

# 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"><li>• Less than 1% of the world's refugees live in the UK, and refugees make up only 19% of the UK population.</li><li>• 86% of the world's refugees live in the poorest countries.</li><li>• There are more refugees in Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon than anywhere else</li></ul>
"Loads of immigrants are criminals"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immigrants are no more likely to commit crime than anyone else</li><li>• 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</li><li>• Newcomers often face the poorest conditions and become targets for crime and exploitation.</li><li>• Immigrants can also experience hate crimes and racist attacks.</li></ul>

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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• More than 3,700 people drowned in 2016 trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.</li> <li>• Some people choose to leave a safe country and seek a better life in the UK.</li> <li>• Refugees and asylum seekers have to live where they are placed, often in very poor-quality housing.</li> <li>• Sometimes the UK has put asylum seekers, including children, in prison-like detention centres while their claims are processed.</li> </ul>
<p>“Immigration is a taboo subject everyone is afraid to talk about it”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Media portrayals of immigration can create or exacerbate racism and prejudice and are very worthy of discussion and critical examination.</li> </ul>
<p>“Immigration causes terrorism”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many immigrants are fleeing terrorism. • Many immigrants have been victims of terrorism.</li> <li>• Most terrorism is committed by people who are legally resident where they commit their crimes.</li> </ul>

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

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