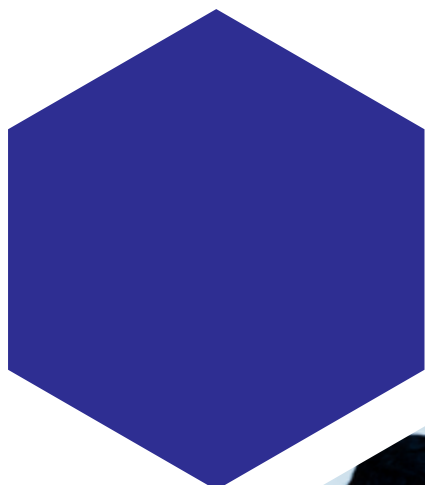


# Migrants' Perspectives on Brexit and UK Immigration Policies



# Executive Summary

The Migrants' Perspectives on Brexit and UK Immigration Policies provides an overview of the key findings and recommendations from The Outsider Project's Listening Campaign, coordinated by the Migrants' Rights Network (MRN).

## Introduction

In recent years the position and perception of migrants in the UK has steadily worsened; this was clearly demonstrated by the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union, where debates continuously returned to immigration and reducing the numbers of migrants in the UK.

Throughout all this migrant voices are rarely heard, and the impacts of these policies are unlikely to be described openly. Migrants have lower representation in the democratic arena, and the marginalised status of migrant communities means that discussions about them are often exclusive and do not provide space for their views. Within public policy, the representation of their needs, experiences and the impact of restrictive immigration rules is low.

This report intends to share migrants' perspectives on Brexit and UK immigration policies, and offers an opportunity for migrant voices and perspectives to be included in the discussions around Brexit and immigration policies in the UK.

## The Outsider Project

During 2017, the Migrants' Rights Network coordinated a listening exercise through The Outsider Project. This project supports migrants affected by the negative discourse around immigration, and seeks to promote a positive narrative demonstrating the benefits of living in an open society where migration is commonplace. The project has engaged with migrant communities in four locations within the UK - Wolverhampton, Oldham, Boston and Barking and Dagenham<sup>1</sup> - which were selected based on their majority leave vote in the 2016 EU Referendum<sup>2</sup> and their high non-UK born population.

Conducted by the project's volunteers and staff members from May to June 2017, the Listening Campaign recorded 277 interview responses from migrants living in the four aforementioned areas on topics including Brexit, attitudes towards migration, immigration policy and implementation, and the contribution of migrants towards the UK economy<sup>3</sup>.

Respondents ranged from under 18 years of age to over 46 years of age<sup>4</sup>, and 61.7% had lived in the UK for five years or more<sup>5</sup>. Between them respondents had previously lived in six geographic regions<sup>6</sup>, and when asked which nationality, background or community they personally identified with, 55 were identified<sup>7</sup>. Ten immigration statuses were recorded amongst the interviewees<sup>8</sup>.

## Findings

### *EU Referendum Vote, Brexit & Hate Incidences*

A majority of respondents felt people in their local area talked about migration negatively (66.1%), with some split on migration being described in a positive and negative manner. Only 10% felt that people in their local area spoke positively about migration.

The majority of respondents believed that people in their local area voted to leave the European Union because (i) they felt there were too many migrants locally or in the UK, (ii) they believed Brexit would mean migrants would have to leave the UK, or (iii) because of racist or xenophobic views.

The majority of respondents felt that the result of the EU Referendum has already had an impact in the UK. The two most referenced impacts were an increase in hate incidences, prejudice or discrimination towards migrants, and uncertainty about migrants' right to remain in the UK post-Brexit and the impact on their ability to travel outside of the UK. Some respondents reported hate incidents that took place after Brexit, including being told to return to their country of origin.

### *Immigration Policies and Life in the UK*

Less than half of respondents said that they thought it was easy to access information about their right to live, work and study in the UK. Respondents from almost all immigration statuses raised the issue of language barriers when talking about the ease of accessing information about immigration policy.

Almost half of respondents said that they believed Britain's immigration policies were unfair, restrictive or negative. Many of the respondents spoke about the impact of immigration enforcement on mental health. Respondents also commented on the fear of being detained or deported during the immigration process, and the cost of visas and applying for British Citizenship.

### *Migrant Contribution & Misconceptions*

The vast majority (98.9%) of respondents that answered questions about the contributions of migrants to the UK economy felt they made a positive impact, mentioning migrants being employed, paying taxes, opening businesses and spending money locally. Many respondents felt there are misconceptions about the economic contributions of migrants living in the UK, specifically that they did not work, or lived on benefits. The media was mentioned by a number of interviewees as the cause of this misconception. Only three respondents said they felt migrants had a negative impact on the UK economy.

### *Housing & Exploitation of Migrant Workers*

Respondents reported that after arriving in the UK they faced issues around accessing suitable accommodation due to a lack of suitable or affordable housing. This was most prevalent in Barking and Dagenham, where 43.4% of respondents listed it as a key issue, and in Wolverhampton, where it was listed by 36.3% of respondents. In Boston, respondents highlighted that exploitation by agencies and employers is a key issue migrants face locally; both issues were described as intersecting with language barriers and access to information about migrants' rights to live and work in the UK.

## Recommendations

The responses shaped the content of the further discussions held in each area at the conclusion of the Listening Campaign. In these focus groups, community members explored key issues that respondents had identified as affecting their communities, and built on them to choose three issues to be taken forward locally for the remainder of the project. The recommendations, which will be actioned through The Outsider Project, are as follows:

### *Increased Access to ESOL*

In all four locations community members highlighted a need for increased access to ESOL as an important solution to addressing many of the key issues. Respondents highlighted a need for more provision of free or affordable ESOL classes, with greater availability at different times of day (especially in the evenings). In Wolverhampton, a specific policy change has been recommended to allow asylum seekers to access

classes on arrival in the UK, and in Boston the need for funding to increase the number of classes led by teachers who speak the native language of their students was highlighted.

### *Building Community Relationships*

In all four locations, respondents chose to focus on building community relationships, while looking at ways to bring together local migrant and non-migrant communities to increase community cohesion and understanding of each other's cultures, and build strong and lasting relationships.

### *Housing Provision*

In both Wolverhampton and Oldham, communities recommended action to address housing issues faced by migrants. In Wolverhampton, respondents highlighted the need to work with housing providers to ensure suitable, well-maintained housing is accessible for asylum seekers. In Oldham respondents suggested ways to work with housing companies to provide support for refugees when applying for housing, particularly with online application processes.

