

November 2015

## Asylum statistics Annual Trends

### APPLICATIONS:

- In 2014 the number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, (24,914), was 6% higher than in 2013, (23,584). After a significant drop in the number of applications from 2009 to 2010 there has been an upward trend over the past four years with an overall 39% increase from 2010 to 2014.

Table 1: Asylum applications in the UK (excl. Dependants)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Applications	17,916	19,865	21,843	23,584	25,033
% change from previous year	-27%	+11%	+10%	+8%	+6%

### Applications by nationality:

- In 2014 there were significant increases in the number of applicants from Eritrea, Sudan and, to a lesser extent, Albania and Syria, compared with 2013.

Table 2: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries (excl. Dependants)

	2013	2014	% change
Eritrea	1,387	3,233	+133%
Pakistan	3,359	2,726	-19%
Syria	1,648	2,025	+23%
Iran	2,410	2,000	-17%
Albania	1,325	1,576	+19%
Sudan	743	1,449	+95%
Sri Lanka	1,811	1,292	-29%
Afghanistan	1,038	1,139	+10%
Nigeria	931	899	-3%
Bangladesh	1,123	748	-33%

- Over the past 5 years 16 different countries have appeared in the list of the top ten asylum applicant producing countries. Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Nigeria have been in the top ten in every one of the last five years.

- Zimbabwe had the highest number of applicants in 2009 (5599) and third highest in 2010 (1446) but since then has never been in the top ten. China, Somalia, and Iraq are other countries where the number of applicants has declined in the last 2 or 3 years.
- Libya featured in the list in 2011, but not before or since. The number of applicants from Bangladesh has increased in recent years, bringing them into the top ten. In 2012, 2013, and 2014 there were significant increases in the number of applications from Albania, Syria, and Eritrea.

## Applications by location

- The majority of applications are made in-country rather than at ports. Over the past five years there have been only small variations in the percentage of applications made in-country, ranging from 88% to 92% of all applications.

Table 3: Applications by location (excl. Dependants), by year

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>In-country</b>	16,176	17,546	19,202	20,796	22,423
% change from previous year	-28%	+8%	+9%	+8%	+8%
<b>Port</b>	1,740	2,319	2,641	2,788	2,610
% change from previous year	-13%	+33%	+14%	+6%	-6%
<b>Total</b>	17,916	19,865	21,843	23,584	25,033
% change from previous year	-27%	+11%	+10%	+8%	+6%

## DECISIONS:

- In 2014 59% of initial decisions were refusals, 37% were grants of asylum, just over 1% were grants of Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, and 3% were grants of leave to remain under other categories, such as family or private life rules; a category introduced in 2011.
- Over the past five years there has been an upward trend in the percentage of decisions which have been to grant refugee status, but it is still just over a third of applications which result in this decision.
- There has been a steady decline in the number of decisions to grant discretionary leave to remain. This is related to a decline in the number of applications from unaccompanied children, who used to be frequently granted discretionary leave when they were under 18
- The 'other grants of leave' category now includes UASC leave, the temporary leave now often given to unaccompanied children.
- While the percentage of refusals has dropped slightly in recent years it remains at almost 60% of applications.

Table 4: Initial Decisions (excl. Dependants)

	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
<b>Decisions</b>	20,261		17,380		16,744		17,543		19,782	
<b>Refugee status</b>	3,488	17%	4,312	25%	5,135	31%	5,736	33%	7,266	37%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	91	0.4%	81	0.5 %	88	0.5%	53	0.3%	68	0.3%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	1,616	8%	1256	7%	751	4%	533	3%	200	1%
<b>Other Grants of Leave</b>					85	0.5%	220	1%	616	3%
<b>Refused</b>	15,066	74%	11,731	67%	10,715	64%	11,001	63%	11,632	59%

- Among the countries with large numbers of asylum applicants those from which the highest percentages were given refugee status, humanitarian protection, or discretionary leave in 2014 were Eritrea, Iran, Syria, and Sudan as can be seen from the table below.
- In contrast, among the countries with relatively large numbers of applicants, Albania, Bangladesh, China, and Nigeria had high refusal rates, as did India.
- The larger number of decisions to grant UASC leave for applicants from Afghanistan and Albania relates to larger numbers of applications from unaccompanied children from these countries.

