

SEEK REFUGE



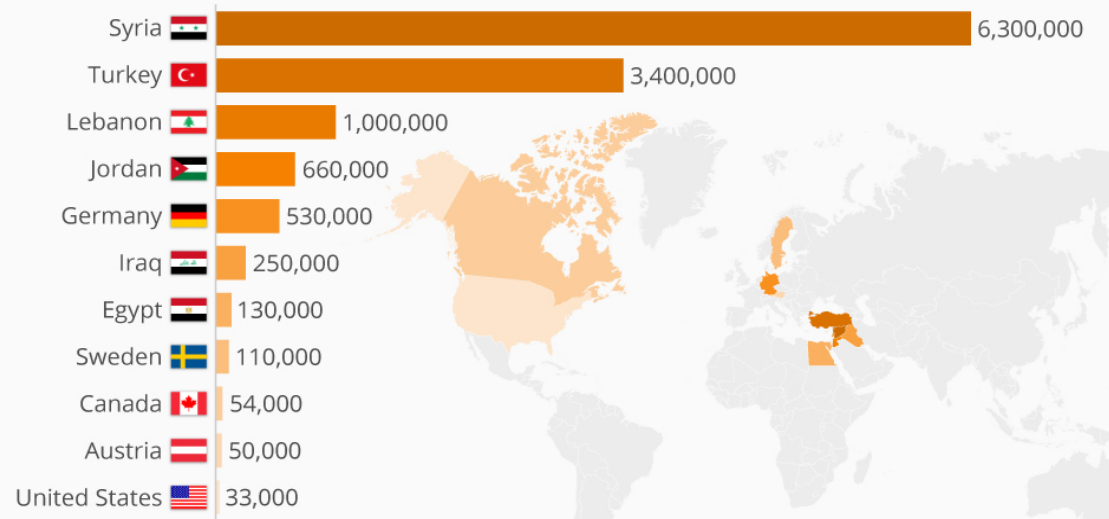
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To look at some of the reasons behind why different people have had to cross borders and leave their homes.
- To learn about young campaigners who have tried to support refugees and reflect on their tactics and aims
- To assess what makes a campaign successful.



Nearly 13 Million Syrians Are Displaced

Estimated number of displaced Syrians by location in 2017*



* Estimates are rounded and include the internally displaced, refugees, asylum applicants and those with protected status.

Infographic shows the ten countries with the largest displaced Syrian populations.
Countries with populations below 1,000 are not shown.



@StatistaCharts

Source: Pew Research Center

statista

Source - statista

www.statista.com/chart/13514/nearly-13-million-syrians-are-displaced/





Film Link:
www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/25/swedish-student-plane-protest-stops-mans-deportation-afghanistan





About: STAR is a network of student groups, founded in 1994, which today has over 27,000 members at 46 different universities and colleges in the UK. Their members volunteer to support refugees, campaign for better treatment of people who cross borders, and educate others about the hardships many refugees and asylum seekers face.

Activities: STAR supporters run English Conversation Clubs, where students and refugees talk- this helps people learn English, and make new friends in the UK. STAR campaigns for students who have come from other countries to have the same rights to access education as people born in the UK. STAR runs homework clubs, where university students can help share their skills and knowledge with refugees and asylum seekers who are at school.



