

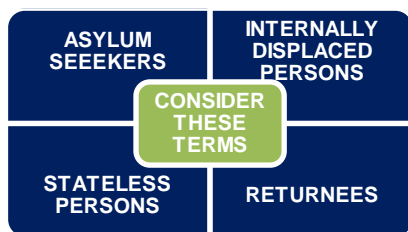
HOT TOPICS – JUNE 2021

WORLD REFUGEES

World Refugee Day is on Sunday 20 June 2021

Before you read any further, reflect on what you currently think is meant by the term 'refugee' and then consider how it differs from other terms used such as 'asylum seeker', 'internally displaced person', 'stateless person' and 'returnee'.

According to the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is someone who fled his or her home and country owing to "a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion"



Asylum Seekers: claim they are refugees and have fled their homes as refugees do, but their claim to refugee status is not yet definitively evaluated in the country to which they fled.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): are people who have not crossed an international border but have moved to a different region than the one they call home within their own country.

Stateless Persons: do not have a recognised nationality and do not belong to any country. Statelessness situations are usually caused by discrimination against certain groups. Their lack of identification — a citizenship certificate — can exclude them from access to important government services, including health care, education or employment.

Returnees: are former refugees who return to their own countries or regions of origin after time in exile.

Returnees need continuous support and reintegration assistance to ensure that they can rebuild their lives at home. [Source: [World Refugee Day | United Nations](#)]

According to the Red Cross, in 2018, the UK received applications for asylum for 37,453 people (including dependants). This is far less than Germany (162,000), France (110,000), Greece (65,000) and Italy (49,000).

In the same year, there were five asylum applications for every 10,000 people living in the UK. Across the EU,

there were 14 asylum applications for every 10,000 people.

Asylum seekers were around five per cent of immigrants to the UK in 2018. [Source: www.redcross.org.uk]

So, bearing in mind that an **asylum seeker** is someone who has fled their home, arrived in another country in whichever way they can, have made themselves known to the authorities, have submitted an asylum application & have a legal right to stay in the country while they await the outcome of their application and a **refugee** is someone who has proven that they would be at risk if they returned to their home country, have had their claim for asylum accepted by the government & can now stay here either long term or indefinitely ...



... discuss the types of situations



where you might interact with a refugee, asylum seeker or failed asylum seeker as a police officer. How are they portrayed in the media and how might this affect your unconscious bias? How does this sit with the British Values and the Equality Act?



The UK Government have recently completed a consultation to deliver a new plan for immigration. The consultation period ran from 24 March 2020 to 6 May 2021. You can access the Policy Statement [here](#) to see what you think of the proposals.

I would like to know more!!

[UNHCR - World Refugee Day](#)
[Facts about separated children - Refugee Council](#)
[World Refugee Day | United Nations](#)
[Refugees and asylum seekers: facts and figures \(redcross.org.uk\)](#)

[Top 10 facts from the latest statistics on refugees and people seeking asylum - Refugee Council](#)
[Home | Amnesty International UK](#)