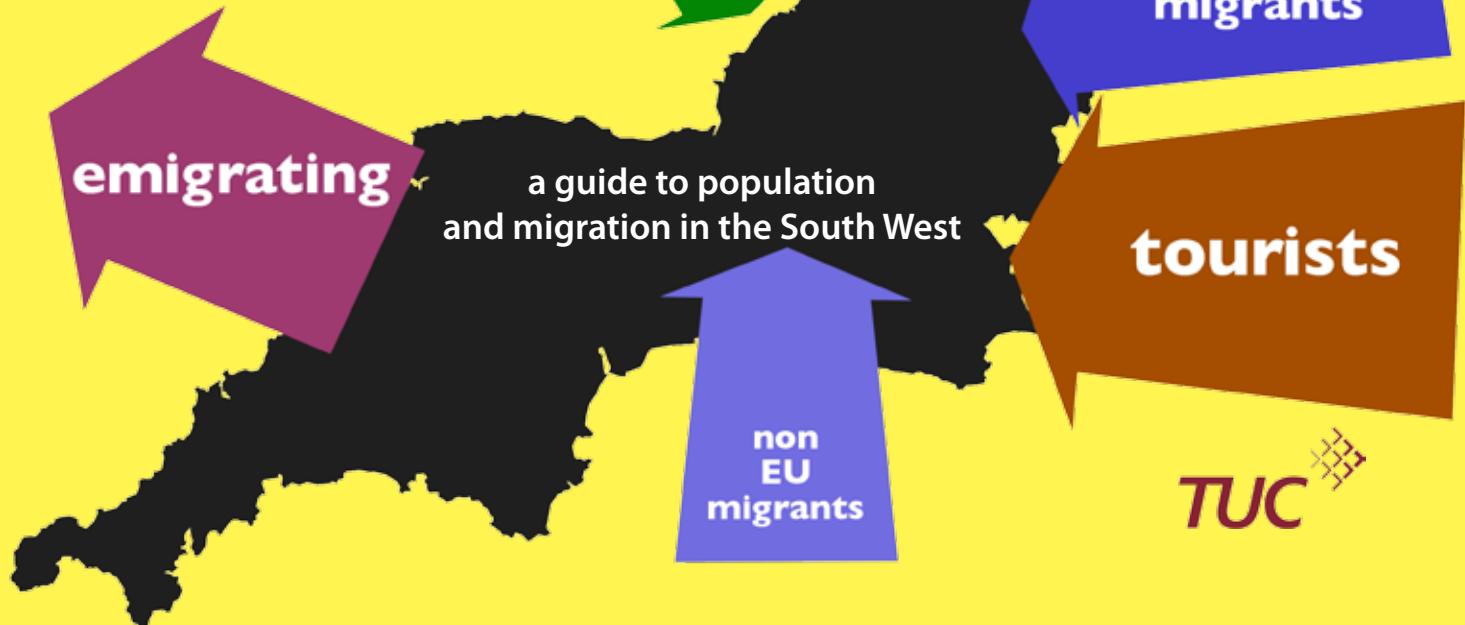


Truth, lies and migrants



South West people

31%

Polls show that on average people think there are far more immigrants than there really are. 13% of the England and Wales population was born abroad.