### *Rights & Exploitation*

Both Barking and Dagenham and Boston communities recommended action around migrants' rights and exploitation. In Boston, respondents suggested solutions to address exploitation of migrant workers by employment agencies and employers, by improving access to information about migrants' employment rights, and supporting best practice amongst employers and agencies. In Barking and Dagenham respondents highlighted opportunities to improve access to information about migrants' rights to live, study and work in the UK.

### *Increased Access to Legal Aid*

In Oldham, respondents specifically focused on ways to increase provision of access to free legal advice or representation for migrants, in particular Asylum Seekers, due to closure of a free immigration advice service locally.

The Migrants' Rights Network would recommend policy and decision makers, service providers and community members take action towards these key issues, and will be doing so through The Outsider Project.

# Introduction: Migrants' Perspectives on Brexit and UK Immigration Policies

The Migrants' Perspectives on Brexit and UK Immigration Policies was coordinated by the Migrants' Rights Network as part of The Outsider Project.

## Background

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In recent years, the position and perception of migrants in the UK has steadily worsened; this was clearly demonstrated by the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union, where debates continuously returned to immigration and reducing the numbers of migrants in the UK. There has also been an introduction of ever-restrictive immigration policies through the past two Immigration Acts (2014 and 2016), and plans are in place for forthcoming restrictions to curb freedom of movement by March 2019 as the UK exits the EU. This process, alongside the Government's continued but failing endeavours to reduce net migration to the tens of thousands, has placed the rights of migrants from all backgrounds and communities in jeopardy.

Continual changes to immigration policy mean that migrants can easily lose track of whether they are in the country legally or illegally, or fall foul of rules surrounding immigration status due to changes that have been put in place to pursue migration targets. This creates an unstable and uncertain environment for thousands of people and their families, which can affect their livelihoods, employers and local communities. Throughout all this, their voices are rarely heard, and the impacts of these policies are unlikely to be described openly.

Migrants also generally have less representation in the democratic arena (such as within local councils and the Houses of Parliament), especially those from low-skilled work sectors. The marginal status of migrant communities means that discussions about them are often exclusive and do not provide space for their views. Within public policy the representation of their needs, experiences and the impact of restrictive immigration rules is low.

Whilst immigration is at the forefront of the political domain it is also prominent within the UK media, where a pervasive narrative about immigration and migrants regularly dominates the headlines. Meanwhile the views of those from migrant backgrounds are rarely featured, preventing the media from presenting a balanced narrative that includes the views of migrants, many of whom are directly impacted by the constantly changing rules.

However, since the EU Referendum there is evidence of a cohort of migrants emerging who are strongly motivated to advocate for the rights of migrant communities and ensure their voices are heard, introducing an alternative narrative that demonstrates the positives of migration and highlights the impact of restrictive immigration policies. The Outsider Project aims to support this movement, whilst this report aims to play a role in ensuring migrant voices and perspectives are included in the discussions around Brexit and immigration policy.

## The Outsider Project

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The Outsider Project is coordinated by the Migrants' Rights Network. The project supports migrants affected by the negative discourse around immigration, and seeks to promote a positive narrative demonstrating the benefits of living in an open society where migration is commonplace. It has been engaging with migrant communities in four locations within the UK – Wolverhampton, Oldham, Boston and Barking and Dagenham - which were selected based on their majority leave vote in the 2016 EU Referendum and their high non-UK born population.

Led by volunteer Migrant Leaders, the project supports and empowers local migrant communities to organise, build bridges with non-migrant populations and share the positives of migration for the wider population. Through public events and the publication of briefing papers, The Outsider Project will also lobby policymakers and stakeholders to demonstrate the consequences of restrictive immigration policies on their communities and beyond.

## Methodology

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The Outsider Project works with an approach adapted from participatory action research methodology, developing through stages of training local leaders, research and evidence analysis and identification of key messages. The Listening Campaign formed a key component of the research and analysis stage.

From May to June 2017, the project's volunteers and staff members conducted interviews through the Listening Campaign, recording 277 interview responses from migrants living in the four project locations on topics including Brexit, attitudes towards migration, immigration policy and implementation, and the contribution of migrants towards the UK economy<sup>9</sup>.

As mentioned in the Executive Summary, respondents ranged from under 18 years of age to over 46 years of age<sup>10</sup>, and 61.7% had lived in the UK for five years or more<sup>11</sup>. Between them respondents had previously lived in six geographic regions<sup>12</sup>, and when asked which nationality, background or community they personally identified with 55 were identified<sup>13</sup>. Ten immigration statuses were recorded amongst the interviewees<sup>14</sup>.

The responses shaped the content of the further discussions held in each area at the conclusion of the Listening Campaign. In these focus groups, community members explored key issues that respondents had identified as affecting their communities, and built on them to choose three issues to be taken forward locally for the remainder of the project.

# Brexit - Leaving the European Union

## Vote Leave?

When asked why they thought people living in their local area voted for the UK to leave the European Union, 19.1% of respondents said that they believed it was because the local population felt there were too many migrants living in either their local area or across the UK, so voters voted leave because they thought '...too many people are coming to the UK'.

Forty respondents said that that they believe the leave vote in their local area was due to people being misinformed about what leaving the EU would mean for the UK, in particular with regards to migrants' right to remain. Interviewees believed people thought it would have an immediate impact on the number of migrants living in the country, and that leave voters thought migrants would 'be sent back to their countries after Brexit', or that migrants would 'pack [their] bags the next day and leave [the] UK'. Respondents felt that those who voted leave wanted this outcome because 'they feel the country is full' and that 'they say there are too many migrants here now', so leaving the EU would 'stop the rights of free movement for EU nationals'.

Respondents mentioned that they felt the misunderstanding about what Brexit would mean for the UK with regards to migration was influenced by the media, and that '[M]any people did not really understand what they are voting for and have been misled by the media with misconceptions about Europeans'. These misconceptions included that migrants were taking jobs from British citizens, were causing a shortage of housing and access to medical care through the NHS, were responsible for increased levels of crime, and were coming to the UK to live on benefits.

Respondents said they felt that people in their area who voted to leave the EU did so because they believed that migrants 'are taking their benefits', and that they 'don't see that these people [migrants] are coming to work, to pay taxes and improve [the UK] economy'<sup>15</sup>. However, many respondents also believed that when migrants were seen as coming to the UK and working, they were accused of 'taking their [British citizens'] jobs'. In short, respondents felt that people in their local area '... feel that EU people are stealing their jobs and benefits'.

