Refugees’ search for stability:
Enabling integration in Coventry

Source: UNHCR Global Trends 2014
By end-2014:

- 59.5 mln individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations
- UK had 153,560 people of concern to UNHCR in 2014, including
- 40,329 asylum applicants, of them 11,795 were granted refugee status (10,734) or humanitarian protection (1,061)
- UK – 17th in the list of European countries by percentage of refugees in the total population (1.85)
- Coventry – one of the UK’s 12 dispersal cities

Source: UNHCR 2015 and IOM 2015
Source: UNHCR Global Trends 2014

See Annex Table 2 for detailed notes.
As a result...

- Diverse ethnic groups
- Multicultural and multilingual environment
- Different experiences and expectations
- Varied educational and professional backgrounds
  - Opportunities to contribute?
Once in the UK:

Barriers

- Legal system/Immigration process
- Family/Social connections
- Culture shock
- Language
- Policies, Rules and regulations
- Dependence on system

Expectations of host community

- Money management
- Housing
- Personal expectations
- Services
- Qualifications
- Changes in identity

Diversity

Belonging/Fitting in

Support networks

UK work experience
WELLBEING

Integration

Sense of identity

Sense of belonging

Development pers and prof

Contribution

Acceptance of own experiences

Unexpressed internal conflicts

Immigration status

Physical health/disability

Shelter, accommodation

Income, benefits

Education

Employment

Social connections

Respect of/by others

Sense of security and stability

Sense of belonging

Appreciation

Sense of identity

Sense of security and stability

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Food

Client empowerment journey

Through CRMC services and collaboration with other agencies/organisations

Jackie Chan, Marc Chagall, Lomana Lualua, Joseph Conrad, Madeleine Albright, Frédéric Chopin, Jesus Christ, the Prophet Mohamed

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Integration: How we see it

- Equality (e.g., access to services and opportunities)
- Tackling disadvantage
- Creating opportunities for all
- Acceptance of change
- Capitalizing on existing knowledge and skills and enhancing them (i.e., not starting from scratch)
Integration: Other views?

Source: DCLG, 2012
Integration:
Other views

“Community Integration is the opportunity to live in the community and be valued for one's uniqueness and abilities, like everyone else” (Salzer, 2006)

“Integration is not a one-way-street leaving the burden on the shoulders of the migrants alone. It is a social process involving both sides, the migrants and their host society” (Council of Europe, 1997)

“Integration means creating the conditions for everyone to play a full part in national and local life” (DCLG, 2012)
Indicators of integration

- Legal
- Cultural
- Housing
- Access to labour market
- ‘Open’ host community
- Faith
- Language
- Social services
- Health services
- Education
- Leisure/Recreation
- Judicial
- Demographic changes
- Political participation

Source: Cebulla et al, 2010; Council of Europe, 1997
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Please go to our website to check for volunteering opportunities and current appeals
References


