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# Sanctuary in University Training for Staff




# Introduction

This module is designed to assist staff in the University to develop insights into the life of students seeking asylum or who are refugees (sanctuary students) in the UK.

The University of Bradford is part of the University of Sanctuary, a UK-wide initiative aiming to ensure universities foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees.



# Overview

- The presentation will take you on an interactive learning journey allowing you to select and explore information a section at a time.
- On the next slide you will be presented with a **menu** that will allow you to select the information you want to find out more about.
- Please click on the title below to go directly to that section.
- There is a home button  at the bottom of each slide which will take you back to the menu page.
- You will see green boxes at points during the presentation which will invite you to complete an activity to develop your awareness on key points. Activity:

# Menu

- [Global Context: Global Layer](#)
  - [Reasons for Migration](#)
  - [Definitions](#)
    - [Refugees](#)
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- [Supporting asylum seeking and refugee students](#)
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  - [University of Bradford's support](#)



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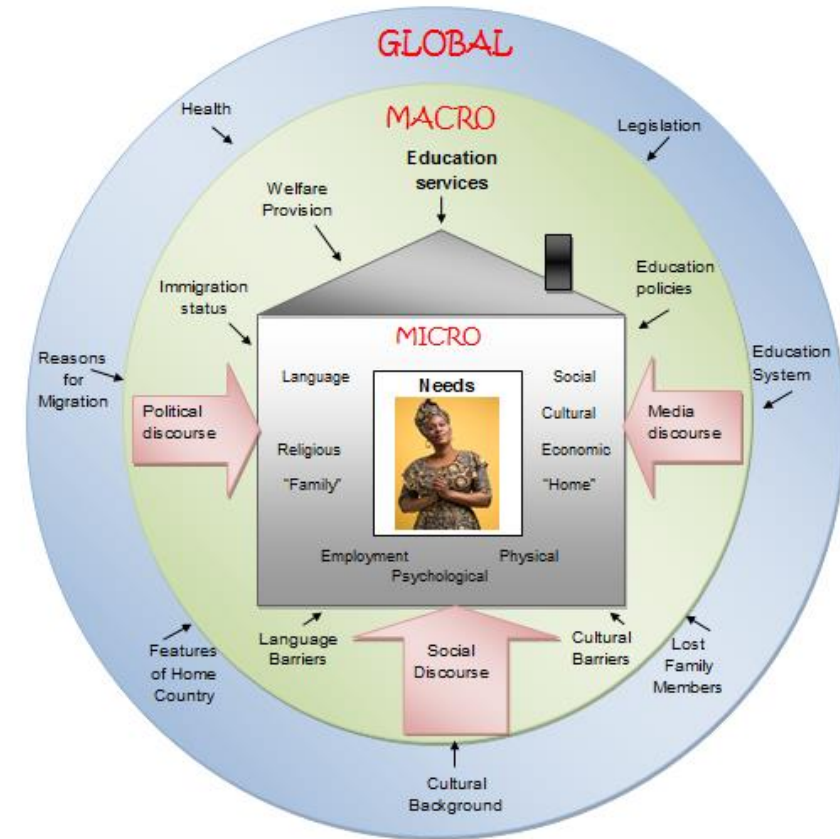
# Global Context: Global Layer



# The global context model

This is an adaptation of an evidence based model used in health care. It is designed to assist you to consider factors which will influence the University experience of sanctuary students.

The student is positioned centrally. This model will help you to look beyond the student to examine the wider factors in the **macro** and **global** layers which could impact on the student's educational needs and experiences.





# Reasons for Migration



# Why do people migrate to the UK?

There are many reasons why people migrate. Usually this can be voluntarily for economic reasons or to study, but it can also be because they are forced to leave their home country. This is the case of sanctuary seekers.

Reasons can be complex and overlap and we cannot assume that someone who fits the category of voluntary migrant came to the UK because s/he wanted to.