Respondents also said that migrants had been blamed for putting pressure on local services such as the NHS, causing long waiting

times for appointments. They felt that those who voted leave had done so thinking migrants would be made to leave the UK post-Brexit, meaning that British citizens would '...have quicker access to [their] local GP than now'. One respondent from Boston said that although migrants were held responsible for the difficulties accessing healthcare, they believed that the problems were instead caused by a lack of funding to improve local infrastructure:

**'The government was too busy [investing] in big cities and big projects so this little town had no money to improve its old and ineffective infrastructure and in time of austerity, cuts hit really hard the weakest points i.e health, education, roads, housing.'**

EU National from Bulgaria, living in Boston

Reflecting on this, an EU National from Boston said that the media's coverage of Brexit with regards to migration meant that the 'majority's vote was based on emotions and not necessarily on well informed facts.' When talking about the media, four individuals specifically mentioned the influence of UKIP and the impact the party's media coverage had on what people believed they were voting for. One respondent from Boston said 'They were told by UKIP that they will have more control over... [the] influx of migrants', whilst another said that voters 'believed what they've been told in the TV by UKIP'.

Twelve interviewees specifically mentioned increased levels of crime - perceived as being carried out by migrants - as a reason they felt people in their local area had voted to leave the EU. One respondent said that as the number of migrants living in their area increased 'British [people] started to feel not safe',

whilst another said that they believed those who voted leave 'are tired of increasing crimes, [the] majority [of which are] done by foreign people'. Three interviewees mentioned the increased threat of terrorism - also being perceived to be perpetrated by migrants - as a reason for voters concerned about crime to vote leave, and the protection people believed that EU laws afforded terrorists. One respondent from Oldham said, 'Everywhere people is blaming the migrants when things goes wrong... such as... [a] terrorist who cannot be deported if they have family in the UK and that is why so many people has voted to leave the EU.'

Just ten respondents felt the main reason that people in their local area voted to leave the EU was based upon financial, bureaucratic or legal implications. One respondent from Wolverhampton said that they believed people who voted leave wanted to 'stop British money being spent on EU', and an interviewee from Boston said that they thought 'British people think [the] UK is paying too much to EU banks and don't get anything back'. Respondents from Oldham also felt that the leave vote was influenced by a desire to 'To get rid of the European Court' and to enable the UK to 'be more independent'.

Finally, 30 respondents mentioned that they felt people in their local area voted to leave the EU due to racism or xenophobia. Interviewees commented that they felt 'Some people most probably voted because they hate European people without a reason' or because 'UK people don't like EU people'. One respondent from Boston summarised by saying that the combination of negative media coverage towards migrants, lack of funding for over-subscribed public services and language barriers had 'All combined [to] create the monster of xenophobia' in the lead up to the referendum.

**'The combination of negative media coverage towards migrants, lack of funding for over-subscribed public services and language barriers had 'All combined [to] create the monster of xenophobia' in the lead up to the referendum.'**

EU National from Bulgaria, living in Boston

## Impact

When asked if they felt that the result of the EU Referendum has already had an impact in the UK, 69.7% of respondents said that they did<sup>16</sup>. The two most referenced impacts were an increase in hate incidences, prejudice or discrimination towards migrants, and uncertainty about migrants' right to remain in the UK post-Brexit and the impact on their ability to travel outside of the UK.

When talking about the impact of Brexit on freedom of movement and right to remain in the UK, an EU national from Boston said they felt, 'Fear to be not allowed to come back to UK [if I go abroad] - fear to be deported at any time, and [to] lose all my property in UK.' Another EU national from Barking and Dagenham said that post-Brexit 'a lot of people don't understand what [their] migration status is'. When commenting on the uncertainty of freedom of movement post-Brexit, one respondent said, 'I am scared of what future will bring for me as a migrant. I am asking myself if I... will have to get a permit to work in the UK? What about easy access for travelling? Will I need visa? Basically the main concern now is not knowing how my rights will change or if they change at all.'

**'the main concern now is not knowing how my rights will change or if they change at all.'**

EU National from Czechoslovakia, living in Boston

It was not just EU and EEA nationals who felt that Britain's decision to leave the EU had caused uncertainty about their right to remain in the UK; 34.8% of Asylum Seekers, Refused Asylum Seekers and Refugees who were interviewed also mentioned these concerns as a knock on effect on policy on other types of migration. A respondent from Wolverhampton with refugee status said that they felt Brexit may mean an increase in the number of people who faced 'refusal for the right to stay in UK as refugee', whilst an Asylum Seeker from Wolverhampton believed that Brexit 'will result on [sic] more deportation'. One interviewee with refused asylum seeker status from Oldham believed that this was because 'Since Brexit [the UK's] policies on asylum seekers have gone stricter'.

Fifty-five respondents said that they believed the UK's decision to exit the EU had led - or would lead - to an increase in hate incidence, prejudice or discrimination towards migrants. An interviewee from Boston said that cases of, 'discrimination have

increased. People do not feel safe', whilst another respondent said, 'I can't call this place home anymore and clearly see that I will be always [be] a migrant. I do not believe we are welcome to stay here.' Interviewees said they felt that Brexit had meant 'Some British people got "braver" and started to express their emotions through abusive language' and one individual said, 'It has an impact already because that's when my neighbour shouted how much he hates me.'

In response to no longer feeling welcome in the UK, some respondents mentioned either wishing to leave the UK themselves or of friends or family members who planned to do so. One respondent said 'many of my friends left already. It separated us from the UK citizens', whilst another said 'Lots of people [have made the] decision to leave the UK. My sister after 12 years [of] living here decided to sell her house and move back to Poland - simply she is scared what future is hold here in the UK for her and her family.' As Brexit negotiations continue, one EU National from Boston said that with regards to deciding whether to stay in the UK, 'All of the people are thinking about the next couple of years and considering different opinions.' For respondents who did plan to remain in the UK, key concerns from the outcome of the referendum were the strength of the UK economy, the increased cost of living, job security, and access to government services and education.

Interviewees who mentioned the impact of the referendum decision on the economy focused almost exclusively on 'High inflation due to the devaluation of sterling', and the impact this had already had on the cost of living in the UK as 'Grocery prices are starting to rise which is making buying everyday items more difficult'. An Asylum Seeker from Wolverhampton agreed, commenting that since the referendum result 'Prices in shops have risen, making it even more difficult to afford anything'.

Alongside concerns around the economy and the cost of living, respondents mentioned the impact leaving the EU would have on their job security and the types of employment available to migrants. One interviewee said, 'I think in the future it will be more difficult to find good employment' whilst another commented that they 'just hope to be able to work and stay in the UK'. For business owners job security was also a concern; an EU National from Boston explained that 'I don't feel safe either, especially having [my] own business, where big amount of money was invested', whilst an EU National from Wolverhampton said that to avoid uncertainty 'lots [of] EU people are going back [to their country of origin and] taking their business with them'.