Table5: Asylum decisions by nationality, 2014, top ten countries for number of decisions

	<b>Decisions</b>	<b>Refugee status</b>	<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	<b>Family or Private Life / UASC Leave</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
Eritrea	2,463	2,143	2	1	9	308
Pakistan	2,276	437	4	9	16	1,810
Iran	1,801	952	17	9	15	808
Syria	1,364	1,175	12	0	8	169
Sri Lanka	1,217	133	0	10	14	1,060
Albania	1,028	5	0	22	214	787
Sudan	983	774	0	0	2	207
Afghanistan	943	228	2	14	84	615
Nigeria	757	102	1	20	27	607
China	642	25	0	14	14	589

## APPEALS:

- In 2014 28% of appeals were allowed, while 66% were dismissed.
- The success rate at appeal has remained steady for a number of years, but there has been a decline in the number of appeals heard in the last 2 to 3 years.

Table 6: Appeals determined

	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
Determined	14,723		10,597		8,285		8,325		6,178	
Allowed	4,029	27%	2,779	26%	2,208	27%	2,078	25%	1,758	28%
Dismissed	10,061	68%	7,139	67%	5,472	66%	5,681	68%	4,081	66%
Withdrawn	633	4%	679	6%	605	7%	566	7%	339	6%

- The table below compares the success rate at appeal for the top ten countries by the number of initial decisions. The 'grants' column shows an initial decision to grant any form of status.
- Some countries with high initial grants of status also have above average appeal success rates (Eritrea, Sudan, and Iran) and some countries with low initial grants of status also have below average appeal success rates. The two main exceptions to these trends are Sri Lanka and Syria, although in the case of Syria the total number of appeals determined was relatively small.

Table 7: Success rates at appeal by country, 2014

	Initial Grants (%)	Appeals determined	% success at appeal
Sri Lanka	13%	674	44%
Eritrea	87%	114	44%
Sudan	78%	60	43%
Iran	54%	510	40%
Afghanistan	33%	481	36%
Albania	21%	337	32%
Nigeria	19%	294	21%
Pakistan	20%	1,224	20%
Syria	86%	69	20%
China	8%	299	11%

*The figures on appeals may differ from those shown in earlier summaries due to changes in the data sources (see note at the end of this summary).*

## REFUGEES RESETTLED:

- Refugees may be accepted for resettlement in the UK via the Gateway programme, the Mandate Scheme, or most recently via the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (started in 2014).

- The UK commitment to the Gateway programme is for 750 refugees per year, referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Mandate scheme covers people who have been granted refugee status by UNHCR and have ties to the UK.
- The numbers resettled each year (including dependants) are shown in the table below.

Table 8: Refugees resettled (incl. Dependants)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Gateway Programme	669	432	985	935	630
Mandate Scheme	49	22	54	32	14
Syrian Vulnerable Persons					143

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of 2014 was 29,753 of whom 26,350 were in dispersal accommodation and 3,403 were receiving subsistence only.
- The numbers rose during 2014 and are now at their highest since 2009, which relates in the main to the rise in the number of applications for asylum.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of 2014 was the North West (7,100). This region has had the largest number since the beginning of 2008.
- 1,476 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of 2014. There has been an upward trend in the numbers supported under Section 98 since 2009.

Table 9: Asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support (incl. Dependants)

	End of 2010	End of 2011	End of 2012	End of 2013	End of 2014
Dispersed accommodation	18,724	18,108	17,594	20,687	26,350
Subsistence only	3,315	2,786	2,588	2,772	3,403
Initial accommodation	650	962	1,067	1,197	1,476

## Applicants supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- 5,558 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in 2014. After a sharp decline in grants of Section 4 support from 2009 to 2011, numbers increased in 2012 and again in 2013.
- At the end of 2014 3,655 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support, as well as 1,339 dependants. The number of dependants supported has only been published since the beginning of 2013.