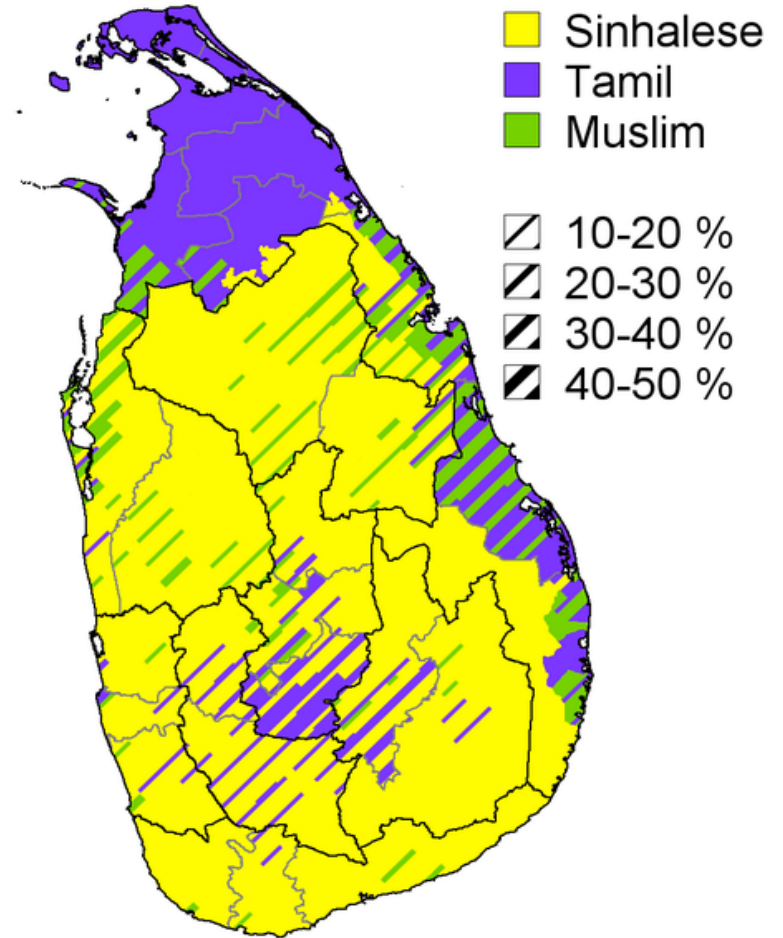
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think is valuable about this campaign and the activities that they do?
- Do you think young people would be welcome in this campaign? How could you take part?
- Is it important that young people are involved in this campaign or not?



CONTEXT

- Sri Lanka: Independence in 1948
- 2 main ethnic groups- Sinhalese and Tamils
- Tamils faced discrimination from the larger group of Sinhalese.
- Many Tamils sought independence and a separate state.
- Civil War 1983-2009



**NATIONAL MARCH for
VIRAJ MENDIS -
PEOPLE'S FIGHTER**

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY



12PM ASSEMBLE
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION,
ROYCE ROAD, HULME,
MANCHESTER.



**DON'T LET THATCHER GET AWAY
WITH MURDER!**

FIGHT ALL IMMIGRATION LAWS!

for further information ring 061 234 3168

VIRAJ MENDIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre

Viraj Mendis arrives in Britain in 1973, aged 17.

He becomes politically active, joining the Revolutionary Communist Group. He supports the Tamils who are fighting for their own state.

1984 - Conservative government orders him to leave.

Viraj and his lawyers argue it would be unsafe if he returned because of his views.



December 1986 - Viraj seeks sanctuary in the Church of the Ascension, in Hulme, Manchester.

A large campaign is organised to support Viraj, with many people from different religious and political groups involved.

People stay in the church with him, and organise weekly protests.

January 1989 - 100 police raid the church. Viraj is deported.



Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre

VIRAJ MENDIS HAS GONE and 'GOOD RIDDANCE' say MANCHESTER CONSERVATIVES

★ ★ 13 YEARS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ★ ★

POLITICALLY OPPOSED TO OUR DEMOCRATIC
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

EXPLOITED OUR TOLERANCE AND OUR LAWS
TO STAY HERE

For 13 years Viraj Mendis was receiving handouts of one sort or another. He spent his last 2 years holed up in a church yet he does not believe in religion—he is an Atheist. Manchester City Council's Labour group have been spending ratepayers' money supporting him. They are now setting up an IMMIGRATION AID UNIT—despite vigorous opposition by Crumpsall's Conservative Councillor Roger Bullock and the other Conservative Council members—so can we now expect many more like Mendis? His supporters-RENTAMOB-have behaved like vandals, defacing property with graffiti, abusing innocent citizens and costing thousands of pounds in Police time.

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL HAVE SQUANDERED
YOUR RATES ON THIS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT

★★★★ IS THIS REALLY HOW YOU WANT
YOUR MONEY TO BE SPENT? ★★★★★

CONSERVATIVES REPRESENT YOUR VIEWS

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