For those who anticipated employment challenges post-Brexit, another concern was access to government support and education.

Respondents explained that they felt migrants 'will be limited with any [access to] social care [or] benefits', as 'access to social security benefits will be restricted'. For those hoping to access further or higher education, Brexit also posed uncertainty as they faced 'fear of not being able to go to uni' or if it would mean an increase in tuition fees for students from the EU. Finally, when talking about the impact of the referendum for migrants, the majority of respondents voiced concerns about their right to remain in the UK, whether there would be changes to their rights or access services, and a potential increase in experiencing discrimination, prejudice or hate incidences. As one respondent from Boston said, 'I was getting used to local life, people, rules making it more my home. Since the referendum I don't feel this can be my home ever. I wasn't given the right to decide about my future here, while the others did. I cannot plan my future in this uncertainty. I can't see my future here.'



# Attitudes Towards Migration

## Local Attitudes

Respondents were asked how they felt people in their local area talked about migration. Of those who answered the question<sup>17</sup>, a majority of 66.1% felt that it was negatively, 23.9% of respondents felt that there was a split of positive and negative opinions, and 10% felt that people in their local area spoke positively about migration.

Of the four areas, Barking and Dagenham had the highest percentage of respondents who felt people in their local area spoke negatively about migration at 80%, followed by Wolverhampton (65.5%), Boston (66.3%) and Oldham (57.6%)<sup>18</sup>. Respondents from Barking and Dagenham with Indefinite Leave to Remain said '[L]ocals are complaining about the numbers coming in and its effect on housing, health accessibility and integration' and that 'they say there's too many people'. In Boston, an EU National felt, 'Most of them are unhappy, disappointed and tend to blame migrants about everything.'

In all areas, only a small percentage of respondents felt that people in their local area spoke positively about migration: 27% of respondents in Wolverhampton, 18.2% in Oldham and 3.8% in Boston. No respondents from Barking and Dagenham said that they felt people in their local area spoke positively about migration. One respondent from Wolverhampton who felt that people did speak positively said, 'I feel people in Wolverhampton are more understanding than other people in different cities... I think people in Wolverhampton are quite happy with the diversity we have in the UK.'

In each area between 20-30% of respondents felt there was a split of people who spoke positively and negatively about migration in their local area. An EU National from Boston commented that they thought the split was generational, saying, 'They have mixed views. Younger generation though is more keen on immigration and thinks that it is a benefit, whereas older people want the "old Britain" back.'

## Hate incidents

When asked if they had experienced hate incidents in their local area, 41% of respondents answered yes. The percentage of respondents who said they had experienced hate incidents varied from area to area; the highest was Oldham where

50% of respondents said that they had experienced hate incidents, the lowest was Wolverhampton (33.8%)<sup>19</sup>.

Of those who shared details of the hate incidents they had experienced, the majority recorded verbal attacks. A respondent with British Citizenship from Oldham reported that an incident they experienced had changed where they will go within the town: 'I was once followed by a group of young, white males. They just walked behind me and kept making racist remarks and fun of me. It has put me off from walking in that area at evening time.'

Amongst EU and EEA Nationals, the reports of verbal hate incidents tended to have taken place after Brexit and included being told to return to their country of origin. An EU National from Boston reported that 'After Brexit [an] older gentleman walked into our bakery shop and shouted "You all f\*\*k off to Poland"', whilst another EU National from Boston said, '[A]fter Brexit I was verbally abused in the Playpark. I was told by a woman to f\*\*k off to my country.'

**'After Brexit [an] older gentleman walked into our bakery shop and shouted "You all f\*\*k off to Poland"'**

EU National from Poland, living in Boston

Two respondents with British Citizenship said the hate incidents they had experienced or witnessed had been directed at the colour of their skin. A respondent from Wolverhampton said '[M]y daughter was called a negro', and a respondent from Barking and Dagenham said 'I have been called the 'n' word before'.

## Impact

Respondents were asked if their experiences of living in their local area changed how long they intend to stay living there, or in the UK<sup>20</sup>. 72% of respondents who answered the question said their experience of living in their local area had not influenced their decision, 21.2% said it had and the remaining respondents were unsure.

Experiences of living in their local area had the least impact on Wolverhampton respondents' decision to remain living locally or in the UK - 87.9% said how long they planned to stay had not changed<sup>21</sup>.

The area where most respondents said their experiences had changed how long they planned to stay there was Oldham (25%). An EEA National from the area said negative experiences had led them to shorten how long they would stay, because, '[W]hen I lived in Ireland I didn't experience any of the things I experience here in the UK.' However, an EU National said that positive experiences whilst living in Oldham had led them to adjust how long they would stay, specifically because '[M]any people are nice including my neighbours.'

Oldham was closely followed by Boston with the number respondents who had changed their plans based on their experience living in their local area (23.4%). Explaining why, an EU National from Boston said that their experience of living in the UK during Brexit had been the deciding factor, and that 'We are considering every option, from moving to another area to quitting the UK altogether. I am not prepared to stay as a third class citizen.'

However, overall the majority of respondents said that they wished to remain in the UK permanently, and that this had always been their plan.

# Immigration Policy and Enforcement

## Access to Information

### Immigration Acts 2014 and 2016

Key changes to laws surrounding immigration include:

- Labour market and 'illegal working': criminal sanctions against employers & employees
- Undocumented migrants' privileges can be revoked, i.e. bank accounts frozen, driving licence seized, earning from employment confiscated
- Enforcement: new powers for IEO officers
- Up to 5 years in prison for landlords who rent to undocumented migrants
- Restrictions on appeal - limited to only immigration cases involving asylum and humanitarian protection, EU rights and human rights

When asked whether as a migrant they felt that it is easy to access information about their right to live, work and study in the UK, 44.9% of interviewees who chose to disclose their immigration status<sup>22</sup> responded that they found it easy to access this information; 43.1% said they did not find it easy, and 12% said that it was somewhere in between<sup>23</sup>.

Just over half of respondents who had refugee status viewed access to information about the right to live, work and study in the UK as easy (53.3%); 25% of those who responded that it was easy specifically mentioned that this was because of support they had received from welfare or support workers. All 20% of refugees who responded that it was somewhere in between easy and difficult also mentioned that this was due to the support they had received from organisations working with refugees that were able to advise on their rights. 26.6% of refugees said that they did not believe it was easy to access this information.

