

Migrant Voice's position on the divisive "good/bad migrant" narrative

Migrant Voice believes that the prevailing media and political narratives around regular/irregular migration feeds into a divisive, and damaging "good/bad migrant narrative".

The issue of regular/irregular status is complex, including many migrants ending up with irregular status due to falling out of the immigration system, due to high fees and sometimes mistakes made by those processing applications. Ignoring that complexity helps no-one.

With an increasing focus by this, and previous governments, on cutting visas it is all too easy for even more people to fall into an irregular status.

Those who are keeping the political focus on 'reducing immigration' do not, on the whole, create a distinction between how and why people have come to the country, so talking about groups as separate from each other inevitably just benefits their narrative and harms everyone.

This is not a time for division amongst migrant groups and feeding into the good/bad migrant narrative.

As migrants we can keep in mind that the groups and communities who are targeted and vilified change over time. At times we can feel that the issues facing our own community of migrants are the most urgent, but we don't always know the situation for other migrants. Some of us can acknowledge the privilege of our migration route or current situation, whilst continuing to call out the endemic racist and xenophobic discrimination in the immigration system.

Our advice is to not compare or comment on other groups, but to work in solidarity, and question who benefits from the division created.