

Welcome Workshops

Cultural Orientation Programme

The police and keeping safe

Welcome

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With thanks to other government departments, local authorities and other organisations

This pack can be printed off and given as a handout. But please check any online links to websites in case they don't work or the audience needs the full website address.

A safe space to learn

We want this to be a safe space for you to

- Learn
- Share your views
- Ask questions

Please be respectful and listen to others – even if you disagree with them.

Facilitator can check understanding with audience and may want to add any other.

Learning objectives

Today we will learn about:

1. UK police – what they do and how they can help
2. Your rights if you get stopped by the police
3. Safety inside and outside your accommodation
4. Online safety and grooming
5. Modern slavery
6. Child protection, child abuse and social services



Is there anything you want to ask before we begin?



Facilitator to check if people understand what the session will cover. Feedback suggests that refugees or asylum seekers are often not aware of the role of UK police and also of the importance of staying safe and the police's role in helping the public stay safe.

Session 1

THE POLICE – WHAT THEY DO
AND HOW THEY CAN HELP

Police in the UK

Every area of the UK has its own police force which keeps the public safe

The police **treat everyone fairly** and follow the law to keep the public safe. They:

- protect life and property
- prevent disturbances
- prevent and detect crime

You **should never be afraid to talk to the police**, especially if you are the victim of a crime, see a crime happening, or for any help (for example, if you are lost).

You **can complain about the police** if you are not happy with how they have treated you. You can do this by contacting:

- the Independent Office for Police Conduct: <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/> in England and Wales
- Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) - <https://pirc.scot/> in Scotland
- The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) - <https://www.policeombudsman.org/> in Northern Ireland



The facilitator can give more information if needed:

- There are 45 'territorial' forces in the UK and 3 'special' police forces.
- Territorial police cover different regions/territories across England, Wales (43), Scotland (1) and Northern Ireland (1)
- In each police force area of England and Wales, there is a locally elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), or a Mayor with PCC functions, responsible for overseeing the police and making sure the police keep the public safe.

You can find out who your PCC is and how to contact them by visiting:

<https://apccs.police.uk/> (England), PIRC - <https://pirc.scot/> for Scotland - and PONI - <https://www.policeombudsman.org/> for Northern Ireland.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are arrested,
you can access free
legal independent
advice

It normally takes 2 to
3 years to train to be
a police officer

Your status in the country
will not change (visas etc)
if you report a crime



You can walk into a
Police station to
speak to a Police
Officer or report a
crime

There are free language
translators at police
stations

Police in the UK are
usually unarmed

Facilitator can have a discussion around these - are there any other things that the audience want to talk about? Do they know of any differences from how the police work in the UK compared to the country they have come from.

How to contact the Police



Call '999'	Call '101'
<p>This is the number to call if you have an emergency.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are the victim of an assault or see a crime taking place. <p>It is free to call this number.</p> <p>You can ask for an interpreter.</p> <p>When you call, say you need 'police' because this is also the number to call an ambulance or if there is a fire.</p>	<p>This is the number to call for less urgent situations.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your house has been damaged• To give police information about a crime• General enquiries. <p>• It is free to call this number.</p> <p>You can ask for an interpreter, if you can't speak English.</p>

Facilitator can check understanding so the audience knows what to do if they need to call the police.

Police uniforms

- The police across UK wear different uniforms
- Some police officers are not always in uniform (they are called plain clothes police)
- If you are approached by an officer (in uniform or in plain clothes) you are entitled to ask for their ID. The police will tell you which local police force they come from.
- You can then check with their local police station (by calling **101** from your phone) to confirm that they are on duty.



Please don't be afraid to report a crime

**YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS
IN THE UK WILL NOT CHANGE
IF YOU REPORT A CRIME**

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Facilitator needs to stress this point, as feedback shows that refugees and asylum seekers do not always trust the police and often think that if they do report anything, their immigration status will be affected.

However, you may want to stress that it can be affected if they have committed a crime, such as domestic abuse.



Is there anything more you would like to know about the police and how to contact them?

Session 2

YOUR RIGHTS IF YOU GET STOPPED
OR ARRESTED BY THE POLICE

Your rights if you get stopped and searched by the police

The police can stop you if they think that you are carrying an illegal weapon, stolen property or something that could be used to commit a crime.

If the police stop and search you, they must:

- give their name (or police shoulder number) and the police station they are from
- tell you what they expect to find
- explain the reasons for the search
- make a record of the search.

They can also stop you without any reason to prevent a serious incident or to search for a weapon after a serious incident.

If you are in Scotland, this website gives more information:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/>



More information can be found on the Liberty Human Rights website - https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/advice_information/stop-and-search/

Being arrested –your rights

- If you are arrested, you will be taken to a police station for questioning.
- After that, you may be released or charged with a crime. When arrested, you have the right to:
 - get free legal advice
 - tell someone where you are
 - have medical help if you're feeling ill
 - see the rules the police must follow ('Codes of Practice')
 - see a written notice telling you about your rights, such as regular breaks for food and to use the toilet. You can ask for a notice in your **language** or an **interpreter** to explain the notice
- You will be searched, and your belongings will be kept by the police while you are in the police cell.
- You don't have to answer the questions the police ask you, but there could be consequences if you don't. The police must explain this to you.