A slightly lower percentage (49.9%) of EU and EEA Nationals viewed this information about their rights as easy to access, whilst 39.3% thought it was not easy and 11.9% felt it was somewhere in between<sup>24</sup>.

The most even split in opinion was amongst respondents in the UK on a Work, Student or Spouse / Family Visa: 44.4%

felt it was easy to access information about their right to live, work and study in the UK, while 55.6% felt it was not.

Among respondents with Indefinite Leave to Remain, just 23.1% felt it was easy to access this information, while 69.2% felt it was not easy and 7.7% felt it was somewhere in between. The group that felt it was most difficult to access this information was respondents with the immigration status of Asylum Seeker or Refused Asylum Seeker - 66.6% felt that it was not easy to access information about their rights to live, work and study in the UK, 16.6% said that they felt it was easy, and 6.6% felt it was somewhere in between<sup>25</sup>.

Respondents from almost all immigration statuses raised the issue of language barriers when talking about the ease of accessing information about immigration policy, and 30 respondents specifically mentioned that information being available primarily or exclusively in English was challenging. As one respondent summarised, 'I cannot understand leaflets and information in English. [There] should be a professional, bilingual speaking advisor... when people need advice and help.' Fifteen respondents also specifically mentioned the internet being their primary method of accessing information about their rights, but raised the issue that not all migrants have access to the internet on arriving on the UK or that people may lack the IT skills to find the information they need. One respondent also pointed out that even though 'the most accessible source is the Internet... there [is] not always reliable information'.

Ease of access to information about the right to work, study and live in the UK also varied by area. In both Barking and Dagenham and Oldham, 59% of respondents said that they found it difficult to access this information, and in Wolverhampton 53.4% of respondents concurred. In contrast in Boston only 29.6% of respondents said that found it difficult to access information about their right to live, work and study in the UK, whilst 55.5% of migrants from the area said they found it easy to do so<sup>26</sup>. Initially, this difference in response from interviewees in Boston may be assumed to be attributed to the immigration status of respondents and the length of time they have lived in the UK; 94.1% of migrants from Boston who took part in the Listening Campaign were EU Nationals, EEA Nationals or British Citizens, and 71.3% had lived in the UK for five years or more. In comparison, 63% of respondents in Wolverhampton had lived in the UK for less than five years on a Work or Family / Spouse Visa or had Asylum Seeker, Refused Asylum Seeker or Refugee status. However, this hypothesis does not apply to the demographics of respondents

from Oldham<sup>27</sup> or Barking and Dagenham<sup>28</sup>, and respondents' comments suggest this difference may be caused by another factor such as respondents' proficiency in English, access to different sources of information, or the provision of local services in each area. Further research is recommended to explore this issues further.

## Immigration Policy

During the Listening Campaign respondents were asked their thoughts on the UK's current approach to immigration - 43.7% said that they believed Britain's immigration policies were unfair, restrictive or negative, whilst 13.4% said they felt the approach was ok, good or fair. The remaining respondents felt uncertain because of expected changes to immigration policies (9.7%), thought that they should be stricter (3.2%), or felt they did not understand the policies well enough to comment (6.9%)<sup>29</sup>.

Of the 43.2% who felt immigration policies were unfair, restrictive or negative, 19.2% mentioned restrictions around working or studying<sup>30</sup>. The majority of this 19.2% had Asylum Seeker or Refused Asylum Seeker status, and highlighted restrictions on Asylum Seekers accessing free ESOL class within their first six months in the UK, or until confirmation of their refugee status. Restrictions around work visas for international students who have completed their studies in the UK were also mentioned, as highlighted by a respondent from Barking and Dagenham who said '...you're forced to leave almost immediately after you have finished your studies. [It's] virtually impossible to get a job.'

Respondents also commented on the fear of being detained or deported during the immigration process; a Refugee from Oldham said that this meant that 'I went through the immigration laws and it pains me to talk about it, if you do not have a good solicitor you can find yourself back to your country of origin', and an Asylum Seeker - also from Oldham - commented that 'The immigration laws is every migrants nightmare. If you do not obey it you will find yourself on the next flight back to where you came from.'

The cost of visas and applying for British Citizenship were also highlighted by interviewees. A respondent from Wolverhampton said they felt that the 'UK Government is making money as much as they can from embassy and other cost. [C]ompared to... other countries UK embassy fees is much higher which shows our government is less supporting to migration.' The length of time it can take to receive a decision from the Home Office about an application for a visa or immigration status was also commented on. An Asylum Seeker from Oldham said, 'I know some cases which are pending from 9 years to 14 days. For such a long period of time no status is given to them.'

Respondents also commented on the difference in policy for migrants depending on their country of origin, and the restrictions placed on families being able to live together in the UK. A Refugee from Oldham commented that these restrictions, '...cause so much pain to migrants and their

family members who want to come and join them here in the UK. Due to the laws, policies and rules it affects everyone, even British citizens who are married to migrants.'

**'These restrictions, '...cause so much pain to migrants and their family members who want to come and join them here in the UK. Due to the laws, policies and rules it affects everyone, even British citizens who are married to migrants.'**

Refugee from South Africa, living in Oldham

Twenty-four respondents mentioned a feeling of uncertainty about forthcoming changes to the UK's immigration policy; 87.5% of these respondents were EU or EEA Nationals, and answers tended to focus on potential changes to freedom of movement post-Brexit. An EU National from Boston commented, '...at the moment everything is in place for migrants to live normal lives [sic] but not sure what is going to happen after Brexit', whilst another said, 'Currently they are practicing equal rights, however, I do believe it will soon change after the negotiations with the EU.'

Within the 12.9% of respondents who felt that the UK's immigration policies were ok, good or fair, some respondents said that they felt that 'Rules are good as compared to other countries' and that 'the laws here are very fair and justified, and in some aspects more generous than I would expect'. However, 16.6% of these respondents did mention that they anticipated changes that may impact their views after the Brexit negotiations. Nine respondents felt that the UK's immigration policy should be stricter<sup>31</sup>; four of these respondents based this on a desire for stronger checks to restrict criminals entering the country<sup>32</sup>.

## Immigration Enforcement

Thirty-seven respondents answered yes when asked if they, or someone they knew, had experienced immigration enforcement through either the Home Office or UK Visas and Immigration. When sharing their experiences, many of the respondents spoke about the impact of immigration enforcement on mental health.

Of the thirty-seven who answered 'yes', thirteen had experienced, or knew people who had experienced, detention. An Asylum Seeker from Oldham described the experience of being detained as 'traumatizing', whilst another described how after being held in detention the 18-year-old son of their neighbour was 'in bad health and mentally disturbed'.