Forced migration will be the focus of the remainder of this module.

## Voluntary migration

- Economic migrants
- International Students
- Spouse/ dependant



## Forced migration

- Asylum seekers & refugees
- People trafficking





# Definitions



# Definitions for forced migration

- **Refugee:** someone who is in need of protection and would be at risk of persecution if they returned to their home.
- **Asylum seeker:** someone who has asked to be recognised as a refugee and is waiting for the government to make a decision. They have made themselves known to the authorities and are part of an on-going legal process.
- **Refused asylum seeker:** someone who has had their claim for asylum turned down because the Home Office has decided that they do not need protection in the UK. They can appeal and may be waiting for the outcome of this which can take years.
- **Trafficking:** The illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation including sexual exploitation and slavery.

## Activity:

- Click on the link to undertake the quiz on the Oxfam website <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/refugees-quiz>
- What was your score? What did you learn from this activity?



# Refugees



# Refugee resettlement programmes

- You may come across students who are here under voluntary resettlement programmes. They have the same rights to health care, benefits and housing as any UK citizen and may get automatic leave to remain after 5 years.
- You may have heard recently in the press that 20,000 Syrian families are being resettled in the UK over the next 5 years. The most vulnerable families are being selected straight from refugee camps on the borders of Syria. The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme will provide temporary residence status.
- This is in addition to the existing UNHCR gateway protection programme where 750 refugees are brought over to the UK each year.



Ayham: resettled from Syria

## Activity:

- For more information click [here](#) to read the following news report for more information about resettlement.
- Click on the link to read the Refugee Council website for Ayham's moving story about being resettled [https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/4718\\_being\\_resettled\\_here\\_means\\_my\\_family\\_has\\_been\\_reborn/](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/4718_being_resettled_here_means_my_family_has_been_reborn/)

# The 1951 Refugee Convention

- The UK is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. This allows people to seek asylum if they have left their home country and are unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution.
- The grounds for a claim for asylum are the following:
  - Race;
  - Religion;
  - Nationality;
  - Membership of a particular social or political opinion.



## Activity:

- For more information you may like to read the frequently asked questions on The 1951 Refugee Convention, please click [here](#).



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# Asylum



# Why do people seek asylum in the UK?



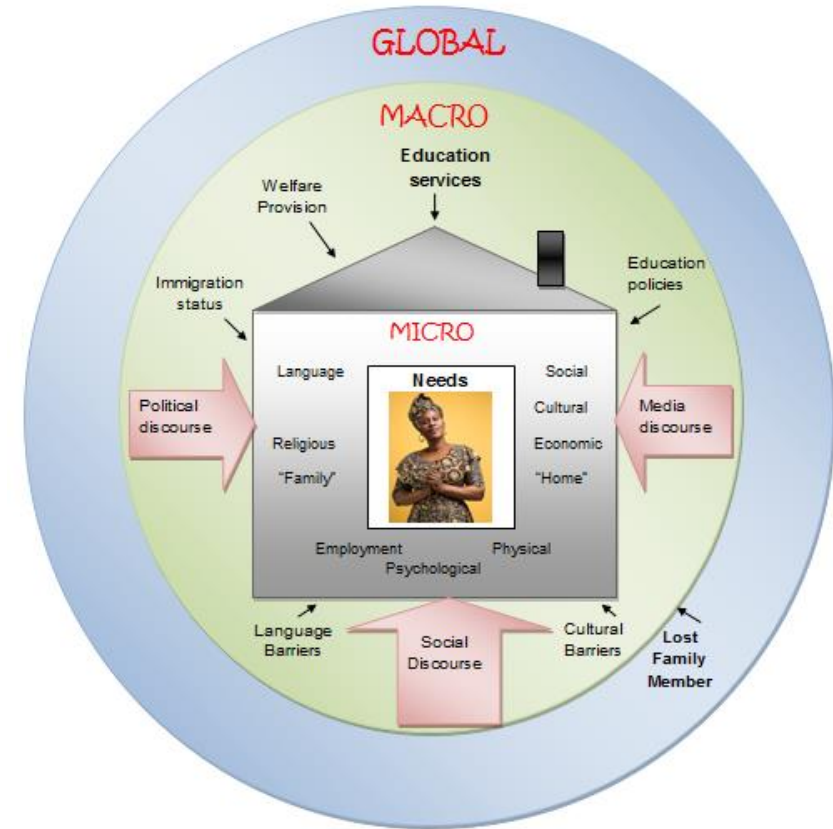
## Activity:

Click [here](#) to read about why some people came to the UK to seek asylum.

- How did you feel after hearing the stories?
- How do the stories compare with your previous understanding of why people seek asylum?

# Lost family members

A student who has fled home may have left family members behind or even witnessed their torture and murder. This can negatively influence mental health.



## Activity:

Click [here](#) to watch a film clip where an asylum seeking woman talks about her experience. How would you feel if a student disclosed something like this to you?





# Differences



# Differences ‘back home’

Life back home may have been very different to living in the UK. This could include cultural differences; clothing, food choice and preparation and living in a big city compared to a rural area.

## From this



“I was cold. She told me to turn the radiator on. I didn’t know what this was”.

“I didn’t know how to cross the road in the city centre. I had to copy other people”.

“I didn’t know how to buy food so I followed someone around the supermarket and bought the same as them then tried it out...why would you put fish in a tin?”

## To this



## Differences in education ‘back home’

A sanctuary student may have had a very different learning experience. This may include:

- A lack of technology in the classroom;
- Different relationships between students and lecturer leading to the expectation of for more or less engagement;
- ‘Talk and chalk’ rather than group discussions;
- Copying from books rather than critical thinking.

These could affect the student’s response to the University learning environment, including the understanding of the idea of plagiarism





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# The Journey to the UK



# The Journey to the UK

Once someone has decided to flee home, the journey to a safe country can be fraught with danger.

You may have seen in the media stories about refugees drowning in the Mediterranean.

The person who decides to flee often pays an agent & may experience a long & difficult journey. They often don't know which country they are heading for.



## Activity:

- Click [here](#) to listen to the poem about the journey across the Mediterranean.
- Click [here](#) to read about Zekarias's journey.
- How do you feel ?
- If you want to know more, read about Amnesty International's work, click [here](#).



