

Greater Manchester Asylum Hotels Group: How the government plans for asylum make us feel

In October, we shared a statement about what life is like in asylum hotels. **Thank you** to everyone who has read and shared our statement and sent us messages of solidarity.

At the end of November, the government announced changes to the asylum system. As people who have come to the UK to seek safety, **we want to share how these government plans make us feel.**

WE FEEL UNSAFE

Fleeing troubles in our home countries, we knew that coming to the UK could not solve all our problems, but at least we could feel safe – **like a breath of fresh air.**



But now we are asking ourselves: Am I in a safe place? The hostility is big – and we know that these plans are making the far right, who don't want us here, happy.

We are living with uncertainty, living in fear of what will happen the next minute. We are being tossed around from left to right.

It's **not normal** to wake up feeling fearful.

WE FEEL UNWELCOME, UNWANTED, REJECTED

It's like we are in a holding place. Even though they are just plans for now, it's the thought that counts – this is what they are wishing on us.

We are humans and we have feelings. **We are not toys!**

WE FEEL UNABLE TO SETTLE AND CONTRIBUTE

We want to contribute and build our dream here. But how do you settle in an environment that is unwelcoming?

They say they want us to contribute – but these plans make it harder for us to do this, because the quality of your action is a reflection of your mental health, of your feeling of safety.

These plans create a **mentality of instability**. People think, if I'm going to have to leave here one day even after living here for ten years, then why should I integrate myself into society? These plans will not accelerate integration into society.

They will **dry up its roots**: no one will have hope and make plans for the future, and without that hope, no one will change, develop and integrate into British society. That is why these plans have been praised by the far right, because they are well aware of their consequences.



WE FEAR FOR OUR CHILDREN

Our children can't develop if they don't feel settled.

And they face hostility, maybe even violence, from other children – who hear the hostility from their parents.

And we fear that **they are coming for our children** – threatening to deport a mum and child together.

WE FEEL SAD FOR OURSELVES, BUT ALSO FOR THIS GREAT NATION.

We came here knowing that the UK is a land of human rights that has welcomed people fleeing persecution.

These plans do not reflect that history.

Please go on standing alongside us.

This hostility will get deeper if we don't fight back. Please take action by signing the [pledge to Fight for Asylum Rights](#) and asking [your MP](#) and [local councillors](#) to oppose these plans.

And however difficult things become, please help us find ways to contribute to this beautiful land.