Three respondents specifically mentioned the impact of experiencing immigration raids. A respondent from Oldham with Indefinite Leave to Remain said, 'Immigration has stormed my house around 6.30am while I and my wife was sleeping, and 16 enforcement officers storm[ed] into my bedroom to arrest me. This was a nightmare that I never can get off of my mind this has caused me severe trauma and because of this I now suffer with mental health. This was the most horrible, shocking experience for me and my wife we have come here in seek of safety but instead was detain and lock up in detention every year.'

Ten respondents spoke about the experience of being detained. A respondent from Barking and Dagenham said, 'I know a couple who did not have status to remain in the UK [who] were deported back to their country - a new mum taken from hospital with a 2 day old baby.' A Refugee from Oldham also commented, '...many women from a women asylum seekers together group was being detained on several occasions... their houses was raided by immigration law enforcement in the early hours where no one could help them. They have been taken to detention with their children and been deported and this was very scary and traumatising.'

Two of the thirty-seven respondents said that they had had positive experiences with the Home Office. One Asylum Seeker from Afghanistan said 'I had a good experience with Home Office, so I cannot say anything negative about them', and a respondent with Indefinite Leave to Remain from Boston said, 'I have experienced domestic abusive relationship with my ex-husband and the Home Office has lent us a helping hand and supported me to get better again. I really appreciate the help me and my daughter received from the Home Office.'

## Economy and Business

### Contributions to the UK Economy

When asked about the economic contributions migrants make to the UK economy<sup>33</sup>, 42.1% of respondents answered by talking about how migrants are employed, and through working hard contribute to the UK economy<sup>34</sup>. When discussing this topic, 19 respondents specifically mentioned that they felt migrants often did jobs that people born in the UK were unwilling to do, as an EU National from Boston explained: '[M]igrants are working hard lots of hours for the low pay, they're taking jobs which English people do not want to do.' Three respondents also spoke specifically about the skills migrants bring to the UK, as a British Citizen from Barking and Dagenham explained: '[Migrants] bring skills to the UK where there is a shortage.'

Twenty-eight respondents commented on how migrants contribute to the UK economy by setting up businesses in the UK<sup>35</sup>. A Refugee from Oldham said, 'Many business owners here in the UK [are] migrants', and a respondent from Barking and Dagenham agreed saying, 'Migrants who have got businesses pay taxes and employ many people - therefore improving the economy.'

Forty-two percent of respondents also mentioned that paying tax is an important way that migrants contribute to the UK economy. When talking about the issue, an EU National from Oldham said, '[Migrants] pay taxes like everyone else so they aren't just freeloading.' An Asylum Seeker from Wolverhampton agreed, commenting, 'Migrants... pay equal tax to UK government as the UK residents do.'

Twenty respondents mentioned that migrants buy locally within the UK, thus keeping money in circulation within the UK economy. An EU National from Boston said, 'We buy houses, cars, food and other goods. We do contribute a lot.' Another EU National from Boston agreed, saying, 'We work here, we rent houses, we buy clothes and food in local shops and spend most of our money in [the] Boston area.'

Only three respondents said that they felt migrants had a negative impact on the UK economy, mentioning specifically that this was due to migrants claiming benefits. One EU National from Boston said, 'I think immigrants take more in benefits. I work, but many do not.' Most respondents that mentioned benefits disputed this, agreeing with the EU

National in Boston who said that 'Migrants work hard and contribute more than they actually receive in benefits'.

## Misconceptions

Forty-one percent of respondents felt that there are misconceptions about the economic contributions of migrants living in the UK, whilst 19.8% felt there are not<sup>36</sup>.

Twenty-nine percent of all respondents (70.2% of those who felt there are misconceptions) thought a main misconception about migrants was that they either claim benefits or do not work. A respondent from Barking and Dagenham said, '[I]t is believed that migrants come to the UK to "milk the system" - this is not true', and a Refugee from Oldham commented that '[M]any don't even know about [the] benefits systems.' An EU National from Boston summarised, saying, 'If British people would know how much do we contribute they wouldn't treat us this way. We came here to work not to live on benefits.'

The media was mentioned by a number of interviewees as the cause of this misconception, as an EU National from Boston commented; '[Migrants] have been seen as benefit spongers because of the propaganda in the media, [but] many of us are very hard-working people who contribute a lot to the economy.'

Other misconceptions that were mentioned included that migrants don't pay tax<sup>37</sup> and that they steal jobs from people born in the UK<sup>38</sup>. An EU National from Boston mentioned how the latter was at odds with the misconception that migrants come to the UK to live on benefits, saying: '[P]eople have been saying we came here for benefits, and steal jobs from Brits. So what is it, one or [the] another?'

## Life in the UK

### Issues Facing Migrant Communities

During the Listening Campaign, respondents were asked what they felt were the key issues facing migrants living in their community. The most common issue overall focused around language barriers due to limited knowledge of English language and lack of access to ESOL classes<sup>39</sup>. This issue was most prevalent in Wolverhampton where 58.1% of respondents mentioned it, highlighting the impact it had on their lives including being unable to explain their ailments to their GP and the difficulties it caused communicating with government officials or the Home Office<sup>40</sup>. An Asylum Seeker from Wolverhampton illustrated this with a personal example: 'I got [a] penalty for smoking on the street, it was not me and I was not able to explain [this].'

The second most common issue mentioned by respondents focused on employment - both getting a job, and the type of employment opportunities accessible to migrants<sup>41</sup>. Fifty-seven percent of respondents in Barking and Dagenham and 52.3% of respondents in Oldham highlighted this issue<sup>42</sup>. A respondent from Barking and Dagenham said that locally it was difficult to 'Access higher paid jobs / skilled jobs [due to] formal education [qualifications] in non-European countries not being recognised in the UK', whilst an EU National in Oldham said that 'Finding work is a problem [because] when you apply they always ask for 6 months reference. If you are new to the UK you will struggle getting a job because of this.' In all four locations respondents mentioned unemployment as a key concern, and in Boston respondents mentioned both bullying at work as well as exploitation - an EU National from the area said, 'In my opinion exploitation by employers and taking advantage [of the] big number of immigrants and their will and need to work is the biggest issue. Working agencies are the worst.'