Under **8%** of the South West population was born abroad
8th out of 10 regions

5.3 million

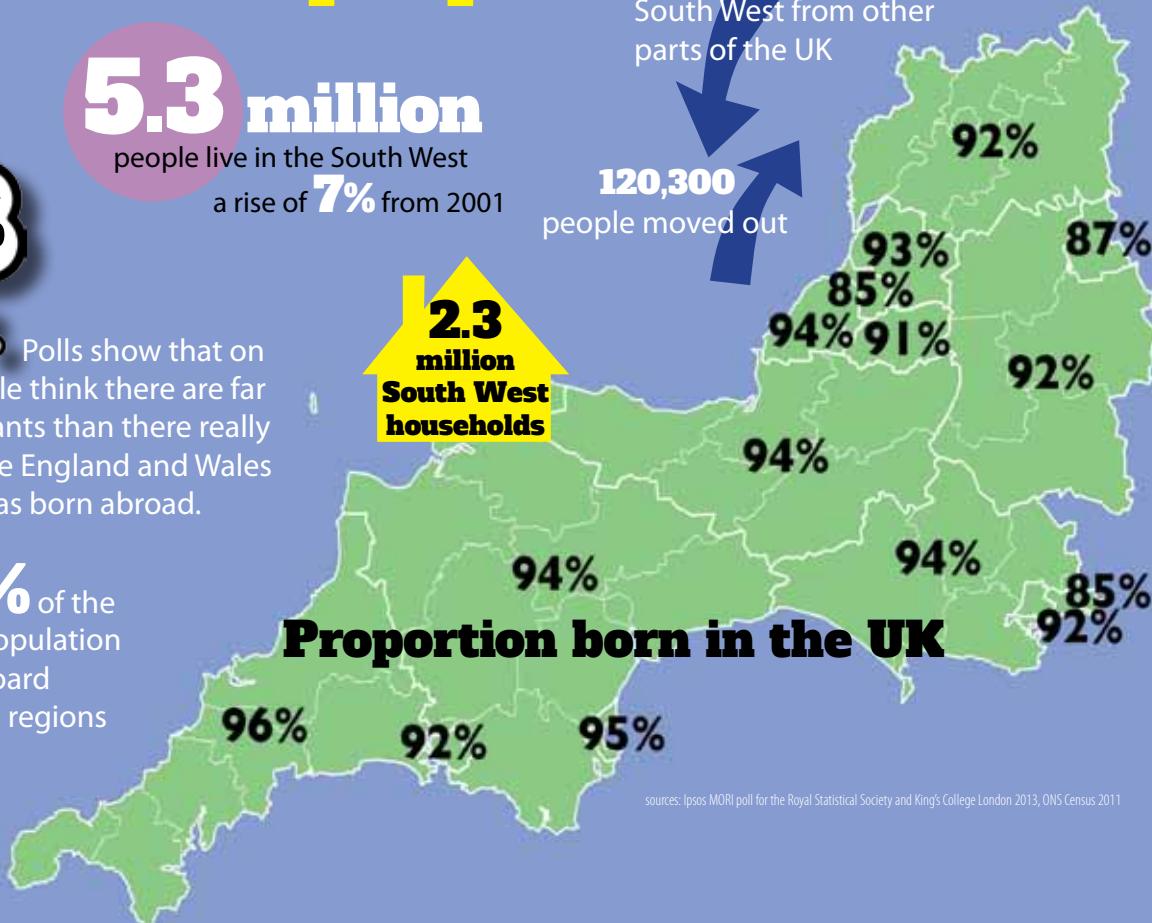
people live in the South West
a rise of **7%** from 2001

2.3 million
South West households

In 2012 **139,700** people moved to the South West from other parts of the UK

120,300
people moved out

Proportion born in the UK



sources: Ipsos MORI poll for the Royal Statistical Society and King's College London 2013, ONS Census 2011

Truth, lies and migrants

The issues of immigration and population are hotly debated and affect how people are treated at work and in our communities. Trade unions speak up for working people. That means protecting wages and conditions from being undercut. It also means supporting workers when they are being exploited by employers and gang masters. So we have a duty to arm trade union representatives with the facts on population and migration.

This booklet tries to bridge the gulf between how people think the population of the South West is made up and how it really is. It challenges the scaremongering and racist views of some groups and newspapers.

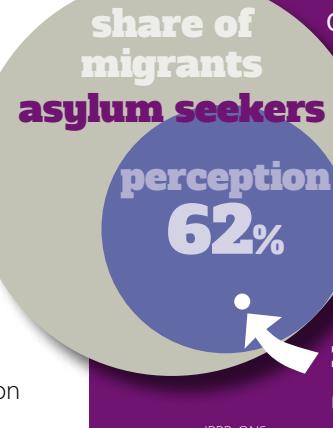
We take for granted our freedom to travel. Migration brings economic benefits and the richness of diversity but it can

unsettle people. People least likely to meet a migrant are most likely to believe the scare stories. We need to address the fears with facts and the problems with solutions. I hope this booklet helps do that.



Nigel Costley

South West TUC Regional Secretary



Opinion polls show that people are confused about population and migration. Strong opinions are formed, based not upon life experience, but newspaper scare stories and gossip. Myths have far more power than the truth.

