

# Immigration (1)

## Understanding terminology



Some language used within society can be used interchangeably, such as 'migrant', 'refugee' and 'asylum seeker'. There are, however, vast differences in their meaning. It is important to use clear language when discussing immigration.

### TASK

Use these statements to see if staff can match the term to the correct meaning.

- **Racism:** prejudice, discrimination or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior. A suggested definition for primary might be "treating someone differently and unfairly just because of their race, culture or skin colour."
- **Immigrant:** a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. Immigration is about coming into a new country. This is often confused with emigration, which is about leaving your country of origin.
- **Emigrant:** a person who leaves their own country to settle permanently in another.
- **Expat:** short for expatriate, a person who lives outside their native country, often used in the UK to refer to a UK citizen living abroad; has the same meaning as immigrant but usually used to refer to White Europeans and seen as less pejorative in tone than immigrant.

- Migration: the movement of people from one country to another.
- Migrant: a person who makes a free and conscious choice to leave their country to seek a better life elsewhere; often wrongly used to describe refugees or asylum seekers.
- Economic migrant: someone who has moved to another country to work. For example, members of the European Union are currently free to move between EU member states and to seek work in any of them. A suggested definition for primary might be “someone who has moved to another country to get a job”.
- Displaced person: A person who has been driven from their homeland or place of residence by war, internal upheaval, or natural disaster; another term for a refugee. Asylum seeker: a person who has fled persecution in their homeland, has arrived in another country, made themselves known to the authorities and exercised the legal right to apply for asylum. A suggested definition for primary might be: “someone who had to leave their home country because they were not safe at home, because of violence or war or being treated badly because of what they believe in or how they live, has arrived in another country, and has asked the government for permission to stay”.
- Refugee: a person whose asylum application has been successful and who is allowed to stay in another country, having proved that they would face persecution or threat to their life in their home country; they have been given the legal “right to remain.” A suggested definition for primary might be “someone who was not safe in their home country and has been given the right to stay in their new country”.

- **Illegal immigrant:** a term commonly used to refer to someone who has entered the country through deception, perhaps not applying for a visa or for asylum. Some people do try to avoid detection when they get to another country but that may be because of a fear of authority, a fear of persecution, illiteracy, trauma or other good reasons. This is the least common type of immigrant to the UK. We recommend that other terms be used instead of this one.

Staff should be reassured that it is reasonable for each of us to be at a different stage in our understanding of the terminology used. What is important is that everyone commits to continuing to develop their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and its impact on children and families.

Leicester's Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board Training priority –  
Safeguarding children from diverse backgrounds