours, including France and Germany. France takes a far, far greater number of asylum seekers and only a small number make their way on from France to the UK.

These individuals have good reasons to come here because of family and other connections, or because they have not been able to find safety in France or in other countries along the way.

The government needs to provide safe and legal routes to the UK. This is the only way for migrants not to have to make treacherous journeys across the Channel.