Foreign-born in the South West

The most common non-UK born residents in the South West are:



Polish 36k



German 31k



Irish 23k

96.7%
speak
ENGLISH

as first
language

1% speak little if any **ENGLISH**



Peak-baby

Women around the world are having fewer babies.

1990

was the peak year for births. Fewer babies have been born since then. The rise in global population is expected to level off as this peak dies out.

Ageing population



2013
3.14 workers to one retired person



2035
2.61 workers to one retired person

Percentage of population aged over 65

source: ONS 2011source: ONS

In 1981, there were **2,420** people aged 100 and over. By 2012 the figure was

12,320



Over 65s in West Somerset

source: ONS flows by age

Being born abroad doesn't mean foreign



Here or abroad? What do you think?



Boris Johnson

Here
Abroad

Duke of Edinburgh

Here
Abroad

Cliff Richard

Here
Abroad

Helen Mirren

Here
Abroad

Ed Miliband

Here
Abroad

Ashley Cole

Here
Abroad

Joanna Lumley

Here
Abroad

Saint George

Here
Abroad

David Cameron

Here
Abroad

Nick Clegg

Here
Abroad

Learn with Unite

Unite the union is developing on-line English courses to help workers who find it difficult to attend classes. Migrant workers tend to work long hours and often difficult shifts. Fitting in college courses can prove extremely difficult. The Unite English for Speakers of Other Languages course is to be offered on-line to help address this problem. This is part of a wider programme of education courses for migrant workers.



Web welcome

The web site of the shop and distribution workers' union, USDAW, is available in multiple languages.

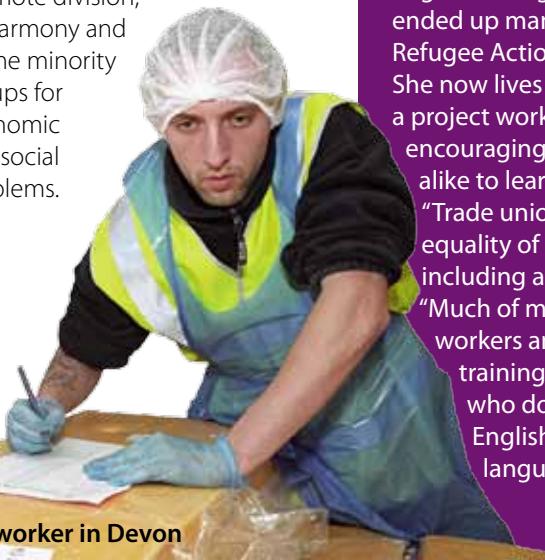


Forest Unity

Unison is backing Forest Unity, a recently formed community association in the Forest of Dean of people who promote positive values of kindness, tolerance, compassion, respect for each other and our planet, community, diversity and inclusiveness. Forest Unity was formed to counter politicians who promote division, disharmony and blame minority groups for economic and social problems.

Polish cheese worker in Devon

photo: Carlos Guarita



Teaching English

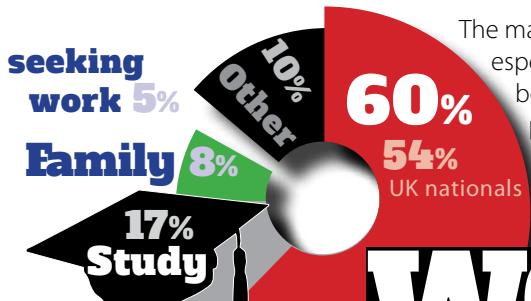
"Because of my accent, people find it funny when I tell them I used to be an English teacher," smiles Agnieszka Zamonski.

The Polish graduate arrived in Plymouth from Gdansk in 2001, and soon got a job as a teaching assistant. Before long she began teaching English to migrants and ended up managing Refugee Action's advice service in the city. She now lives in Bristol and works as a project worker for the GMB union, encouraging members and non-members alike to learn new skills.

"Trade unions are built upon equality, and equality of opportunity is part of that, including access to education," she says. "Much of my time is spent with migrant workers and organising training for those who do not speak English as their first language".



Comings and goings



The South West boasts a number of top universities and colleges.

23,910 students paid to study in the region in 2011-12,

15% of the student population.

China was the top sending country and the favourite area of study was **Business Studies**



The main reason for migration is **WORK**, especially in jobs at the top and bottom of the labour market. Health professions, IT, food production, construction, services and care are sectors where most migrants work in the South West.

