



# STAR Action Week Quiz



Thousands of people who have fled war and torture are living destitute or in extreme poverty in Britain without enough to meet their essential living needs of food, clothing and health. They have come to this country seeking safety, but are forced to rely on family, friends and charities to survive...

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is calling on the Government to ensure that all asylum seekers have enough to live on.

STAR is the national network of 34 student groups working to improve the lives of refugees in the UK by:

- Promoting positive images of refugees
- Volunteering for local refugee projects
- Campaigning for refugees

To find out what you can do visit:

[www.star-network.org.uk](http://www.star-network.org.uk)

To learn more about the campaign against destitution visit:

[www.stillhumanstillhere.org.uk](http://www.stillhumanstillhere.org.uk)

## Part 1: Quiz

**Question 1:** How many applications for asylum were made in the UK in 2010?

- (a) 17,790
- (b) 59,850
- (c) 125,240

**Question 2:** Which country did most people seeking asylum in the UK come from in 2010?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) Zimbabwe

**Question 3:** When can asylum seekers work in the UK?

- (a) As soon as they have applied for asylum, in any job.
- (b) Six months after they have applied for asylum, but only in jobs where there are skills shortages.
- (c) After one year if they have not received a decision on their claim, but only in certain jobs.

**Question 4:** How much does a single adult asylum seeker who cannot work receive per week to pay for *everything* except housing and fuel bills?

- (a) £36.62
- (b) £67.50
- (c) £98.26

**Question 5:** Which of the following did not come to the UK as a refugee?

- (a) Omid Djalili (comedian)
- (b) M.I.A. (singer)
- (c) Ed Miliband (politician)

## Part 2: The Facts

**Fact 1:** 17,790 applications for asylum were made in the UK in 2010, the lowest number since 1989! Of these, 3,119 were granted protection.

**Fact 2:** The country which most people seeking asylum in the UK came from in 2010 was **Iran**, closely followed by Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, countries that are all experiencing conflict and serious human rights violations.

**Fact 3:** Asylum seekers can apply for permission to work in the UK **one year** after they have applied for asylum, but only those who are still waiting for an initial decision on their asylum case and only in jobs where there are skills shortages, such as chemical engineers, experienced orchestral musicians or ballerinas!

**Fact 4:** A single adult asylum seeker who would otherwise be destitute receives just **£36.62** per week to pay for *all* food, travel, clothing, toiletries and other expenses excluding housing and fuel bills. For those over 25, that is 55% of Income Support. Still Human has calculated that asylum seekers need at least £45 per week (around 70% of Income Support) to meet their essential living needs.

**Fact 5:** Comedian **Omid Djalili** and singer **M.I.A.** both came to the UK as refugees. Ed Miliband is not a refugee, but his father came to the UK as a Jewish refugee from Belgium.

---

## Part 3: The Survey

Which of the following statements do you agree with?

- Asylum seekers should be able to support themselves or be given enough to live on while they are in the UK until they are either given protection or returned to their country of origin.
- Asylum seekers who are not allowed to work should be given at least **70% of Income Support\***, paid in cash. For a single adult that would be £6.75 a day – just enough to meet their essential living costs.
- Asylum support rates for lone parents should be increased to 70% of Income Support *immediately*.
- Asylum seekers should be given **permission to work** after 6 months if they are still waiting for a decision on their case or if they have been refused asylum but cannot be removed through no fault of their own.
- Increases to asylum support rates should be linked to **annual increases** to Income Support in line with inflation.

*\*Income Support is a means-tested benefit designed to cover essential living costs for people not in full-time work in the UK. 70% accounts for the fact that asylum seekers do not have to pay for utilities and are only supposed to be in the system temporarily.*

**Thank you for your time** 😊