# Global Context: Macro Layer





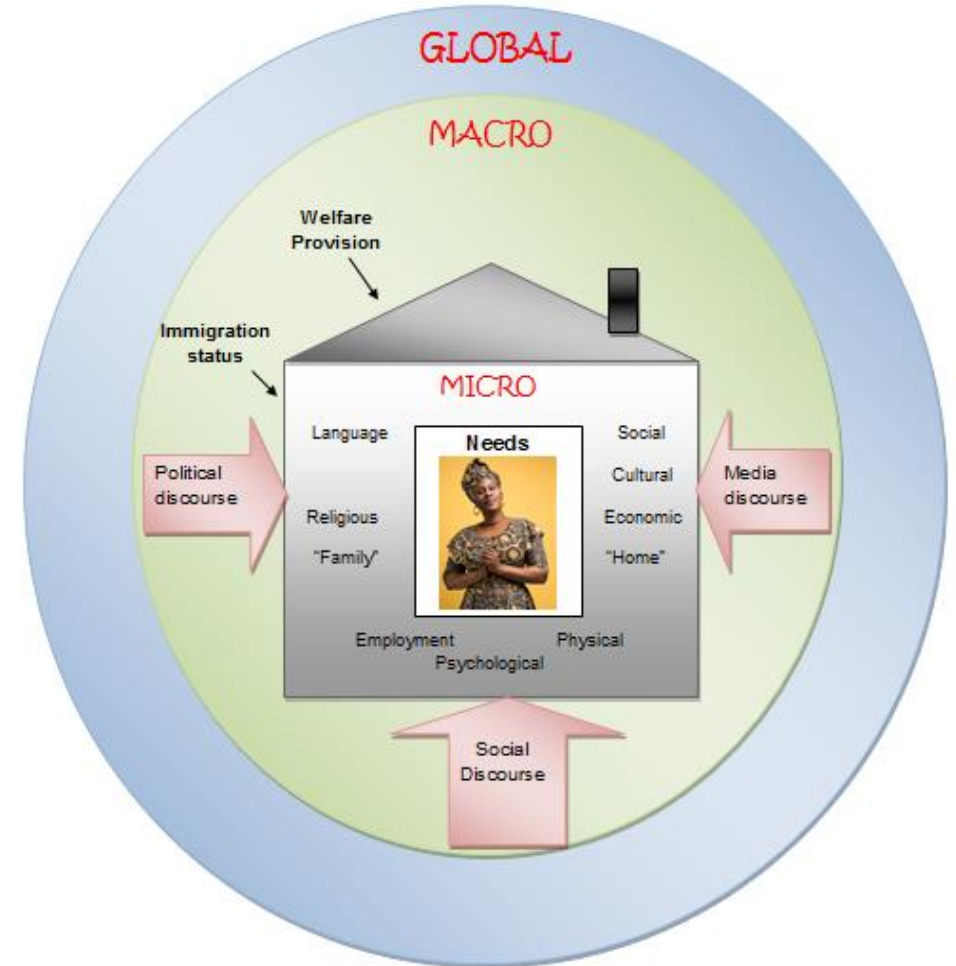
# UK Asylum Process



# UK Asylum Process

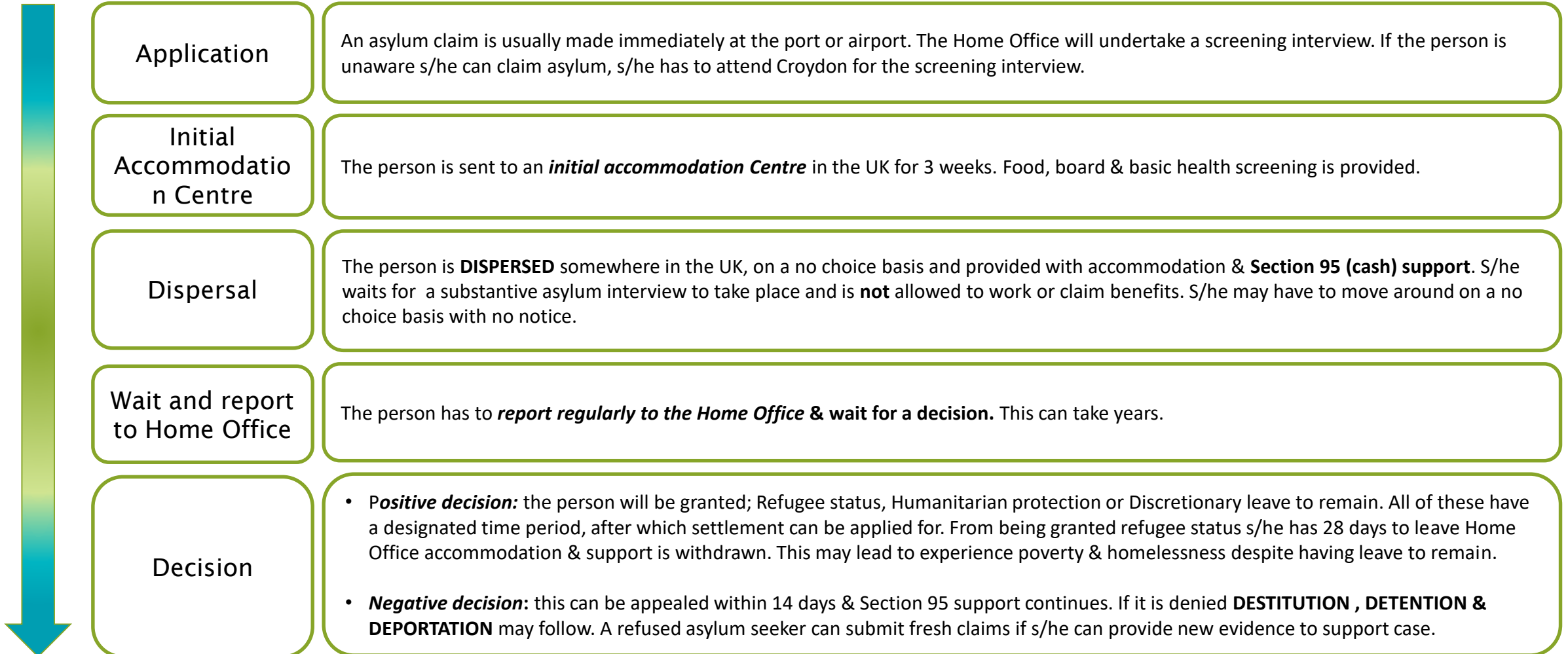
Once a person arrives in the UK and claims asylum, there are certain stages that they have to go through due to immigration status.