WORK

Tourists

The South West is the most popular region for tourists with **82 million** overnight stays in 2011. **29 million** foreign tourists come to the UK each year.

The Brits are poorly integrated into Spanish society. A survey of 340 British migrants in Málaga, found that one third rarely or never met Spanish people, apart from in shops and restaurants, and that 60 per cent did not speak Spanish well.

Almost **1 in 10**

British citizens live overseas. The majority live in Australia, Spain, the US and other English-speaking nations. Like migrants who come here, most go to work.

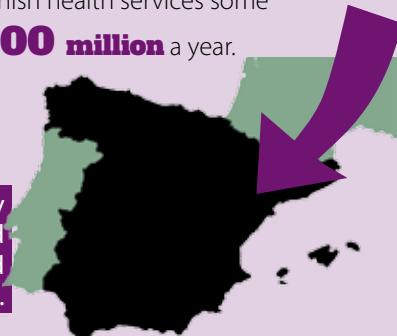
300k

There are **300k** British nationals registered in **Spain** but estimates put the true figure up to

1 million

Older people tend to migrate to Spain whereas younger – and fitter – migrants come here. Despite health insurance and UK charges, the British cost Spanish health services some

€300 million a year.



Population density



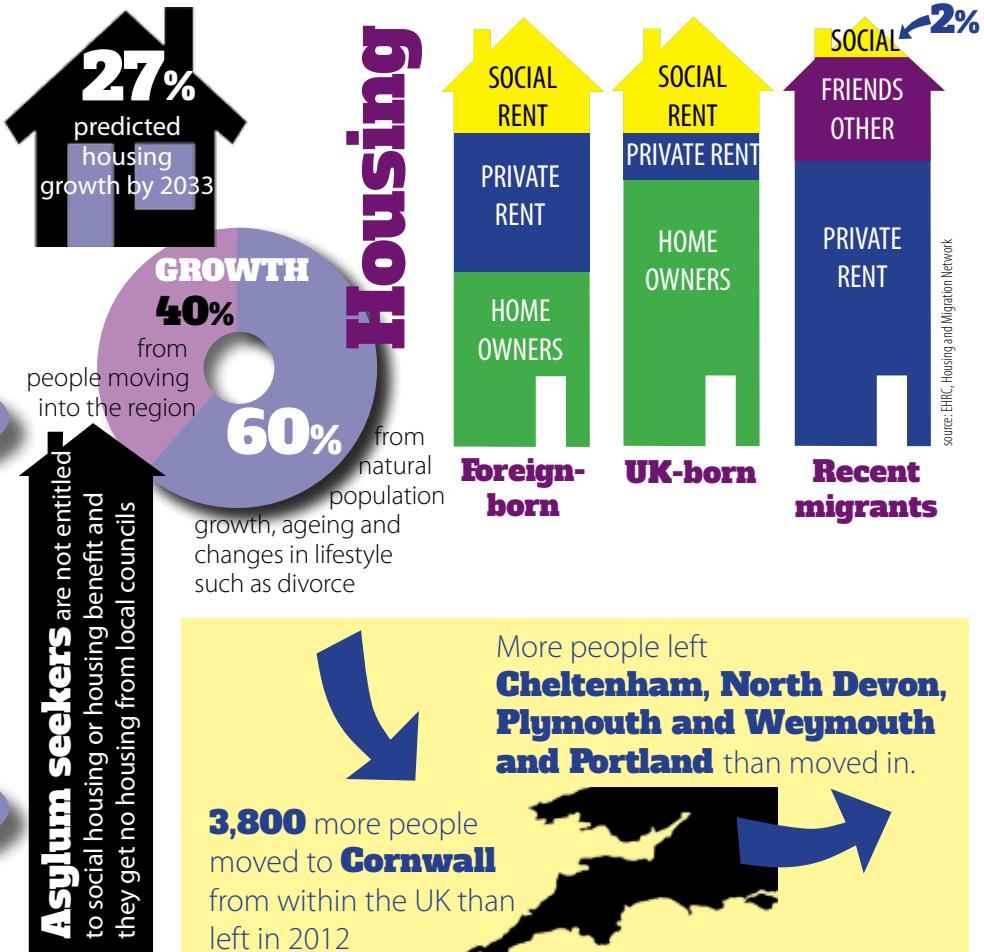
South West
221

people per sq km



England
401

people per sq km



Migrant news



It is not surprising that we are confused about migration issues. There is a daily diet of scare stories. In a 31-day period in 2003, the *Daily Express* ran 22 front page articles on a supposed threat of a flood of refugees.