Table 10: Grants of Section 4 Support

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of grants	6,621	3,788	4,841	5,786	5,558

Table 11: Numbers in receipt of Section 4 Support (excl. Dependants)

	End of 2010	End of 2011	End of 2012	End of 2013	End of 2014
Number supported	3,560	2,310	2,757	3,488	3,655

- For more detail on asylum support see the separate briefing on this subject produced by the Refugee Council.

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, in 2014, 7,025 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily, a 22% decrease from 2012 (9,027).
- The total number of removals and voluntary departures has gone down in each year from 2009. The number of enforced removals has dropped in each of those years.
- 1,453 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in 2014, the largest number since 2009.
- Other types of voluntary departure have tended to decrease year by year, with the exception of 2011 when there was a peak in the number of notified voluntary returns, and 2013 when there was a small increase in the number of other voluntary departures.

Table 12: Removals and voluntary departures of Asylum Applicants, incl. dependants

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Enforced</b>	6,174	5,774	5,068	4,828	4,372
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	2,698	2,071	2,529	666	1,453
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	482	1,565	841	592	747
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	1,040	667	593	666	453
<b>Total</b>	10,394	10,077	9,031	9,027	7,025

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 15,673 people were recorded as removed from the UK upon leaving detention in 2014, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers, of whom 31% were asylum detainees.

## Persons Detained at the end of the year

- At the end of 2014 a total of 3,462 persons were detained, 2 children were in detention at this point in time.
- 1,698 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (49% of all immigration detainees)
- 91% of all detainees were male.

Table 13: People in detention

	End of 2010	End of 2011	End of 2012	End of 2013	End of 2014
Total	2,525	2,419	2,685	2,796	3,462
Male	2,248	2,178	2,412	2,505	3,135
Female	277	241	273	291	327
Asylum detainees	1,612	1,370	1,676	1,684	1,698

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

- At the end of 2014, of the countries with the largest numbers of asylum detainees, only China, India and Vietnam do not also appear in the top ten countries for the number of asylum applications in 2014.
- Eritrea and Syria ranked first and third respectively for the number of asylum applications in 2014. However at the end of 2014 only 33 Eritrean Iranian asylum seekers and 21 Syrian asylum seekers were in detention.

Table 14: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees

	End of 2013	End of 2014
Pakistan	383	279
India	150	150
Bangladesh	175	128
Nigeria	75	122
Afghanistan	137	116
Sri Lanka	93	102
Albania	89	74
China	75	66
Iran	25	46
Vietnam	25	41

## Children in Detention

- In 2014 128 children entered detention, of whom 89 were asylum detainees. 32 of these children were detained at the Cedars pre-departure accommodation, and 54 at Tinsley House Family Unit.

- For more detail on children in detention see the separate briefing on this subject produced by the Refugee Council. There are also briefings on detention in the asylum system and the detained fast track process.

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was 1,945 in 2014, a 54% increase compared with 2013.
- Figures for years before 2012 in earlier briefings are not directly comparable to later figures because of a change in the way the statistics have been compiled. There is a link at the end of this document to the Home Office publication explaining the change. The Home Office has now updated the figures for the years before 2012 to reflect the change in methodology.

Table 15: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum (excl. Dependants)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Applications	1,515	1,248	1,125	1,265	1,945
% change to previous year	-47%	-18%	-10%	+12%	+54%

- Albania is now the country of origin for the largest number of unaccompanied children (32% of all applications in 2014). The number of applications from Afghanistan has declined in recent years. 80% of all applications in 2014 were from 6 countries.

Table 16: Top child asylum applicant producing countries (excl. Dependants)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Albania	32	123	265	470	632
Eritrea	123	102	80	131	460
Afghanistan	487	394	235	150	179
Syria	6	8	21	64	118
Vietnam	96	78	62	68	103
Iran	176	171	119	76	73

- In 2014 88% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier years.

### Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases has been steadily falling over the past 5 years.



Table 17: Age Disputed Asylum applications (excl. Dependants)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Applications	530	370	337	323	318
% change to previous year	-54%	-30%	-9%	-4%	-2%

N.B. The Home Office statistics on age disputed cases do not include the category of those applicants who claim to be children but who are treated as adult because in the opinion of an Immigration officer "their physical appearance and/or general demeanour **very strongly** indicates that they are **significantly** over 18 years and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary"

## Decisions

- The majority of decisions on asylum applications by unaccompanied children under the age of 18 used to be grants of discretionary leave. In 2013 over 70% of all grants of discretionary leave were to children aged 17 and under, although they accounted for only 3% of total decisions.
- For unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 when they receive their decision, refusal rates tend to be much higher; there was a refusal rate of 74% in 2014.
- For unaccompanied children a new category, UASC leave, is now being used in cases where the only reason for giving leave is that the applicant is a child who cannot be returned, and this means there are far fewer grants of discretionary leave.

Table 18: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children aged 17 and under

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	UASC Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
2014	988	418	9	23	380	4	154
2013	936	237	4	380	119	18	178
2012	594	159	3	342			90
2011	939	183	6	605			145
2010	1,627	264	11	1,089			263

Table 19: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	UASC Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
2014	281	69	1	0	0	2	209
2013	176	50	0	3	0	2	121
2012	87	26	0	8		0	53
2011	127	27	3	9			88
2010	209	27	1	7			174

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In 2014 there were 7,311 applications from dependants, the majority of whom were under the age of 18.
- Dependant applications from under 18s are generally split more or less equally between boys and girls.
- Applications from dependants over the age of 18 are predominantly from women.

Table 20: Applications by Dependants by age

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Under 5</b>	1,530	1,904	2,030	2,423	2,687
<b>5 – 9 yo</b>	829	1,061	1,094	1,125	1,312
<b>10 – 13 yo</b>	470	587	566	590	746
<b>14 – 15 yo</b>	200	257	247	223	307
<b>16 – 17 yo</b>	158	201	191	210	253
<b>18+ yo</b>	1,129	1,667	1,658	1,705	1,969

Table 21: Applications by dependants aged 18 and over

	Total Applications	Male dependants	Female dependants	% Female
<b>2014</b>	1,969	556	1,413	72%
<b>2013</b>	1,705	406	1,299	76%
<b>2012</b>	1,658	385	1,273	77%
<b>2011</b>	1,667	379	1,288	77%
<b>2010</b>	1,129	314	815	72%

N.B. There are a few cases (approx. 5%) where the age or gender of dependants is recorded as unknown.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS:

### Applications

- In 2014 27% of asylum applications were made by women. This is comparable to other recent years.

Table 22: Applications by women (Excl. Dependants)

	Total Applications	Applications by women	% by women
<b>2014</b>	25,033	6,842	27%
<b>2013</b>	23,584	6,396	27%
<b>2012</b>	21,843	6,071	28%
<b>2011</b>	19,865	5,392	27%
<b>2010</b>	17,916	5,329	30%

- The proportion of women applicants varies considerably from country to country. For a few countries there are more women applicants than men, or a roughly equal number, whereas in others the proportion of women applicants is low.

Table 23: Women asylum applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries 2014

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Applications by women</b>	<b>% by women</b>
Eritrea	3,233	668	21%
Pakistan	2,726	680	25%
Syria	2,025	309	15%
Iran	2,000	587	29%
Albania	1,576	534	34%
Sudan	1,449	101	7%
Sri Lanka	1,292	248	19%
Afghanistan	1,139	171	15%
Nigeria	899	465	52%
Bangladesh	748	122	16%

Table 24: Top ten countries for women asylum applicants 2014

	<b>Applications by women</b>	<b>% of total by women</b>	<b>Change in no. from 2013</b>
Pakistan	680	25%	-76
Eritrea	668	21%	+182
Iran	587	29%	-111
Albania	534	34%	-72
Nigeria	465	52%	+60
China	335	52%	-21
Syria	309	15%	+37
Sri Lanka	248	19%	-52
Iraq	228	39%	+103
India	214	30%	-48

- In 2014 only 12% of asylum applications by unaccompanied children were by girls, and this is similar to earlier years.

