



# Does Britain fear immigration?

By Anmol

As the refugee crisis expands, and more and more people look to move to the United Kingdom, Britain's reluctance to accept newcomers is apparent. The immigrant crisis has been a hotly debated issue for quite some time, and despite arguments on both sides of the issue, the question still remains: does Britain fear immigration?

As of September 2016, the estimated net migration to the UK was 273,000 (according to Migration Watch UK). The same source also claimed that there was more migration into Britain, opposed to out. These statistics are unable to counter the 21.5 million refugees alone; the majority from Somalia, Afghanistan and Syria.

Britain is not bearing the brunt of the crisis by any means, it does not make it even into the top five hosting countries in the world (Turkey being the highest at accepting up to 2.5 million refugees). So why have we grown accustomed to hearing the classic "immigrants are stealing our jobs!"



England is fully advanced and developed country, and it is no wonder that many people want to start their lives anew here. But the reluctance people in England have to accept people seeking opportunity and a better quality of life means it is not as easy- especially if you happen to be feeling a war zone. A similar occurrence of not accepting people -literally- running for their lives can be dated back in history to the time of World War II: the Holocaust.

This is a very bold claim; however there has been plenty of speculation of such by various people, and it is believed that the idea of not allowing history to repeat itself has ironically become a thing of the past.

Young people are very impressionable. The news coverage (and other influences) on immigration is arguable, so there is a chance that the opinions are not their own. There is a broad spectrum of views amongst youth regarding immigration within the UK.

Young people within the City of Leicester College have spoken up regarding this very broad and controversial topic. A student in year 9 said "I don't really mind immigration because people in Syria are fleeing from war and if I was in the same position I would do the same. Why are they any less human than you or I?"

Another student within the same age bracket, said the following "I don't know much about it but it seems like a bit deal on the news. I think it is quite a serious problem and must be fixed."

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Ayman in year 9, who moved to England in 2008 with his family, spoke to the BBC school news report about life in Britain. Ayman moved to the UK because of his dad's well-paying job and the opportunities. He said that life was initially "very different, quite cold and dark." He then went on to say, regarding immigration, "Immigration isn't a problem. I believe the problem is living on benefits. Instead of living on benefits, if you move to the UK at least work here, so that it helps improve the economy and doesn't become a problem."

Britain prides itself for its acceptance, charity and foreign aid yet somehow immigration still remains a taboo. The idea of allowing people to enter the country still mortifies much of the British public. Hopefully someday we will see change within the attitudes of people towards migration.