This can add to anxiety caused experiences at home and their journey to the UK.





# Asylum process in the UK





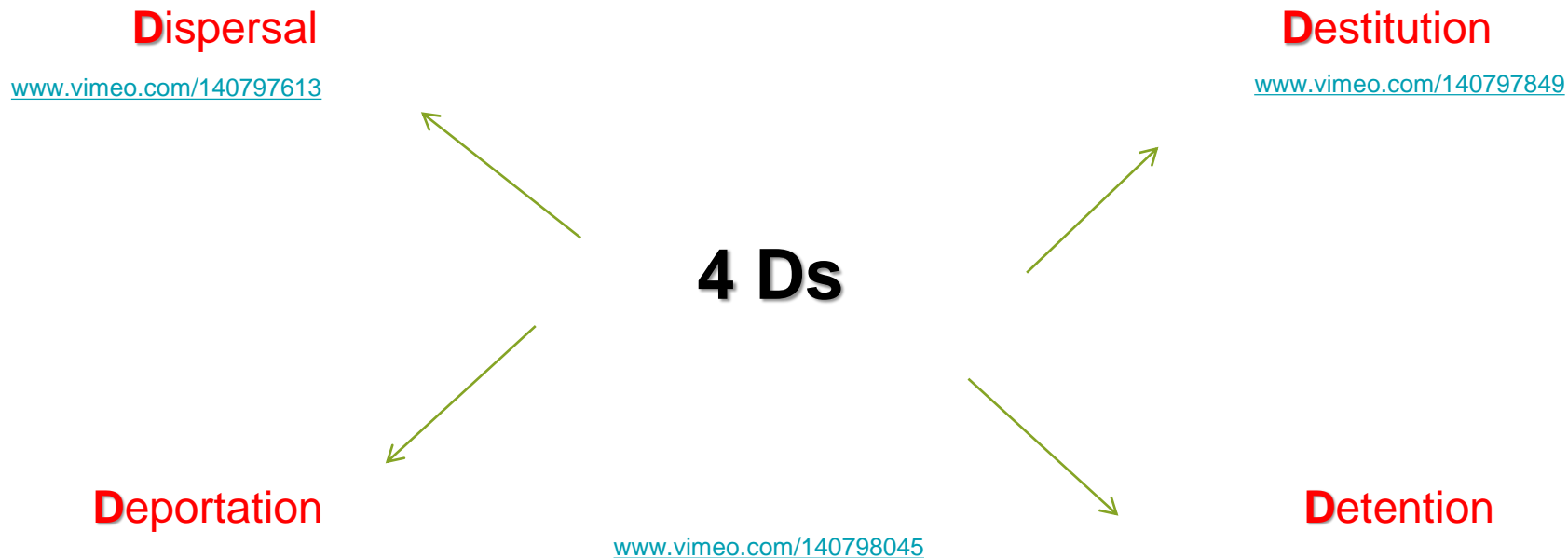
# The 4 D's



# The UK asylum process and the 4 Ds

- From the asylum process on the previous page, you will see there are '4Ds' which can have an impact on an asylum seeker.
- This may be something a student at the University fears could occur.