Table 25: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Applications by girls</b>	<b>% Female</b>
<b>2014</b>	1,945	232	12%
<b>2013</b>	1,265	179	14%
<b>2012</b>	1,125	188	17%
<b>2011</b>	1,248	221	18%
<b>2010</b>	1,515	293	19%

- The main countries of origin for unaccompanied girls seeking asylum in 2014 were those shown in the table below. There has been a general increase in applications from unaccompanied children from Albania in recent years. There were fewer than 10 girls applying from every other country in 2014.

Table 26: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum (girls only)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Eritrea</b>	53	45	56	44	36	57
<b>Albania</b>	4	5	14	14	22	41
<b>Vietnam</b>	21	29	23	13	26	36
<b>Nigeria</b>	21	24	21	18	10	13

## Decisions

- In recent years women asylum seekers have generally been slightly more likely than men to be granted asylum, and, since 2011, have generally been slightly more likely to be granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave.
- The refusal rates for women have tended to be lower than for men in recent years.
- In 2014 there was virtually no difference in grants and refusals between men and women

Table 27 Decisions by gender

	Granted Asylum		Granted HP or DL or other leave		Refused	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>2014</b>	37%	36%	4%	5%	59%	59%
<b>2013</b>	31%	38%	4%	5%	65%	57%
<b>2012</b>	29%	35%	5%	7%	66%	58%
<b>2011</b>	24%	27%	7%	9%	69%	64%
<b>2010</b>	16%	19%	9%	7%	75%	74%

## Appeals

- Women asylum seekers are more likely than men to win appeals.
- In each of the last 5 years the percentage of allowed appeals has been at least 4% higher for women than for men.

Table 28 Appeal decisions by gender

	Appeal Allowed		Appeal Dismissed		Appeal Withdrawn	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>2014</b>	27%	33%	68%	61%	5%	6%
<b>2013</b>	24%	28%	70%	64%	6%	8%
<b>2012</b>	25%	30%	68%	62%	7%	8%
<b>2011</b>	25%	30%	69%	64%	6%	6%
<b>2010</b>	25%	32%	71%	63%	4%	4%

## Removals

- In 2014 there were 956 women who had applied for asylum who were either removed from the UK (484) or left on a voluntary basis (472).
- Of the asylum enforced removals 11% were female (484 from a total of 4,372) and of asylum voluntary departures 18% were female (472 from a total of 2,653).
- In 2014 of the people recorded as removed from the UK on leaving detention 15% (2,402) were female.

## NOTE

Figures given in this summary may differ from those in earlier summaries. In some cases this is because of rounding which was done in Home Office Statistical Bulletins which is no longer done, and in other cases, particularly for more recent statistics, because of adjustments made as a result of more complete and accurate information becoming available.

There have been significant changes in the figures on appeals. These are now sourced from the UKVI database and are for main asylum applicants. The quarterly data used to be sourced from the Tribunals Service. The Tribunals Service figures were higher as they had a wider definition of asylum appeals, including, for example, some human rights cases and also included some individuals classed as dependants by UKV I. For a fuller explanation see the Control of Immigration quarterly statistical summary for the first quarter of 2011

The change in the method of counting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children is explained in the Home Office publication accompanying the statistics published in August 2013. See Page 66.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/232217/user-guide-immig-statistics.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/232217/user-guide-immig-statistics.pdf)

The full detailed statistics covering the most recent period can be found on the Gov.UK website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2015/list-of-tables>

For older statistics follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/migration-statistics>

## About the Refugee Council

The Refugee Council is one of the leading organisations in the UK working with asylum seekers and refugees. We give help and support to asylum seekers and refugees, and also work with them to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed by decision-makers.