

Independent Asylum Commission

CONDUCTING A NATIONWIDE REVIEW OF THE UK ASYLUM SYSTEM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE **CITIZEN** ORGANISING FOUNDATION

Key poll findings to accompany the *Saving Sanctuary* Report

- 81.2% of respondents said their reaction to the term 'sanctuary' was 'very' or 'quite' positive compared with 18% who responded similarly to 'asylum'.

Question: What is your reaction to the word 'sanctuary'?

32.8%	Very positive
48.4%	Quite positive
17.4%	Neutral
0.9%	Quite negative
0.2%	Very negative

Question: What is your reaction to the word 'asylum'?

4.0%	Very positive
14.0%	Quite positive
48.7%	Neutral
23.6%	Quite negative
9.5%	Very negative

- 50.2% of respondents said they had somewhere they considered a sanctuary for themselves.

Question: Do you have somewhere that you consider to be a sanctuary for yourself?

50.2%	Yes
49.6%	No

- 65.7% of respondents said that it was 'very' or 'quite' important for the UK to provide sanctuary to people from abroad who are fleeing persecution.

Question: How important is it for the UK to provide sanctuary to people from abroad who are escaping persecution?

19.9%	Very important
45.8%	Quite important
17.9%	Not very important
9.4%	Not at all important
6.8%	Don't know

- 65.4% of respondents were 'very' or 'quite' proud of the UK's tradition of providing sanctuary to people fleeing persecution.

Question: The UK has provided sanctuary to people fleeing persecution for many centuries. How proud do you feel of the UK's long tradition of providing sanctuary?

17.7% Very proud
 47.7% Quite proud
 20.4% Not very proud
 8.3% Not at all proud
 5.7% Don't know

- 58% of respondents said the UK should reconsider its commitment to providing sanctuary to people fleeing persecution.

Question: The UK should reconsider its commitment to providing sanctuary to people fleeing persecution.

21.3% Strongly agree
 36.7% Agree
 25.3% Disagree
 7.3% Strongly disagree
 9.2% Don't know

- 31.3% of respondents most closely associated the word 'asylum' with mental illness.
 31.2% of respondents most closely associated the word 'asylum' with safe haven for those fleeing persecution.

Question: What do you associate with the word 'asylum'? [Rank as many options as you wish in order, 1,2,3 with 1 being the highest ranking].

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mental illness	31.3%	18.2%	10.2%	5.8%	8.5%	9.8%
Safe haven	31.2%	17.6%	8.7%	6.1%	7.5%	11.0%
Benefit fraud	6.0%	9.0%	13.7%	11.2%	12.8%	9.0%
Terrorism	3.8%	8.3%	10.2%	16.4%	11.1%	10.5%
Bogus	3.6%	10.7%	13.4%	13.7%	13.4%	7.2%
Coming to the UK to Work	13.9%	17.8%	14.4%	8.6%	7.3%	9.9%
None of the Above	3.4%	1.5%	2.2%	1.4%	0.9%	3.0%

- 74.9% of respondents said that 'the UK hosts more asylum seekers per capita than most other countries in Europe'

Question: Tick the statement you agree with:

74.9% The UK hosts more asylum seekers per capita than most other countries in Europe
 6.1% The UK hosts fewer asylum seekers per capita than most other countries in Europe
 18.3% The UK hosts a similar number of asylum seekers per capita compared to most other countries in Europe

- 53.6% of respondents said the government was performing 'very badly' or 'badly' in the way it is managing asylum seekers 27.9% did not know enough to comment.

Question: The way that the government manages asylum seekers while they investigate their story is: [Tick one of the following options]

- 3.4% Performing very well.
- 13.9% Performing well, but could perform better.
- 27.3% Performing badly, but could be worse.
- 26.3% Performing very badly.
- 27.9% I don't know enough about the system to comment.

- 71.5% said that they did not know a lot about what the government is doing about asylum seekers.

Question: I know a lot about what the government is doing about asylum seekers:

- 2.6% Strongly agree
- 21.2% Agree
- 62.5% Disagree
- 12.6% Strongly disagree

- 69.7% said that information they received regarding migration did not distinguish clearly enough between asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrant groups.

Question: Do you think that the information you receive about immigration issues is clear about the distinctions between different groups of migrants to the UK? (e.g. asylum seekers, refugees, economic migrants, illegal or irregular migrants)

- 14.3% Yes
- 69.7% No
- 14.9% Don't know

- 43.8% of respondents said that 'a more effective asylum system' would be the most important factor in making them feel more positive towards asylum seekers.

Question: What would make you feel more positive towards asylum seekers? [Rank as many options as you wish in order, 1,2,3, etc. where 1 is most likely to make you feel more positive.]

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A more effective asylum system	43.8%	14.8%	10.2%	8.6%	2.0	1.4%
Knowing more about where they come from	11.2%	27.2%	20.9%	9.5%	4.5%	1.9%
Seeing positive stories asylum seekers in the media	15.1%	21.8%	24.1%	9.9%	3.6%	1.2%
Meeting an asylum seeker in my local community	4.0%	9.1%	11.5%	28.7%	9.7%	4.7%
Nothing would change my attitude	18.0%	3.3%	2.4%	4.4%	18.5%	9.7%
Other	1.8%	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	1.0%	6.4%
If Other, please specify:	3.7%					

efeedback Research conduct opinion research using an online panel of more than 190,000 UK residents. A sub-sample representative of the UK population is drawn from the panel for each poll. The results of this opinion poll are based on 1,024 completes gathered online from respondents based across the UK. Data was weighted to the profile of all UK residents, not just those with access to the internet, over the age of 17. Data was weighted by age, gender, occupation and region. Fieldwork began on 2/5/2008 and concluded on 12/5/2008.