

# CITIZENSHIP

- **civil rights**
  - freedom of speech, travel, etc.
- **social rights**
  - basic standard of living, adequate health care, etc
- **political rights**
  - right to vote; engage in political activity.

**For a foreign national to become a citizen of certain countries it may be necessary to:**

- **live there for a certain minimum period of time;**
- **be married to a citizen of that country;**
- **be able to speak the language;**
- **conform with other cultural criteria.**

# **UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**“all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.**

- **life, liberty and security of person;**
- **freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;**
- **equality before the law and equal protection of the law;**
- **freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile;**
- **to be presumed innocent until proven guilty;**
- **freedom from arbitrary interference with personal privacy, family, home and from attacks upon one's honour;**
- **freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state and the right to leave any country, including one's own, and the right to return to their country;**
- **political asylum;**
- **freedom of thought, conscience and religion;**
- **freedom of opinion and expression;**
- **freedom of peaceful assembly and association;**
- **employment, good working conditions and protection against unemployment;**
- **equal pay for equal work;**
- **freedom to form and join trade unions;**
- **an adequate standard of living;**
- **education;**
- **to participate in the cultural life of the community.**

**Source: <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>**

- **equality**
- **social justice**
- **migration**
- **globalisation**

- **Minority and group rights**
- **Distant others**
- **Citizenship and the environment**

## **Who is a refugee?**

- **“A person who is outside his/her country of nationality or habitual residence;**
- **has a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion;**
- **is unable or unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.”**

**(1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees)**

- **10 million refugees**
- **25 million internally displaced persons**
- **Proportion in Europe – 25%**
- **Proportion in UK – 3%**

**([unhcr.org](http://unhcr.org))**



- **Iran (1.05 million)**
- **Pakistan (961,000)**
- **Germany (877,000)**
- **Tanzania (602,000)**
- **USA (421,000)**

**([unhcr.org](http://unhcr.org))**

# Number of asylum applications in the United Kingdom

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of applications</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>29,645</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>32,505</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>46,015</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>71,155</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>80,315</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>71,025</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>84,130</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>49,405</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>33,960</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>23,715</b>

(<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/asylumq405.pdf>)

# Nationalities of asylum applicants in the United Kingdom,

**Oct-Dec 2005**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Applicants</b>
<b>Iran</b>	<b>820</b>
<b>Eritrea</b>	<b>595</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>510</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>Somalia</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<b>385</b>
<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>D.R. Congo</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>Iraq</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>2,035</b>

(<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/asylumq405.pdf>)

- **Britain is “a soft touch for every scrounger on the planet”**  
*(The Sun, February 11th, 2000)*
- **“a tide of humanity that sees Britain as the land of milk of honey”**  
*(The Sun, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2002)*
- **“bogus asylum-seekers are draining millions from the NHS”**  
*(Daily Express, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2002)*
- **“Britain the No.1 refugee magnet”**  
*(The Sun, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2002)*
- **“90 % of asylum-seekers are conmen”**  
*(The Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2002)*
- **“Asylum tearing UK apart”**  
*(The Sun 8<sup>th</sup> May 2003)*
- **“Asylum seekers eat our donkeys”**  
*(Daily Star 21<sup>st</sup> August 2003)*

- **Refugees**
- **Economic migrants**
- **“migration for economic betterment, rather than being considered ... a sign of enterprise and courage, is now regarded as criminal and shameful”**  
**(Hayter, 2000, p64)**

**“I am an Afghan asylum-seeker and have been waiting for a decision from the Home Office for two years ... Before coming here my parents and one of my brothers were killed. I was jailed, tortured and beaten for eight months. I lost contact with almost all my friends and family. I was jailed in a place where even animals would not like to sleep. My crime was that I cried for freedom. So did my parents. I struggled and wrote against inhumanity in my country. I established an education centre ... I wrote for a weekly publication which was fighting for democracy and freedom. In some of my articles I tried to write about Afghanistan, to show to the young generation who was responsible for our tragedy. The problem is that the same guys who wanted to kill me because I tried to show their faces, still rule my country.”**

**(<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/asylum/story/0,1084,726365,00.html>)**

**The death of Carmelita Alonzo in Cavite, an EPZ in the Philippines.**

**“Alonzo ... was a seamstress at the V.T. Fashions factory, stitching clothes for the Gap and Liz Claiborne, among many other labels ... (Her) death occurred following a long stretch of overnight shifts during a particularly heavy peak season. “There were a lot of products for ship-out and no one was allowed to go home”, recalls Josie (a friend). “In February (there were) overnights almost every night for one week”. Not only had Alonzo been working those shifts, but she had a two-hour commute to get back to her family. Suffering from pneumonia – a common illness in factories that are suffocatingly hot during the day but fill with condensation at night – she asked her manager for time off to recover. She was denied. Alonzo was eventually admitted to hospital, where she died on March 8, 1997 – International Women’s Day”.**

**(Klein, 2000, p216)**

- **“Globalization ... simultaneously presents the younger generation with doors wide open to the world via cable TV, and with doors shut tight to impede illegal migration”**
- **“A world which for some has no borders and for others has nothing but borders that cannot be crossed”**

**(Oscar Ugarteche, 2000)**



- **Tourists**
  - move through choice
  - choose their destination
  - move easily
  - despise/fear the vagabond
  
- **Vagabonds**
  - move through necessity
  - do not choose where to go
  - move with difficulty
  - admire/envy the tourists
  
- **“The tourists travel because *they want to*; the vagabonds because *they have no other bearable choice*”**

(Zygmunt Bauman, 1998, p94)

# ‘Official’ Citizenship

**“Get more involved in the democratic process. You can take part in government consultations and discuss views with other users. You can find your elected representatives and get information on elections, or find out how to vote and how to make complaints about public services. Contribute to government policy-making through official consultations, and discuss your views with other users. Explore CitizenSpace to see what else you can do.”**

**Source: <http://www.gov.uk/online/citizenspace/default.asp>**

Ultimately it is in the streets that  
power must be dissolved: for the streets where  
daily life is endured, suffered and eroded, and where  
power is confronted and fought, must be turned into  
the domain where daily life is *enjoyed,*  
*created and nourished.*



(<http://rts.gn.apc.org/>)

## **Oxfam view of the ‘global citizen’**

- **is aware of the wider world;**
- **respects and values diversity;**
- **has an understanding of how the world works economically, politically, socially, culturally, technologically and environmentally;**
- **is outraged by social injustice;**
- **participates in and contributes to the community at all levels from the local to the global;**
- **is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place;**
- **takes responsibility for his or her own actions.**

**(Douglas, 2001)**