The pressure to twist the news led Express NUJ journalists to lodge a formal complaint to the Press Complaints Commission against their own newspaper.

Reporters on the *Daily Star* refused to work on a mock-up front page attacking Muslims.

When challenged about a front page story headed "Swan Bake" about asylum seekers stealing swans, *The Sun* could offer no real evidence to back up the claims.

In the South West the UK Independence Party is relying heavily on scare stories about immigration to win support. The irony is that where people are least likely to meet migrants, they are more likely to believe the scare stories.



Migrants and the NHS

You are far more likely to be treated by a migrant worker than meet one in the waiting room. Migrants use the NHS less as they tend to be younger and fitter than UK nationals.



18 hospitals alone earned
£42m in 2010 from overseas patients



Benefit tourists?

The Government has not been able to produce evidence to back up claims that migrants are coming to the UK to take advantage of welfare benefits. Most are young, fit and in work and are far less likely to claim benefits.

In 2011 **26,786** claims for tax-funded, income-related benefits were made by non-UK nationals. **67%** were disallowed under the **Right to Reside** and **Habitual Residence** tests. **69%** of JSA claims were rejected.

source: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and York University 2010



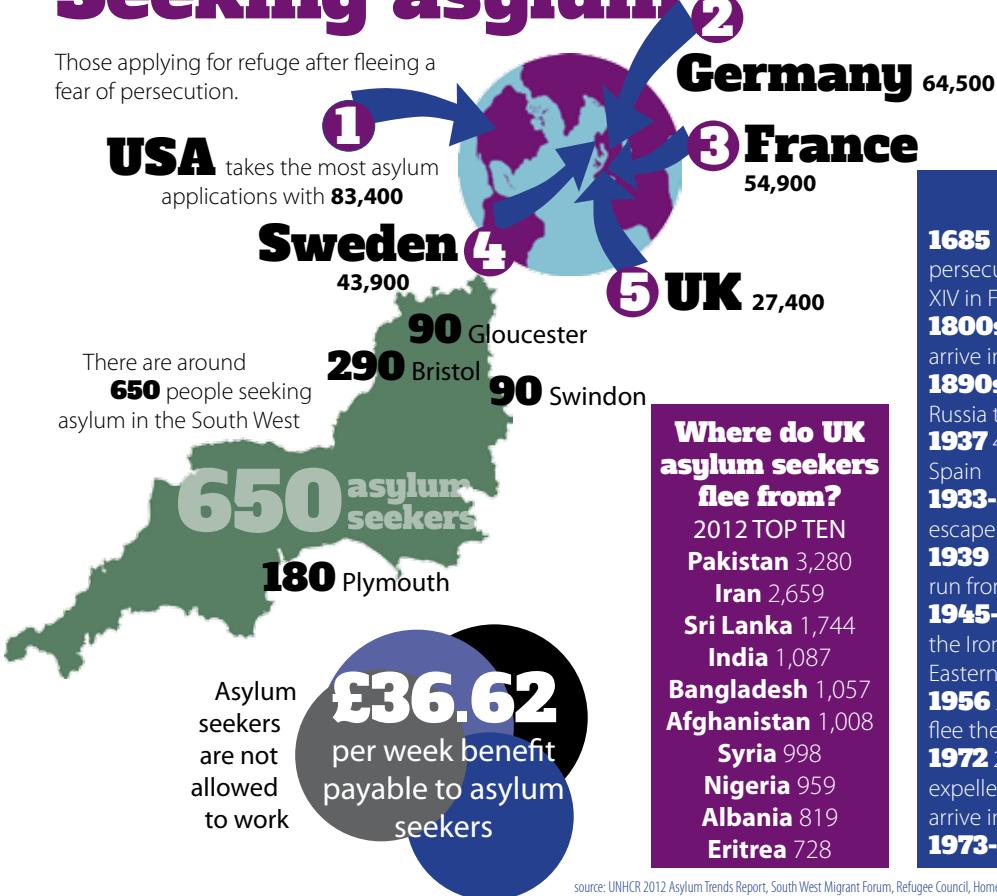
THE Sun

forced to admit "no evidence" for "benefit tourists" story:



Seeking asylum

Those applying for refuge after fleeing a fear of persecution.



The proportion of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in the UK.

Seeking refuge

1685	Huguenots flee persecution from Louis XIV in France	escape the Pinochet murder squads
1975-92	24,000 'boat people' get out of Vietnam	
1800s	German refugees arrive in Bristol	
1890s	Jews escape Russia to settle in UK	
1937	4,000 Basques flee Spain	
1933-39	50,000 Jews escape Nazi Germany	
1939	100,000 refugees run from the threat of war	
1945-60	50,000 cross the Iron Curtain of the Eastern bloc	
1956	21,000 Hungarians flee the Soviet invasion	
1972	28,000 Asians expelled from Uganda arrive in the UK	
1973-79	3,000 Chileans	Claims for asylum in the UK fall dramatically
1992-96	2,500 Bosnians flee war and 'ethnic cleansing'	Conflict remains the main reason for people seeking refuge.
1995-99	4,000 Kosovans flee war	
2002	14,570 seek sanctuary from Saddam Hussein's Iraq	
2004-8	7,000 flee the Taliban in Afghanistan	
2008-today	7,655 flee from Zimbabwe	

source: UNHCR 2012 Asylum Trends Report, South West Migrant Forum, Refugee Council, Home Office

Terms used can sometimes confuse and are often mixed up to mislead. So here is a brief glossary:

Migrants

Those who come to the UK mainly for work, most stay less than two years.

Economic migrants

Those seeking a better life abroad such as Britons emigrating to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and almost every part of the world!

Immigrants

Those who come in order to settle.

Asylum seekers

Those who apply for protection under the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

Refugees

They are people fleeing persecution who have been granted asylum.

Foreign students

The British education system has long attracted many students from abroad. They must be able to support themselves including having the fare to return home.

Posted workers

Workers posted temporarily by their employer to work in another country.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

A limited quota of Bulgarian and Romanian workers in seasonal farm work – to be closed in 2014.

Work permits

An old system to allow migrants to work in the UK. These are being replaced by Certificates of Sponsorship.

Points-based system

Migrants from outside Europe must have a sponsor and pass a points test before they can enter the UK. Points are awarded for ability, experience, age and the level of need within the sector the migrant will be working. They speak English and have sufficient funds to survive without public funds. Employers must show that no suitably-qualified settled worker can fill the job.

European nationals

Workers in the European Union have freedom to travel between countries.

Accession countries

In 2004 the European Union expanded to take in eight new countries (A8): Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. People from Bulgaria and Romania (A2), have been free to enter the UK to visit. Restrictions on working will be lifted in January 2014.

Net migration

The difference between those arriving in the UK and those leaving. It has risen recently due to less people emigrating.

ESOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages - courses at different levels often organised through unions and the community.

No Recourse to Public Funds

A term used to describe migrants who need assistance but have no right to get it from public bodies.



Hélène's shock

Bristol-born student Hélène Titus-Glover was soaking in the bath early one morning when immigration officers started banging on her front door. "I ignored it at first but then it got louder and louder – I thought they were going to break the door down," she says. "I wrapped a towel round me and I saw these eight people. They said they were from the UK Border Agency and that they had reason to believe I was an illegal immigrant. My first reaction was to laugh because I thought it was a joke."

They demanded to see her passport. "I showed them my driving licence and uni card, but they said they weren't good enough, and they wanted to come in," she says. "I was absolutely terrified. I thought I was going to be arrested and taken away. I rang my dad and was crying down the phone to him. I was shaking. My dad spoke to them and they were really rude to him, saying he wasn't my dad, even though it clearly said 'Dad' on my phone." She refused them entry because they didn't have a search warrant and, after two hours, they finally left. Now, after having proved her British citizenship, Hélène is still waiting for an apology.

"The way I was treated was disgusting – I was made to feel like a fugitive," she says. It has had a profound impact on Hélène's life. Not only does she always carry her driving licence with her in case she's challenged again, but she is considering a career as a lawyer specialising in immigration. "I was never that interested in immigration, but this made me want to help people who, like myself, are accused of being illegal immigrants," she says.

If you have an
AFRICAN or **ASIAN**
sounding name
you will need to send almost
TWICE
as many
JOB APPLICATIONS
just to get an
INTERVIEW

source: Runnymede Trust

Polls show that
people think the UK
Muslim population is

Muslim myths

24%

5%

1% in the
South West

What is
actually is

source: Ipsos MORI poll for the Royal Statistical Society and King's College London 2013, ONS

Bulgaria and Romania

Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union in 2007. Freedom of movement has been one of the great achievements of Europe and one that most of us take for granted. Bulgarians and Romanians can already travel to the UK and live.

They can work here if they obtain a work permit, come as self-employed or as part of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme. The numbers in the South West are very small but they have made a valuable contribution.

From 1st January 2014 they can work in the same way as other workers from the EU.



source: CRCE 2010, Stat-Xplore, Department for Work and Pensions

Some newspapers and politicians have tried to whip up scare stories using words such as "flood", "swamp", "invasion", etc.

UKIP warns that 29 million people could come to the UK. This would require the entire populations of both countries moving here! Even if the numbers double in 2014 it will mean around 1,000 people in the South West.

Unlike when the borders were lifted for Poland and other Eastern European countries, the Bulgarians and Romanians have been travelling

Around **6.6%** **Romanians** are considering leaving their country in 2014. The top country will be **Italy**. The UK is their third choice.

source: BBC

for work and study for some years. 11% of Bulgarians and 6% of Romanians have already worked in the UK.

46%
Romanians are in a trade union. More than the 30% of UK workers.

source: ICTWSS 2010

Around **100k** **Romanians** are in the UK **85%** are in full-time work. Most are under the age of **35**

40% have university degrees. There have been just **300** claims for child benefit

Romania
Bulgaria

Andrei

Bucharest-born Andrei Dudau has been living and working in the UK for nine years. The 30-year-old Romanian has worked at Kerry Foods in Poole since 2004, where he is a dispatch operative. He soon joined Unite the union and has been elected a representative.

"I came here to have a better life," he says, "and because, if you follow the rule of law, English people are respectful and welcoming to immigrants." He doesn't think his compatriots, however, will be rushing to jump on a plane in January, saying: "Romanians have been able to work here since 2007, so anyone wanting to come here will already be here. If they go anywhere, they'll go to Spain because it's cheaper to live there ... and the weather's better!"



Cornish lead

A range of organisations come together in Cornwall under a Migrants Workers' Network to deliver a coordinated approach to ensure migrant workers are supported and services aware of their requirements. The county's daffodil harvest along with the food production, tourism and care work have long attracted workers from abroad. In recent years the growers have relied upon Bulgarian and Romanian workers who have come under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme. This ends in 2014. The Network has helped develop a Responsible Employers' Scheme. For more information contact Andrea Gilbert on 01872 355060 or email agilbert@cornwall.gov.uk

Migrants and benefits

Disability benefits Proportion of claimants



Out-of-work benefits Proportion of claimants



Giving back

Monika Stennett first came to the UK in 1987 to pick strawberries, and loved the country so much she settled here and became a key figure in her community.

After two summer seasons in Kent, the student from Lubin in the east

of Poland, began working in a London pub, where she met her husband. Before long they moved to Somerset to raise a family, where they live in Taunton.

Monika has had a range of jobs in the West Country, including care work, setting up a migrant workers' project for Equality South West and supporting clients with learning difficulties for a housing association, where she currently works helping individuals.

She has also made a huge impact in her community, volunteering as a school governor, an active Unison member, in her local church, sitting on a police advisory panel and setting up the Polish Association in Taunton, representing and advising Polish people and running English classes.

"I do all these things because I care and I am passionate about workers' rights," she says. "And I believe I have the experience and knowledge to make a difference. I love living in England. It is my home now, and I want to be a part of the community, giving something back."

Whose work and at what pay?

Most migrants come to the UK to work. But does this mean they are stopping local people getting into work and keeping pay down?

Unemployment levels in the South West are lower than the national average but pay has been squeezed and many workers are taking part-time jobs when they want full-time ones.

Some foreign workers take highly-skilled jobs such as computer specialists and health professionals.

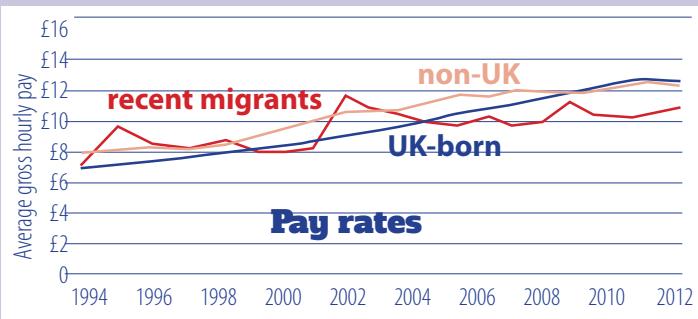
A few come as senior managers in foreign-owned companies that invest here.

In these jobs, international recruitment pushes up pay – consider footballers for example.

In the less skilled labour

market, migrants take jobs locals don't want to do especially in agriculture and food production. These tend to be low-paid jobs protected by the National Minimum Wage. Past experience has shown that migrants tend to start on low pay but quickly move on to better paid work.

Trade unions have worked hard to protect established pay rates and it



has been the recession that has squeezed wages, not

competition from migrant workers.

Migrants tend to raise productivity levels as they have scarce skills, high motivation and fresh ideas.

A major report for the Government found "little evidence of displacement". Several other studies have found that migrants have not had an adverse effect on jobs or pay.



Roma people



The Roma are one of the most abused and marginalised communities in the world. They trace roots back to 'untouchables' in India and have been forced to survive through marginal work and crime for generations.

200,000-800,000 Roma were killed in the Nazi holocaust. Half of all Roma were discriminated against last year. Following the recession, the attacks on Roma communities has escalated. They are an easy target for far-right groups and

some newspapers in the UK. There are around one million Roma in Bulgaria and two million in Romania, mostly living in remote rural areas. 70-90% are unemployed.

Statistics are unreliable because Roma often hide their background for fear of discrimination. Strong family ties are part of Roma culture.

There is a 30% illiteracy rate and Roma face a short life due to poor housing, health care and immunisation rates.



Roma across Europe

Bristol swim victory

Campaigning mums won their three-year fight to have a women-only swimming session at Bristol's Horfield leisure centre. Unite the union successfully backed more than thirty Somali women in their campaign.

Unite community coordinator for the South West Brett Sparkes said: "It soon became clear to the pool's management that the women were organised and were not going to go away quietly."

After petitions and protests the women met with the city council and the pool management agreed to introduce women's-only sessions.



Let us swim – Somali women and children protest, supported by Unite Community union

Exeter comes together to oppose racism

More than a thousand people attended a Celebration of Diversity event in Exeter in November. Trade unionists, religious leaders, politicians and others gathered in the city as some 200 English Defence League supporters protested against the internationally

renowned Islamic Studies Centre in Exeter University.



Exeter together in Belmont Park

Exeter Together spokesperson Hannah Packham said: "Our celebration went against the politics of hatred and lies that the EDL were trying to bring into Exeter. It was a real sign Exeter can unite in its diversity. The turnout, the atmosphere and the reception from shoppers was just amazing."

Migrant Workers Forum

Organised by South West Councils and chaired by Nigel Costley from the South West TUC, the Forum brings together agencies, advice groups and migrant support organisations. It helps link the work of enforcement agencies and shares migration information.

For more information contact

Dave Newall

dave.newall@swcouncils.gov.uk

Here or abroad? How many did you know?



Boris Johnson

Here
Abroad
born in
New York



Duke of Edinburgh

Here
Abroad
born in
Greece



Cliff Richard

Here
Abroad
born in
Lucknow,
India



Helen Mirren

Here
Abroad
Born Ilyena
asilieva
Mironor in
London



Ed Miliband

Here
Abroad
born in
London, son
of Jewish
refugees



Ashley Cole

Here
Abroad
born in
London



Joanna Lumley

Here
Abroad
born in
Srinigar,
India



Saint George

Here
Abroad
The patron
saint of
England was
born in East
Turkey



David Cameron

Here
Abroad
born in
London a
descendant
of King
William IV



Nick Clegg

Here
Abroad
born in
Buckin-
hamshire



NASUWT
The Teachers' Union



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