



# Riddlesden Scouts

## Join the Adventure . . .

### Asylum Issues in the UK Activity (approx 40min)

Activity	Time	Notes
Ask them what is an asylum seeker	2	In the UK, asylum seekers are officially people who have lodged a claim with the Government and are waiting to find out if they can stay in this country.  If they are allowed to stay, they become "refugees" <b>Newsround</b>
How many asylum seekers in the UK?	2	People claiming asylum in 2002: 110,000 <b>Newsround</b> Between January and September 2007 there were 16,520 principal asylum applications lodged, this represents a seven per cent fall in applications compared to the same period in 2006. It is also the lowest number of applications since 1992. <b>Home Office</b>
Where do they come from	3	The top five countries that people came from in 2002 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Iraq (14,940)</li> <li>● Zimbabwe (7,695)</li> <li>● Afghanistan (7,380)</li> <li>● Somalia (6,680)</li> <li>● China (3,735)</li> </ul> <b>Newsround</b>
What key Human rights would we like?	5	Right to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Practice Religion</li> <li>● Association</li> <li>● Fair Trial</li> <li>● Free speech</li> <li>● Education</li> <li>● Health Care</li> </ul>
Create Asylum laws for their own country	10	
Give out Case studies would you let them in? 1 case study per patrol then feed back to the troop	15	Case studies 1-3 from BBC Study 4 from various sources. All are true stories

## Case Study 1, Mohamed

Mohamed was a former chemistry teacher in Iraq and he also ran a small business selling steel. In January 2002 he went to a flat to visit his friend Amer, who was a religious man not a political figure.

There were also two other men in the house - one of whom, Jafer, was political

Later that evening, security police raided the the house.

The men were told to lie down, they were blindfolded, their hands tied behind their backs and were put into a vehicle.

They were then driven for half an hour, before being taken inside a building.

The blindfold was removed and Mohamed was put in a 4 ft x 4 ft room.

### Forced confession

The following day he was taken for interrogation asked questions about his job, religion, and Jafer.

He was beaten with cable wire and batons. He was told to confess to being a member of an opposition party or he would be killed.

He refused and was electrocuted and suffered other forms of torture for a month.

Once the guards told him he was to be strangled to death.

He was taken to the execution room and the guard ordered him to be killed, only to be returned to his cell because his name was not on the execution list.

### Punishable by death

Then in March he was released, and dumped in the middle of the road, told not to remove the blindfold for five minutes.

He later learnt that his brother-in-law had bribed a guard to release him.

On 15th March he went back to work then travelled to Baghdad on business.

In April he was informed by his family that the police were looking for him as Jafer had confessed that all four men were members of the Al wa Party, which was punishable by death and that Mohammed was a financial backer of the party.

He then travelled to Jordan and paid \$7,000 (£3,700) to go from Jordan to Turkey where he was then put in a tea chest and transported on five separate lorries to Britain where he applied for asylum.

He chose Britain because he could speak some English which he thought would make it easier for him to earn a living.

## **Case Study 2, Abdullah**

Abdullah had learnt to live with abuse in Iran because his father was from Iraq and this fact was recorded on his ID card.

As a result he was often arrested and beaten.

He was also held overnight, once for talking to a girl in public and on another occasion due to his ethnic origin.

In 1999 he was part of the big student demonstration against the ruling parties clamp down on liberal newspapers.

There were running battles between protesters and during this Abdullah was stabbed in the side by someone he believed to be an undercover policeman.

He feared for his life, so instead of going to hospital he went to a friend with medical knowledge who stitched up the wound.

In the meantime, police went to his home where his parents were questioned about his whereabouts and activities.

Believing his life was in danger he fled first to Turkey.

He did not claim asylum there because Turkey usually sends asylum seekers straight back to the country of origin.

Instead he worked there illegally until he earned enough to pay the local gangsters to transport him to Britain where he thought he would get a fairer hearing.

He travelled in the back of a lorry for 12 days until he reached Dover.

The driver did not know anything about them until he heard a banging in the back of his lorry.

They jumped out and started to make their way back to Dover to make an asylum claim.

But they were picked up by police after the driver reported the incident.

### **Case study 3, Farrad**

Farad was studying medicine at Kabul Medical College in Afghanistan.

He comes from a wealthy family, had always been lawful, visited the mosque and had never spoken out against the Taleban.

But being educated middle class in Afghanistan has its downside.

He and his family were targeted by vicious vigilante gangs who sought to punish the wealthy for what they saw as non-Islamic, westernised existence.

On two occasions, Farad was 'arrested' by these groups and accused of not being a proper Muslim.

When he protested he was imprisoned in the notorious North Kabul jail.

During his ordeal he was beaten so badly that his hand was permanently deformed and he could not stand, speak or talk.

While he was in prison, the gang visited his house where his wife and father were, and stole jewellery and electrical goods.

When he was arrested again a few months later, his father had to pay a local warlord to get him out of jail.

By this time Farad needed immediate medical treatment.

But as he was still a 'wanted man', he was taken to Pakistan where he spent a month in hospital.

His hand is permanently deformed and he has many other injuries.

But he was still not safe there, as these gangs had members in east Pakistan, so he flew to UK and claimed asylum in 1999.

## Case study 4, Manuell Bravo



Manuel Bravo's is from Angola a county torn apart by civil war.

The Angolan Government decided they didn't like him because he campaigned against them asking for the right to vote.

His parents had been killed and his sister sexually abused in Angola. Manuel, his wife Lydia and their two sons, Antonio and Mellyu fled Angola, arriving in the UK in 2001 where they settled in Leeds. Antonio and Mellyu joined local Schools and they attended Christ Church in Armley, Leeds

Lydia returned to Angola with Mellyu to care for relatives there. A few months later Manuel received a letter from the International Red Cross telling him that his wife had been arrested on arriving in Angola and that both his wife and son have disappeared. It was later discovered they had been arrested for 2 months and are now refugees in another African country.

## **Case Study Results:**

1. The Home Office's decision was to give Mohamed exceptional leave to remain in the UK for four years.
2. The Home Office's turned down Abdullah's claim.
3. The Home Office's decision was to give Farad exceptional leave to remain in Britain for four years in 2001.
4. The Home Office decided to deport them and Immigration arrested Manuel and 13-year-old Antonio in 2005 and took them to Yarl's Wood removal Centre from where they were to Be sent back to Angola. Manuel Killed himself in the removal Center so that his son could stay in the UK as children without adults cannot be deported.