**3.4 What is the UK’s *Refugee Council*?**

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/about_refugee_council/history_of_refugee_council>

The Refugee Council is the UK’s leading charity working with refugee and asylum seekers in the UK. It was set up in 1951, and works with the UNHCR.

**Definition of Refugee**

‘A person who, owing to a **well-founded fear of being persecuted** for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality. This person is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to the protection of that country.

‘Refugee’ also applies to a person who does not have a nationality: if that person is outside the country of his former ‘normal place of residence’ as a result of persecution, and is unable or, owing to fear, is unwilling to return to the place he normally lived in.’

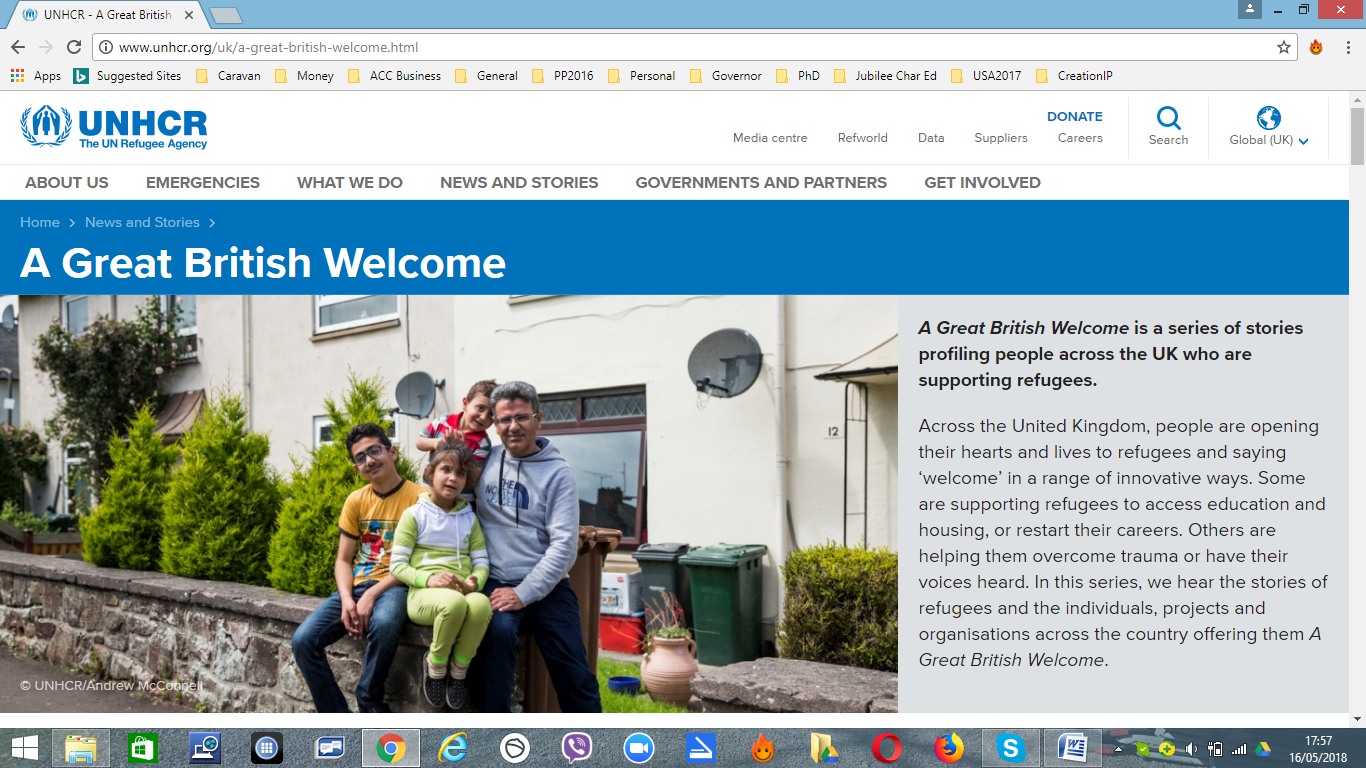
The **Children’s Section** was set up in 1994, working to improve the lives of children who are separated from their parents. At this time 1990s around 3,000 separated children arrived in the country each year, seeking safety from countries that were experiencing conflict.

**Today** we provide the widest range of services for asylum seekers and refugees. We strive to ensure that refugees can find **protection** and that they are given the opportunity to rebuild their lives in **safety and dignity**.

The Refugee Council opened three new *One Stop Services* in Ipswich, Birmingham and Leeds, becoming a national organisation with offices in several regions across the UK. A partner agency is the British Red Cross.

The Refugee Council has now established the *Asylum Support Partnership* to coordinate support arrangements for asylum seekers nationally.

The ASP currently consists of the *Refugee Council*, *North of England Refugee Service*, *Refugee Action*, *Scottish Refugee Council* and *Welsh Refugee Council*.



<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/a-great-british-welcome.html>