

FICTION

Our local amenities can't cope

FACT

Communities actually benefit from hosting asylum seekers.

South Dublin County Council have been allocated **€2,754,305** under the Community Recognition Fund, which supports communities that have welcomed and are hosting families and individuals from other countries, with projects underway ranging from new sports infrastructure to community centre upgrades to public wifi to playspaces and teenspaces.



FICTION

Asylum seekers are a drain on our economy

FACT

Migrants benefit our economy.

Research from other European countries shows that as asylum seekers become permanent residents, their contribution to the State outweighs the cost of initially receiving them, if they are allowed to work and supported in finding employment. This is because the increase in public spending from supporting asylum seekers is more than compensated for by an increase in tax revenues.



International Protection:



Dear Resident,

The right to seek asylum is an important one. Today, record numbers of people have been forced to flee their homes and to rely on strangers in a strange country to help them start over. In this document, we set out some of the facts and some of the fiction about people seeking international protection.



Alan Edge

Alan Edge,
Mayor of South Dublin



South Dublin
County Partnership
Páirtíocht Chontae
Átha Cliath Theas



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



South Dublin
Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Átha Cliath Theas



Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Cómhaoineithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



TRUSTED
STANDARD
LEVEL 1
nco

This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

FICTION

Asylum seekers are 'unvetted'

FACT

Every single person arriving in Ireland to claim international protection is interviewed, photographed and fingerprinted, and each of them are checked against the EuroDac system.



FICTION

People are coming here just for the benefits

FACT

An asylum seeker is not entitled to social welfare support.

They are meanstested and, if not able to live independently, they receive an expense allowance of **€38.80 per week for adults** (€5.54 per day) and **€29.80 per week for children**. Asylum seekers are not entitled to receive child benefit for their children.



FICTION

Asylum seekers pose a threat to communities

FACT

New arrivals to South Dublin contribute really positively to our local communities through volunteering and engaging in community activities.

Refugees and asylum seekers are eager to give back to the society that has welcomed them but also see volunteering as a way of meeting new people and integrating into their new community.

In 2023, **8,647 new volunteers** registered in Dublin on I-VOL (the national volunteering database). **Over 5,500 (or 65%) of these volunteers were non-Irish**. In South Dublin, we regularly see refugees and asylum seekers from our Accommodation centres engaging in tidy towns, local clean-ups, helping at events and festivals, and helping at environmental events such as tree planting alongside more long-term volunteering roles.



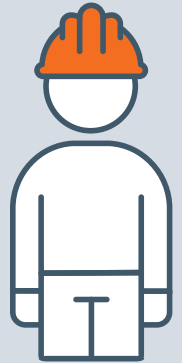
FICTION

None of them want to work

FACT

A person seeking international protection is not allowed to work for the first 6 months after their arrival to Ireland.

A person can apply for permission to work if they have not had a decision on their asylum claim within **6 months of arrival**. Work permits are for **12 months only** and are regularly reviewed.



FICTION

People are never refused

FACT

Nearly **600 asylum seekers were refused refugee status in January 2024** according to data from the Department of Justice.

62% (595 people) of first-time international protection (IP) applications assessed in January 2024 were refused permission to remain in this country, while 26% (251 people) were granted refugee status.

In 2023, overall **60% of all asylum applications (5,197) were refused** in the first instance.