Respondents also mentioned racism, xenophobia and hate crime (21.6%), as well as discrimination (12.6%), as key issues faced by migrants in their communities<sup>43</sup>. An EU National from Boston - the area with the highest percentage of respondents who mentioned this issue at 47.1% - shared their personal experience: '[I] was verbally abused in GP surgery, Lady told

me to f\*\*k off to my own country she was shouting at me swearing in front of all [the] people in the waiting area.' Integration and overcoming cultural differences was mentioned by 20.9% of respondents, and was most commonly mentioned as a key issue in Barking and Dagenham (30% of respondents) and Boston (25% of respondents)<sup>44</sup>. This was closely followed by issues around housing and homelessness such as a lack of suitable or affordable housing, which 15.8% of respondents listed overall. This was most prevalent in Barking and Dagenham where 43.4% of respondents listed it as a key issue, and Wolverhampton where it was listed by 36.3% of respondents<sup>45</sup>.

Other issues that were mentioned included lack of financial support, the impact of Brexit and uncertainty about changes to immigration statuses, access to the NHS and healthcare, access to education (both for adults and children), and access to information about rights and the support available for migrants living in the UK. Almost all of the issues raised intersected with one another; for example, lack of access to ESOL meant that migrants found it harder to gain employment due to low levels of English.

# Actions and Recommendations

## Migrants' Recommendations

When asked what action they thought could be taken to resolve the issues they had identified, respondents put forward a range of ideas and activities.

Forty-two respondents recommended action to improve community integration and cohesion. One popular idea was to introduce discussions and lessons in schools to raise awareness and acceptance of difference cultures among children and young people, another was to hold more community events to bring together migrant and non-migrant communities. An EU National from Boston suggested communities should have 'More events for all nationalities including English people' to bring them together.

Twenty-four respondents put forward ideas that promoted understanding amongst communities based on sharing their experiences in spaces where they could talk and listen, as a respondent with British Citizenship in Wolverhampton explained: 'Communication between the migrants and these [sic] in the community needs to be improved, so that there can be mutual understanding.' An EU National from Oldham shared the opinion of many other respondents when they said that they also wanted 'Local MPs to listen to us' to build better understanding of the issues facing migrants, and an EU National from Boston felt that to help migrant voices be heard 'Members of the migrant communities should be able to have a say and possibly hold a seat in the local council.'

Ways to improve access to ESOL and opportunities to learn English were suggested by forty-six respondents. Among those with Asylum Seeker status, a key suggestion was for policy change to allow Asylum Seekers to be able to access free ESOL classes within their first six months in the country. An Asylum Seeker from Wolverhampton explained, 'I am [an] Asylum Seeker and I should be allowed to learn English and should not [have to] wait for 6 months because it is not fair.' Across interviewees from all areas and immigration statuses there were suggestions for more free or affordable ESOL classes, increased availability of ESOL classes (for example, more evening classes), and the suggestion that workplaces should provide English lessons for employees.

Twenty-eight respondents suggested ways to improve access to employment opportunities. This included the suggestion of giving asylum seekers the right to work so that - as an

Asylum Seeker from Oldham explained - they could 'improve [their] standard of life and they can contribute to the economy and country'. Many interviewees who gave suggestions to improve access to employment opportunities also linked this to improved access to ESOL classes, identifying the impact having a higher level of English could have when applying for jobs. Improved education opportunities to gain the qualifications needed for better paid skilled roles was also suggested.

Finally, respondents also put forward a range of ideas to ensure the availability of suitable, affordable housing, including suggestions of rent caps, asking councils to build or provide more affordable housing, and working towards a fairer bidding and allocation system for council or social housing.

While solutions like access to ESOL were similar in all four locations, some solutions were geographically specific. All five respondents who called for Legal Aid funding for Asylum Seekers and Refugees were from Oldham, who explained that a free immigration advice service used to be available in Oldham but it had since closed. Similarly, the three respondents who focused specifically on solutions to stop the exploitation of migrant workers by recruitment agencies were from Boston.

## The Outsider Project Recommendations and Actions

The responses to the Listening Campaign highlighted key issues being faced by migrants communities in Barking and Dagenham, Boston, Oldham and Wolverhampton. Following its conclusion, the Migrants' Rights Network held public Issues Workshops in each area where the outcomes of the Listening Campaign were discussed in more detail, and communities selected three key issues to work on for the remainder of The Outsider Project.

The issues chosen by the communities in each area are as follows:

### Barking and Dagenham

#### Building Community Relationships

Bringing together migrant and non-migrant communities to increase community cohesion and build strong relationships.

#### Access to ESOL Classes

Increasing the number of affordable ESOL classes provided for non-English speakers in the borough.

#### Access to Information about Rights

Improving access to information about migrants' rights to live, study and work in the UK.

### Boston

#### Access to ESOL Classes

An increase in affordable ESOL classes delivered at different times of the day, and by teachers from students' countries of origin.

#### Ending Exploitation of Migrant Workers

Providing information to migrant workers about their employment rights, and addressing exploitation by agencies and employers.

#### Building Community Relationships

Bringing together migrant and non-migrant communities to increase community cohesion and build strong relationships.

### Oldham

#### Access to Legal Aid for Asylum Seekers

Providing free access to legal advice or representation for Asylum Seekers living in Oldham.

#### Access to ESOL Classes

Increasing the number of ESOL classes provided in the evenings for non-English speakers.

#### Access to Housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Working with housing companies to provide support for asylum seekers and refugees when applying for housing, particularly with online application process.

### Wolverhampton

#### Access to free ESOL Classes

Increasing the number of free ESOL classes available in Wolverhampton for non-English Speakers, and addressing policies that restrict asylum seekers' access to ESOL within their first six months in the UK.

#### Building Community Relationships

Bringing together migrant and non-migrant communities to increase community cohesion and build strong relationships.

#### Housing Support

Ensuring that housing agencies are responding to the requests of tenants to fix problems with the properties, and providing suitable accommodation for living needs. Based on the Listening Campaign responses and subsequent Issues Workshops, the Migrants' Rights Network through the Outsider Project will be working with policy and decision makers, service providers and community members to take action towards these key issues.



1 - In Wolverhampton the project is being delivered in partnership with the Refugee and Migrant Centre, Black Country and Birmingham (RMC); in Oldham the project is being delivered in partnership with Oldham Race Equality Partnership (OREP).

2 - Percentage Leave vote by location: Barking and Dagenham - 62%; Boston - 75.6%; Oldham - 60.9%; Wolverhampton - 62.6%.

3 - Number of responses by area were as follows: Barking & Dagenham - 23 responses; Boston - 136 responses; Oldham - 44 responses; Wolverhampton - 74 responses.

4 - Number of respondents by age group: Under 18: 15, 18-25: 41, 26-35: 92, 36-45: 86, 46+: 42. One respondent chose not to disclose their age.

