

# Factsheet: Asylum and Detention

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## GLOBAL TRENDS

- In 2013, **86% of world's refugees were hosted by developing countries**; this is 16% more than a decade ago.
- **The UK is not among the top 20 refugee-hosting countries.**

## ASYLUM IN THE UK

- **The UK is the only European country with no time limit** on how long asylum seekers can be kept in detention.
- In the last few years the UK has received roughly **20,000 asylum applicants** per year while around **14,000 asylum seekers have been detained each year**. This means that the majority of asylum seekers are detained at some point during their asylum application.
- **£76 million a year of tax-payers money is wasted** detaining asylum seekers who are ultimately released.
- Since 2008, the number of migrants in detention has increased by 35%, yet number of enforced removals has declined by 24%.
- **Nearly 30,000 migrants are detained** each year, including children, pregnant women and those suffering from mental health problems.

## VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN DETENTION

- **203 children** were detained in 2013, 70 of whom were under 5 years old.
- There have been **12,431 people on suicide watch** in asylum detention in the UK since January 2007.
- There have been **1,486 attempted suicides** in asylum detention in the UK since January 2007.
- There have been **22 deaths in immigration detention centres** across the UK since 1989. Since 2005, there have been at least five deaths shortly after release from immigration detention.
- **Victims of rape are routinely detained in the UK.** They do not receive counselling or psychological treatment while in detention.
- Women have been subjected to **sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape by male guards** while in immigration detention.
- **LGBTI<sup>1</sup> asylum-seekers** in detention centers are often subjected to a high degree of **isolation, threats of violence and homophobic harassment** and abuse by both facility staff and other detainees.

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<sup>1</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex.