

MIGRATION & PREJUDICE - HOW CAN I RESPOND?

People often tell us they want to respond to prejudice when they see it - but they don't feel quite confident enough or 'know what to say'. So we've created these resources to help offer some ideas and guidance. We've worked with people with lived experience of responding to prejudice. Together we have identified the comments they hear most often, and the potential responses they would suggest using to reply. Experience tells us that arguing doesn't work, but by talking and listening, we can help to change perspectives and attitudes.



Remember, you don't have to engage in conversation if you don't feel physically and emotionally safe to do so, and all hate crime should be reported to Nottinghamshire Police by calling 101 (999 in an emergency) or online through True Vision at www.report-it.org.uk

! Warning: Please be aware the content of these comments and responses may be offensive or distressing and is intended for educational purposes !

Prejudiced comment	Potential responses
<p>There aren't enough houses to go around.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is entitled to decent accommodation. • Have you had this issue? Why did you think it's because of migration? • The shortage of housing is less to do with migrant people / families moving in and more to do with a lack of affordable or social housing.
<p>People are coming here, having kids and taking over.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you mean by taking over? What does that look like? • There's nothing to suggest immigrants have taken or are taking over. People have come over and are living their lives normally and have shared their culture.
<p>They expect the world when they arrive.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People move to a different place for better working conditions or a better life for their families. Wouldn't you want the same? • It might be that people have been told stories before they come about what is available, and there's a bit of adjustment when they get here and realise the reality.
<p>There's not enough capacity in the NHS.</p> <p>People come for health tourism to use the NHS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the staff in the NHS are migrant workers - it wouldn't function without foreign doctors and nurses - should they not be here? • Limits to the capacity of the NHS are more to do with the NHS not being properly funded rather than migration. • Tourists are not allowed to access NHS treatment for free. There are checks about eligibility when treatment is provided, including asking for a passport, visa or documentation.
<p>They come here just to send money back home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be allowed to do what they want with their money. • Economic migrants are still paying taxes, council tax and fees for NHS and what they do with the rest of their earnings should be up to them. Have you ever thought like that about British people who go on retirement and move to Spain for example and spend their pension over there?
<p>Our soldiers are being forgotten while refugees and asylum seekers get everything.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's true that many soldiers have a really difficult time when they return from warzones. It must be awful for them and there should be support for that. • Often the reason they struggle is that they are emotionally scarred by their experience and need help getting through this - we need to increase mental health support. • Many asylum seekers have come from warzones or persecution or poverty where they were subject to horrendous things without even signing up for this. Maybe there is a way to provide support for both.

Prejudiced comment	Potential responses
I have worked for everything I have.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you feel that someone else's achievements and education can diminish your qualifications and achievements? If yes, why? Do you think that someone else's nationality can have an impact on your opportunities when competing for a job position for example?
They get a free house and benefits when I have to work - no one ever gave me anything.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you considered that refugees are being provided with housing so they can integrate and have fresh start, get a job and contribute to the economy? I think it is important that developed countries like this one have resources to help vulnerable people who are fleeing war. What if it was us in that position?
I can't get a job in my own country / I lost my job to a migrant European Worker.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no shortage of jobs, it's about what sort of job you are prepared to do. Many migrant workers take jobs like agricultural work or care work, which many British people feel they don't want to do.
I'm on the waiting list for a house but refugees just get given houses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social housing is allocated according to need and those most vulnerable will be moved up the list. The Government needs to build more houses so there will be enough for everyone.
If you come here, you should learn our rules and not change things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you feel that some part of your culture is being threatened? Have you thought about how British culture has been heavily influenced by other cultures for centuries? What rules do you feel are being broken by foreign people? Have you ever considered where the most popular curry dish came from? Do you like going to Italian restaurants or having a Chinese take away? All of this is an outcome of multiculturalism that positively affected this country.
I don't feel safe when everyone's speaking different languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you ever considered that for some people it may be very hard to learn English and it can cause a lot of anxiety for them not to be able to speak as well as they would wish to speak? Also, for some people their mother tongue can be the only link or connection with their country or family? Why is that? And what language do you speak when you go to other countries on holiday, for example?
Asylum seeking men aren't real men because they came here leaving their families behind, instead of staying to fight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is often not their choice to come here, they have to think about their families and how best to protect them. For some people this is the way they fight and try to survive. Would you die for a cause that you don't believe in?
Terrorists are pretending to be asylum seekers and we're letting them in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To completely avoid this we would have to close our borders for everyone, even tourists. It's impossible to fully check everyone that enters this country. Should we refuse to help refugees because a very small number might be dangerous? Authorities can verify their identities and decide if they are a threat. Do you think the same is true for all asylum seekers, even ones who are not Muslim?

