

YouGov Survey Results Immigration and Asylum

Prepared for The Sun

Sample Size: 2309

Fieldwork: 11th - 14th August 2003

	%
Which of the following political issues do you think is most important for the UK? (Please pick just one)	
The EU constitution	8
Replacing the Pound with the Euro	6
Countryside and farming	2
Immigration and Asylum seekers	39
Law and order	32
The war on terrorism	9
Other	5
How do you rate the present Government's policies on immigration and people who seek asylum in Britain?	
Too tough	6
Not tough enough	82
Has the balance about right	8
Don't know	4
How do you think the Conservatives would handle the issue of immigration and people who seek asylum in Britain?	
Too tough	18
Not tough enough	33
Would get the balance about right	22
Don't know	27
Thinking about people who arrived in Britain between the 1950s and the 1990s and who have settled here, do you think that overall, they have or have not benefited Britain in each of the following ways?	
Helping Britain's economy	
Have benefited Britain	49
Have not benefited Britain	34
Don't know	17
Contributing to British culture - music, sport, food, etc.	
Have benefited Britain	64
Have not benefited Britain	28
Don't know	8
Making sure NHS hospitals have enough nurses and doctors	
Have benefited Britain	54
Have not benefited Britain	28
Don't know	18
Thinking still about immigration over the past fifty years, which of these views do you most agree with? [Tick just one]	
'Britain has changed for the better, by becoming a more varied and tolerant society'	32
'Britain has changed for the worse, because something of our traditional character has been lost'	54
'Britain has not changed much either way'	9
Don't know	6

'The police often discriminate unfairly against young Black and Asian people'	
Agree	33
Disagree	51
Don't know	16
'Some parts of British cities have become so completely taken over by immigrant communities that they are no longer truly 'British'.'	
Agree	77
Disagree	17
Don't know	6
'The British-born children of parents who came here from other countries should be treated	
Agree	78
Disagree	13
Don't know	9
'British employers often discriminate unfairly against Black and Asian job applicants'	
Agree	26
Disagree	47
Don't know	28
'Local councils often discriminate unfairly against WHITE residents in the supply of housing and local services'	
Agree	57
Disagree	22
Don't know	22
'Immigrants often fail to mix properly with the rest of society, and merely congregate together'	
Agree	84
Disagree	9
Don't know	8
'The Government's policies to keep immigration under control are working'	
Agree	7
Disagree	84
Don't know	10
'The Government is open and honest about the scale of immigration into Britain'	
Agree	11
Disagree	78
Don't know	11
'Laws on immigration should be much tougher'	
Agree	82
Disagree	13
Don't know	5
'Britain needs more immigrants with particular skills if our economy is to prosper'	
Agree	35
Disagree	53
Don't know	13
'Britain is already overcrowded'	
Agree	76
Disagree	17
Don't know	8

'All immigrants should be tested for infectious diseases as part of the immigration process'	
Agree	86
Disagree	7
Don't know	6

Turning now to the specific issue of people who are seeking asylum in Britain under the current asylum laws: What proportion of people seeking asylum here in Britain do you think are genuinely fleeing persecution in their own countries?

A small minority: 25% or fewer	67
A significant minority: more than 25% but less than 50%	14
Around a half	7
A majority: more than 50% but less than 75%	5
The great majority: 75% or more	3
Don't know	5

'The problem of asylum-seekers is out of control'

Agree	80
Disagree	15
Don't know	6

'Relative to their population, a number of other European countries have more asylum-seekers than Britain'

Agree	18
Disagree	55
Don't know	27

'Now that France has introduced effective border controls at its Channel ports, the number of asylum-seekers entering Britain has started to fall'

Agree	15
Disagree	48
Don't know	37

'Asylum-seekers who are genuinely fleeing persecution should be made welcome in Britain, even if they have arrived here illegally'

Agree	45
Disagree	46
Don't know	9

'All asylum-seekers should be held in detention centres on arrival in the UK while their applications for asylum are processed'

Agree	81
Disagree	12
Don't know	7

Which one of these statements do you most agree with? [tick one only]

'In practice, it is impossible to stop asylum-seekers arriving in Britain in large numbers.'	18
'The Government could sharply reduce the number of asylum-seekers entering Britain if really tried'	75
Don't know	7

Do you think people seeking asylum should be entitled to...

the same welfare benefits, such as income support, as everyone else in Britain	13
a reduced level of welfare benefits	44
no welfare benefits	37
don't know	6

It has been reported that some asylum-seekers who have arrived in Britain illegally are being treated by some employers like slaves - being forced to work very long hours for very low wages. These workers are said to fear that if they complain to the police they will be deported.

Do you think such workers, if found by the police or local council inspectors, should...

be allowed to stay in Britain and helped to find legal work	14
be deported, unless they can prove they face persecution if they return to their original country	70
be deported even if they face persecution if they return to their original country	13
don't know	4