

Immigration (3)

Myths of Immigration: Countering misinformation



TASK

Using the information provided below, carry out an ‘Agree or Disagree’ activity at a staff meeting or training. This would provide an opportunity for staff to share opinions and challenge attitudes. It could also be shared as a supportive handout.

Myth	Fact
“We have loads of immigrants in the UK”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less than 1% of the world’s refugees live in the UK, and refugees make up only 19% of the UK population.• 86% of the world’s refugees live in the poorest countries.• There are more refugees in Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon than anywhere else
“Loads of immigrants are criminals”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immigrants are no more likely to commit crime than anyone else• Crime fell significantly in areas of the UK that had experienced mass immigration from eastern Europe, with rates of burglary, vandalism, and car theft down• Newcomers often face the poorest conditions and become targets for crime and exploitation.• Immigrants can also experience hate crimes and racist attacks.

Myth	Fact
<p>“People come to the UK because we’re a soft touch and give outloads of benefits”</p> <p>“People just want free healthcare and free houses”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most immigrants are refugees, fleeing persecution, violence and war and they cannot safely stay where they are – their lives are at risk. That’s why they sometimes use such dangerous ways of leaving e.g. unsafe boats or container lorries. • More than 3,700 people drowned in 2016 trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. • Some people choose to leave a safe country and seek a better life in the UK. • Refugees and asylum seekers have to live where they are placed, often in very poor-quality housing. • Sometimes the UK has put asylum seekers, including children, in prison-like detention centres while their claims are processed.
<p>“Immigration is a taboo subject everyone is afraid to talk about it”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration features in the newspapers and on TV/radio/web news every day but there is a myth that it is ‘taboo’ to discuss it. • Media portrayals of immigration can create or exacerbate racism and prejudice and are very worthy of discussion and critical examination.
<p>“Immigration causes terrorism”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many immigrants are fleeing terrorism. • Many immigrants have been victims of terrorism. • Most terrorism is committed by people who are legally resident where they commit their crimes.

Myth	Fact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders from Black and Minority Ethnic groups and from faith and community groups condemn terrorism. • Terrorism is a complex issue with complex causes; stigmatising immigrants is wrong
<p>“Immigrants take all the jobs and drive down wages”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence of an overall negative impact of immigration on jobs, wages, housing or the crowding out of public services
<p>“Immigrants are all the same”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are important distinctions between economic migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. • Immigration has brought new and exciting cultures to the UK. We are a mix of races and have benefited from that diversity. • Ultimately, we are all human beings with the same rights and needs.

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