Watch the film clips below which feature women talking about their experiences of the 4Ds.





# UK discourse around ‘immigration’ and ‘asylum’



# Government policy around immigration

Currently, there is a negative political dominant discourse around immigration and cutting net migration. Although this is focused on EU migration, asylum seekers and refugees are also labelled as 'migrants'

4 October 2016 at 6:12pm

## This Conservative Party Conference is all about immigration

CHRIS SHIP ROYAL EDITOR



# Negative media discourse

- Through negative press reporting, the media can reinforce the negative political discourse around immigration.



## Activity:

- Click [here](#) and read the newspaper article. Examine the type of language used by the media and the interchangeable use of the word migrant and asylum seeker.
- How did this story make you feel? How do you think other people may respond?

# Social discourse around migration

- The way the general public discusses migration and asylum seeking can be influenced by the political and media discourse.
- In 2010 an ICM poll found that:
  - 25% of British people believed asylum seekers come to Britain to claim benefits.
  - 71% believed asylum seekers are given £100 or more of benefits every week to cover their living expenses.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that only recently does there appear to have been a change in public discourse around ‘Syrian’ refugees especially following the publication of a photograph of drowned 3 year old boy on a beach in Turkey.
- Negative attitudes from the local community could lead to a student feeling socially isolated and fearful of his/her safety.

## Activity:

- Click [here](#) to watch the film clip below about a woman who was befriended by an elderly white man when she arrived unsupported with her young children including baby twins





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# Supporting asylum seeking and refugee students





# Supporting students

- As you have learnt, sanctuary students may have been through traumatic experiences leading to them fleeing their home. This may have been followed by a perilous journey to the UK and poor experiences whilst living here.
- Students may disclose their experiences to you.  You don't need to handle the situation on your own, you can signpost sanctuary students to the following if needed:
  - Counselling and disability services
  - Occupational health
  - International Student Welfare Officer
  - Students' Union
  - Personal academic tutor
- Counselling services can also support you as a staff member: <http://bradford.ac.uk/counselling/>





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# Bradford voluntary sector support



# Bradford voluntary sector support



## City of Sanctuary

- The City of Sanctuary is a UK-wide movement aiming to build a culture of hospitality and welcome within towns and cities for sanctuary seekers.
- Within the movement, streams of sanctuary have been developed which link people and organisations within or across cities around a particular theme.
- More information can be found on the City of Sanctuary website, <http://cityofsanctuary.org/>.

### Activity:

- Visit the City of Sanctuary Website <http://cityofsanctuary.org/> and then click on the Bradford group to explore the work that they undertake and how they link up with other organisations.
- Look specifically for refugee organisations that you could signpost students to.
- You may want to contact your local group to see how you could link with them.
- Now click onto *streams* and find University. Look at the types of activities other Universities have been undertaking to become a University of Sanctuary





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# University of Bradford's support



# University of Bradford's response

- The first response was the Faculty of Health Studies achieving the Health Stream Award for embedding a culture of welcome and inclusiveness for sanctuary seekers in the Faculty.



- The second response was the University launching its University of Sanctuary campaign in April 2016, striving to adopt a culture of welcome and inclusiveness for sanctuary seekers across the University.

- The University is now a recognised University of Sanctuary for our work



## Activity:

- Visit the Bradford University of Sanctuary website following link to read more : <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/university-of-sanctuary/>