



### Why do people leave their countries?

There are many reasons why it might be too difficult or dangerous for people to stay in their own countries. For example, children, women and men flee from violence, war, hunger, extreme poverty, because of their sexual or gender orientation, or from the consequences of climate change or other natural disasters.

People who are fleeing their countries are not always fleeing danger. They might believe they have a better chance of finding work in another country because they have the education or capital to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Others might want to join family members or friends who are already living abroad. Or they might seek to start or finish their education in another country.

**Every day, all over the world, people make one of the most difficult decisions in their lives:  
to leave their homes in search of a safer, better life.**



### What exactly is a refugee, an asylum seeker and a migrant?

The terms "refugee", "asylum seeker" and "migrant" are used to describe people who are on the move, who have left their country and have crossed borders.

**The terms "migrant" and "refugee" are often used interchangeably but it is important to distinguish between them as there is a legal difference.**

### Who is a refugee?

A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution. The risks to their safety and life were so great that they felt they had no choice but to leave and seek safety outside their country.

Refugees have a right to international protection.

---

### Who is an asylum seeker?

An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognised as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Seeking asylum is a human right. This means everyone should be allowed to enter another country to seek asylum.

---

### Who is a migrant?

There is no internationally accepted legal definition of a migrant. Generally, migrants are understood to be people staying outside their own country of origin, who are not asylum seekers or refugees. Some migrants leave their country because they want to work, study or join family. Others feel they must leave because of poverty, political unrest, violence, natural disasters or other serious circumstances that exist there. Lots of people don't fit the legal definition of a refugee but could nevertheless be in danger if they went home.

---

### The Reality

These journeys, which all start with the hope for a better future, can also be full of danger and fear. Some people risk falling prey to human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Some are detained by the authorities as soon as they arrive in a new country. Once they're settling in and start building a new life, many face daily racism, xenophobia and discrimination. Some people end up feeling alone and isolated because they have lost the support networks that most of us take for granted - our communities, colleagues, relatives and friends.



### Famous refugees



Rita Ora

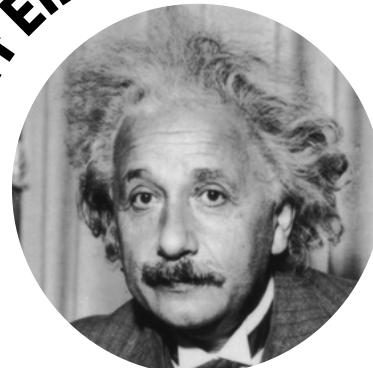
Rita Ora is one of the most famous names in contemporary British pop. She was born in what is now Kosovo (back then, it was a part of Yugoslavia) to Albanian parents. During a period of conflict in the 1990s, Albanian people were persecuted, causing her family to resettle in the United Kingdom when she was a child.

Freddy Mercury



Queen's iconic frontman Freddie Mercury was born in Zanzibar (now Tanzania) to Parsi parents, who were originally from north-western India. When he was a child, his family came to the UK to avoid the burgeoning war.

Albert Einstein



The famous physicist and creator of the theories of relativity, Albert Einstein was a German Jewish refugee who briefly sought safety from the Nazi regime in Norfolk. While in the UK, he met with Prime Minister Churchill in the cause of aiding German scientists escape the ruling Nazi party.

Victor Moses



Victor Moses is a Premier League footballer who has played for Chelsea, Liverpool and West Ham. He was born in Nigeria to Christian parents, who were tragically killed in religious riots, afterwards coming to the UK as a child.

### How do I learn more?

We have a list of frequently asked questions and wider resources available for staff to learn more about asylum seekers, refugees and migrants as well as wider race, religion and EDI topics on the Equality Diversity & Inclusion page of SASP's Intranet.

# ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES & MIGRANTS

## Why do people leave their countries?

There are many reasons why it might be too difficult or dangerous for people to stay in their own countries. For example, children, women and men flee from violence, war, hunger, extreme poverty, because of their sexual or gender orientation, or from the consequences of climate change or other natural disasters.



**The terms “refugee”, “asylum seeker” and “migrant” are used to describe people who are on the move, who have left their country and have crossed borders.**

## Who is a refugee? - Refugees have a right to international protection

A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution. The risks to their safety and life were so great that they felt they no choice but to leave and seek safety outside their country.

## Who is an asylum seeker? - Seeking asylum is a human right

An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognised as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.

## Who is a migrant?

Generally, migrants are understood to be people staying outside their own country of origin, who are not asylum seekers or refugees. Some migrants leave their country because they want to work, study or join family. Lots of people don't fit the legal definition of a refugee but could nevertheless be in danger if they went home.



**A more detailed version can be accessed by scanning the QR code to the right:**

