

How to stop asylum seekers¹

Peter Bowbrick

We can expect millions of asylum seekers in 2005 – all legal, all entitled to live in Britain, all entitled to claim benefits. That is when the Eastern European countries join the EU - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. Their citizens will be able to enter Britain as freely and easily as the Dutch and French can today.

Few of the asylum seekers will be the ones we are getting today, people who have been imprisoned or tortured by anti-democratic governments. Today's asylum seekers are the ones all politicians say they want to protect. The more percipient politicians recognize that people with that amount of idealism, courage and determination are precisely the immigrants that Britain needs.

No, most of the new wave of asylum seekers will be people who have suffered less. For example, those Gypsies of Eastern Europe who escaped Hitler's gas chambers have been discriminated and oppressed ever since, and possibly even more since the breakdown of communism. They get very poor education in special schools and they are discriminated against in the job market. When they come here in their millions, they will be virtually unemployable, unable to speak our language and with no skills.

Others will be fleeing the police. Only a dozen years ago, these countries had secret police forces like the KGB, or worse. The police systems are not as openly oppressive today, but they have not replaced the KGB with the bobby on the beat. I have not been able to visit the KGB torture cells or prison camps in the Eastern

¹ Copyright Peter Bowbrick, peter@bowbrick.eu 07772746759. The right of Peter Bowbrick to be identified as the Author of the Work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act.

Asylum seekers

European countries I have worked in, as I could in Russia. Presumably this means that the facilities are still in use, or mothballed until they are needed again. In some countries the police are part of the political system, and they act against dissidents, the people who oppose the party currently in power.

The police have adapted to the new culture though. In some countries they are linked with the mafia, or have set up their own mafia. They extort money, they rob, they kidnap people. In one country, policemen in uniform kidnap tourists and rob them. The British Consul advises the victims not to report the crimes, in case they are beaten up or murdered by the perpetrators.

Of course, this means that the mafia is siphoning off a substantial part of the national wealth, and the citizens get poorer and poorer.

Any normal person may be excused for fleeing countries like this, to live in safety in Britain. Many of the “bogus asylum seekers” in Britain today, are people fleeing Eastern Europe, and the number of them trying to get in today is a measure of how rotten their countries are.

Once these countries join the EU, we will not be able to keep the migrants out with barbed wire or prison camps or identity cards. We have to accept them.

There is an answer. Our government can force their governments to take action. We have the power. We can say “You will not be allowed to join the EU until you meet the standards on human rights. If you continue to discriminate against the Gypsies in education and employment here, there is no place for you. If your police system is out of control, you are not fit to join.” This does not mean us making new rules to suit our interests: it means sticking to the rules laid down when the EEC started in 1957.

This does mean that our government has to take it seriously. At present their information seeking in states wanting to join the EU seems to be confined to the embassy staff going on the cocktail circuit. I have never seen any sign that our government was in the least bit interested in what was going on in Eastern Europe or the former soviet union.

Asylum seekers

Of course, once this works, the government may realize that the answer to asylum seekers from other parts of the world is not barbed wire fences and prison camps. It is strong pressure on their governments to change. As a start, this government should act, followed by the EU governments, then anyone we can persuade to act.