5 - 106 respondents had lived in the UK for less than 5 years; 74 respondents had lived in the UK for 5-9 years; 70 respondents had lived in the UK for 10-14 years; 13 respondents had lived in the UK for 15-19 years; 12 respondents had lived in the UK for 20 years or more. Two respondents had always lived in the UK.

6 - Prior to living in the UK, respondents had lived in the following geographic regions: Europe - 178, Asia - 48, Africa - 43, Australasia - 1, Latin America - 1, North America - 2. Three respondents chose not to disclose the geographic region they had lived in previously, and one respondent had always lived in the UK.

7 - Nationalities or backgrounds listed by respondents: Afghan, Arabic, African, Asian, Bangladeshi, Black African, British, British/Pakistani, British/Lithuanian, British/Polish, Bulgarian, Congolese, Czech, Czech/Slovakian, Dutch/Somali, Ethiopian, European, Filipino, French, French/Spanish, Ghanaian, Indian, Indian/European, Indian/Italian, IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra), Iranian, Iraqi, Irish, Italian, Italian/European/Indian, Kenyan, Kurdish, Latvian, Latvian/Lithuanian, Latvian/Russian, Libyan, Lithuanian, Mexican/Spanish, Middle Eastern, Nigerian, North American, Pakistani, Polish, Portuguese/Italian, Roma, Romanian, Russian, Rwandan, Slovakian, Somali, South African, Spanish, Sri Lankan, Tanzanian, Zimbabwean. Twenty-six respondents chose not to disclose this information.

8 - Immigration statuses of respondents were as follows: EU National - 162, British Citizen - 30, Asylum Seeker - 26, Refugee - 15, Indefinite Leave To Remain - 13, EEA National - 8, Spouse or Family Visa - 6, Refused Asylum Seeker - 5, Unsure - 3, Work Visa - 2, Student Visa - 1, No Status - 1. Five respondents chose not to disclose their status.

9 - Number of responses by area were as follows: Barking & Dagenham - 23 responses; Boston - 136 responses; Oldham - 44 responses; Wolverhampton - 74 responses.

10 - Refer to footnote 4 for details of age groups of respondents.

11 - Refer to footnote 5 for details of length of time living in the UK.

12 - Refer to footnote 6 for details of geographic regions.

13 - Refer to footnote 7 for full list of nationalities, backgrounds or communities.

14 - Refer to footnote 8 for details of immigration statuses of respondents.

15 - EU migrants make up 2.2% of working-age claimants of DWP benefits: <http://ukandeu.ac.uk/fact-figures/how-many-eu-migrants-claim-benefits-in-the-uk/>

16 - In each area, the following number of respondents said that they felt that the result of the EU Referendum has already had an impact in the UK: Barking and Dagenham - 73.9%, Boston - 75%, Oldham - 79.5%, Wolverhampton - 55.4%.

17 - 96 of 278 respondents did not provide an answer the question as to whether they felt people in their local area spoke positively, negatively - or a mixture of both - about migration.

18 - Percentages based on the number of respondents who answered the question.

19 - 43.5% of respondents in Barking and Dagenham said they had experienced hate incidents; 42% of respondents in Boston said they had experienced hate incidents. 20 - 28 respondents did not provide an answer to the question.

20 - 28 respondents did not provide an answer to the question.

21 - 57.9% of respondents from Barking and Dagenham, 65.3% of respondents from Boston and 75% of respondents from Barking and Dagenham said their experience living in their local area had not changed how long they intended to stay living there or in the UK.

22 - Five respondents chose not to disclose their status, three respondents were unsure of their status, and one respondent identified as having no status.

23 - Three respondents felt unable to answer the question.

24 - One respondent with the immigration status of EU or EEA National felt unable to answer the question.

25 - One respondent with the immigration status of Asylum Seeker or Refused Asylum Seeker felt unable to answer the question.

26 - In Barking and Dagenham 31.8% of respondents said they felt it was easy to access this information, in Oldham 29.5% felt it was easy, and in Wolverhampton 38.4% felt it was easy.

27 - In Oldham 47.7% of respondents had lived in the UK for less than 5 years, but this included EU and EEA Nationals. Just 13.6% of respondents in Oldham had lived in the UK for less than 5 years on a Work or Family / Spouse Visa or had Asylum Seeker, Refused Asylum Seeker or Refugee status.

28 - In Barking and Dagenham only 8.7% of respondents had lived in the UK for less than 5 years, but this included EU and EEA Nationals. Just 4.3% of respondents in Barking and Dagenham had lived in the UK for less than 5 years on a Work or Family / Spouse Visa or had Asylum Seeker, Refused Asylum Seeker or Refugee status.

29 - 23.1% of respondents did not provide an answer.

30 - 11.9% of all respondents mentioned restrictions around working or studying in the UK.

31 - Of these nine respondents one was a British Citizen and nine were EU Nationals.

32 - Of the 278 respondents, 15 mentioned concerns over criminals entering the UK when asked about immigration policy.

33 - This was an open-ended question; respondents were not given a list of options to choose from.

34 - 42 respondents chose not to answer the question.

35 - Twenty-three respondents said that they personally owned, or had previously owned, a business in the UK.

36 - The remaining 39.2% of respondents were either unsure or chose not to answer the question.

37 - Eight respondents mentioned this misconception.

38 - Twenty-two respondents mentioned this misconception.

39 - 93 respondents mentioned language barriers, knowledge of English language or access to ESOL as a key issue.

40 - This issue was mentioned by the following number of respondents in the other project areas: Boston - 22.8%, Oldham - 30%, Barking and Dagenham - 26%.

41 - 71 respondents mentioned issues surrounding employment.

42 - This issue was also mentioned by 24.3% of respondents in Wolverhampton, and 12.5% of respondents in Boston.

43 - Combined, the number of respondents who mentioned racism, xenophobia, hate incidents or discrimination as a key issue faced by migrants in the community by area was: Boston - 47.1%, Oldham - 31.8%, Wolverhampton - 18.9% Barking and Dagenham - 13%.

44 - This issue was also mentioned by 23% of respondents in Wolverhampton, and 13.5% of respondents in Oldham.

45 - This issue was also mentioned by 16.2% of respondents in Wolverhampton, and 4.4% of respondents in Boston.

## Further Information

More detailed information about The Outsider Project and results from the Listening Campaign can be found in MRN's report entitled 'Migrants' Perspectives on Brexit and UK Immigration Policies'.

Any comments or queries about the results of the Listening Campaign or The Outsider Project can be directed to [outsiderproject@migrantsrights.org.uk](mailto:outsiderproject@migrantsrights.org.uk).