The procedures for Scotland and Northern Ireland are slightly different.



Young people under 18 and vulnerable adults

- If you are aged under 18 and get arrested, the police will try to contact your parent, guardian or carer. An 'appropriate adult' will need to go to the station to help you and be present during questioning and searching.

An appropriate adult can be:

- your parent, guardian or carer
- a social worker
- another family member or friend aged 18 or over
- a volunteer aged 18 or over
- The police may question you about the crime you are suspected of - this will be recorded. You don't have to answer the questions but there could be consequences if you don't.
- This is the same for any adults over 18 but need help because they are vulnerable and they cannot act for themselves due to mental incapacity or other reasons.

If you are in Northern Ireland [click here](#) for more information.



Is there anything more you would like to know about your rights if you get stopped by the police?

Session 3

SAFETY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Staying safe in your accommodation (hotels and any other accommodation)



- Do not go to areas (including other rooms) which are not known to you.
- Make sure someone you trust knows where you are, if needed.
- Listen to your body – a fast, pounding heartbeat and churning stomach are signs you feel unsafe.
- If you feel unsafe because of the way you are being treated by someone, for any reason, report it. You can call the police on [101](#) if not urgent, or [999](#) if you feel your life is in danger.
- Be careful of what personal details, including photos, you give out online, by phone, or to other people.
- Be mindful of your health and safety and handle all appliances with care. Keep your valuables locked up and hidden from view of people you don't know.
- Make sure that doors are locked, and windows are closed at night and while you are out.

The facilitator may want to say that although these slides are for when people are in bridging accommodation, the same care should be taken once they leave it and go into any other temporary or permanent accommodation.

Being safe outside your accommodation

Plan	Phone	Put away	Be Alert	Look	Road safety
<p>Before leaving your accommodation, plan your journey.</p> <p>Do you know where you are going and how to get back to your accommodation safely?</p> <p>Have you told someone you trust, where you are going?</p>	<p>If you have a mobile phone, have credit and charge on your phone so you can call someone if needed.</p> <p>Only use your phone if needed, otherwise put it away safely, where it can't be seen.</p>	<p>Keep any valuables out of sight when outside.</p> <p>This includes jewellery, watches, money, mobile phones, laptops.</p> <p>Always keep your bags close to you</p>	<p>Be aware of your surroundings.</p> <p>Look behind you whether you are walking or driving.</p> <p>Avoid talking on the phone or listening to music on headphones when you are outside.</p>	<p>If you think you are being followed by someone, go straight to a safe place, like a supermarket, where there are more people. If you feel unsafe – call the Police on 101 or 999 in emergency.</p>	<p>Always use footpaths and safety crossings.</p> <p>Stop</p> <p>Look</p> <p>Listen</p> <p>Every time you cross a road.</p> <p>Do not put yourself in danger of an accident.</p>



Is there anything you would like to know more about staying safe in your accommodation and outside?

Session 4

ONLINE SAFETY AND GROOMING

Online safety and how to stay safe

- **Don't share personal details online on social media such as Facebook or Instagram** - keep things like your address, phone number, full name, and date of birth private.
- **Have strong passwords and never give out your password to anyone**- you should never give out your password or log-in information. Make sure you pick strong (which no-one can guess), and easy to remember passwords.
- **Think about who you are talking to** - sometimes people will try to trick you into clicking dangerous links or sharing things about yourself. Or something you've shared might be used to bully or intimidate you.
- **Watch out for phishing and scams** - Phishing is when someone tries to trick you into giving them information, like your password. Never click links from emails or messages that ask you to log in or share your details.



The presenter can click on the links for further information.



Is there anything you would like to know more about staying safe online or about grooming?

Session 5

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery

Modern slavery is when somebody (including children) is used by criminals to do things for personal use or to make money, like:

- when someone is lied to or forced into a situation where criminals take advantage of them, for example for forced labour or sexual slavery. This is known as **human trafficking**.
- where someone is forced to provide a service by criminals.
- when a person is forced to work or provide a service they have not agreed to and are being threatened if they don't do it. This is known as **forced or compulsory labour**.

Here are some signs to look out for if you are worried about someone (there can be more):

- victims might be threatened, frightened or hurt by the people who might be controlling them
- they may not want to talk to other people about their life and living in fear
- they may not have safe and secure accommodation. Victims may undertake excessive working hours
- others speak for the person you are talking to
- a lack of access to earnings.

Action to take if you, or you think someone is a victim of Modern Slavery

Report

- Report it to **police on 101** at any time to report an incident. Always call **999** if it is an emergency. You can also report Modern Slavery [online](https://www.unseenuk.org/contact-us/) - <https://www.unseenuk.org/contact-us/>

Contact

- You can contact **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**. You do not have to give your name or details, if you don't want to.

Call

- Call the UK Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700**

In all cases, you will be taken seriously, and given protection and support



Is there anything you would like to know more about modern slavery?

Session 6

CHILD PROTECTION, CHILD ABUSE
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Child protection



- If you are a parent or responsible for children, **you are legally responsible** for their protection, care and well-being. This includes making sure they go to school and not leaving young children alone.
- If you **beat, harm or don't look after your children**, the government can take action. [In Scotland, all forms of physical punishment of children are against the law. This will be the same for Wales from 21 March 2022.](#)
- **Social Services** is a government-led organisation that protects the wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults, and in serious cases they have the authority to take your child away to make sure they are safe.
- If you are worried about your child's development or wellbeing and you think they need extra support, speak to their GP or teacher first.
- If you are worried about your child or another child you can contact the [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#) on **0808 800 5000**.
- Your child can also call [Childline](#) on **0800 1111** if they need help or someone to talk to.



The facilitator may want to talk about the implications of the second and third bullet points. They cannot hit their children, especially in Scotland or Wales (from March) or they could face severe consequences. Hitting or slapping children is considered normal in many countries.

Child abuse



- Child abuse can take many forms. It can be emotional, physical, sexual or neglect.
- It can happen to any child, in any family, in any place or online.
- Abuse often happens over a period of time, rather than as a one-off event.
- Child abuse is likely to have a negative impact on a child's health, relationships and education.
- People who are abused are more likely to experience mental health problems, drug or alcohol issues, criminal behaviour – or showing signs of harmful behaviour themselves.
- Adults who were abused as children may find it harder to cope with life's stresses or get a good job

NSPCC offers some helpful information for parents and carers on a range of issues including protecting children. Telephone: 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk

Reporting child abuse

- If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk or is being abused contact the [children's social care team at your council](#).
 - You will be asked for your details, but you do not have to give them if you don't want to.
 - Call the police on [999](#) if it is an emergency.
 - If it isn't an emergency, you can [report the crime online](#) or call [101](#).
 - Anyone can report child abuse whether or not they know the child or the family.
- If you are in Northern Ireland, [click here](#) for more information

Child protection and social services

- **Social Services** is a government-led organisation that protects the wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults, and in serious cases they have the authority to take your child away to make sure they are safe.
- Referrals to social services can happen in a number of ways. You can request help yourself by calling your local social services - you can [find your local social services here](#). Referrals can be made by professionals who work with your family or children, including schools, GPs and health visitors.
- The **Family Rights Group** offers independent specialist information and advice for families about child protection procedures. You can read the [Family Rights Group's advice sheets](#) about child protection or call them on 0808 801 0366.
- If you are in Northern Ireland, [click here](#) for more information





Is there anything you would like to know more about child protection, child abuse or social services?

Today we have talked about

The UK police

Your rights if
you get stopped
or arrested by
the police

Safety inside
and outside
your
accommodation

Online safety

Grooming

Modern Slavery

Child protection
and child abuse

Social services

Thank you and any final thoughts...



Is there anything more you would like to know about anything we have talked about today?

How did you find the session?

Facilitator to engage and feedback

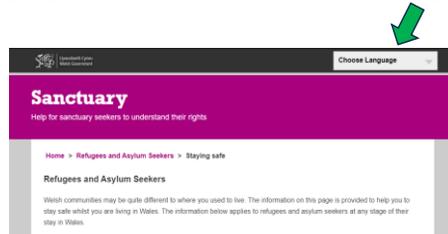


Annex A - Useful information on staying safe if you are in Wales

If you are in Wales, this website will give you useful information on staying safe in Wales:
<https://sanctuary.gov.wales/refugeesandasylumseekers/stayingsafe>.

It is available in many languages, including English, Pashto and Dari (Persian).

Choose the language you want the information in, by clicking here.



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The facilitator may want to show the audience the website, if this is being presented in Wales.

Annex B - Scotland - stopped and searched by the police and your rights

Stop and Search in Scotland. Police powers of stop and search are used when a police officer reasonably suspects you to be in possession of an illegal or harmful item. In Scotland, the Code of Practice on the use of stop and search governs all situations where officers stop and search a person.

- Officers must have a specific reason to carry out a search. It must be carried out using a specific statutory power. An officer cannot search you without a specific reason even with your consent. An officer can search:
 - You and your clothes
 - Anything you are carrying, such as a bag or wallet
 - The vehicle you are travelling in (where applicable).

Stop and Search – ‘your rights’:

- Officers will act with integrity at all times and treat you with fairness and respect.
- You will not be stopped and searched because of your age, sex, ethnic background or religion.
- Officers should explain why they have stopped you. Before any search, they should explain what they are looking for.
- Being stopped by the police does not mean that you are under arrest. However, you will need to stay with the officer until they have completed the search.
- After the search officers should provide you a receipt for the search. This should contain information about your rights and how you can access a copy of your stop and search record.
- You will not get a criminal record unless you are convicted of an offence. Any personal information collected will be kept for police purposes. It will then be destroyed after three years.

Presenter can skip this slide if not relevant to their audience. However, they may want to print it out and distribute if they are presenting in Scotland.