Migration and Discrimination:

EU Citizens*under Brexit
and Hostile Environment
(prepared for panel discussion, #Publicdisco Special Edition: From Crisis to Empowerment - PLP)
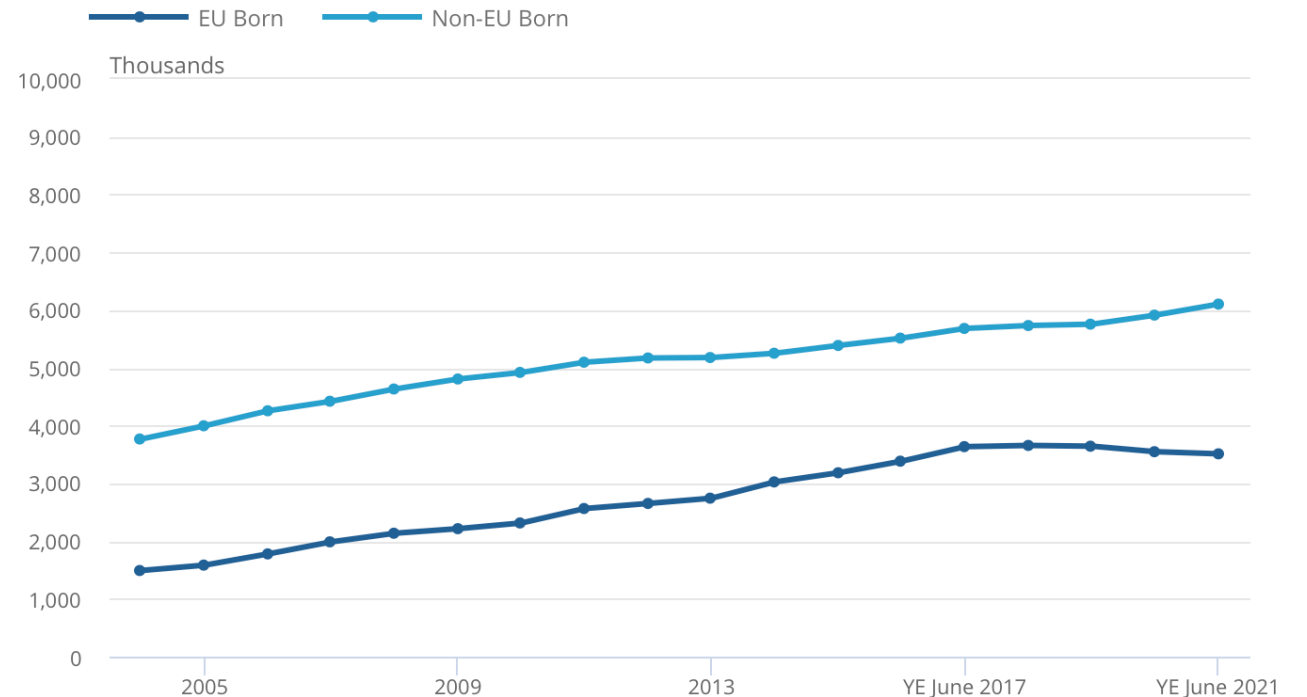
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April 2024

*shorthand for EU, EEA citizens and their non-EU/EEA family members

EU Migration to the UK – Overview and Trends

Issues with statistical sources

- UK Sources: ONS and Census data - do not provide direct ratio of EU Migration vis UK population. Non-EU EEA Family members statistics and data are usually absent.

- ONS and Census – data are estimates; some provide only snapshot of England & Wales; other indicators available but not comprehensive (ethnic groupings, passport held, country of birth).

- Diversity of EU citizens in the UK in terms of ethnicity, language, literacy and other demographics can be inferred from sources but no direct monitoring.

- Available data and statistics nonetheless provide a good overview of current standing and trends.

Estimates of the EU- and non-EU-born resident population of the UK by country of birth, 2004 to year ending June 2021
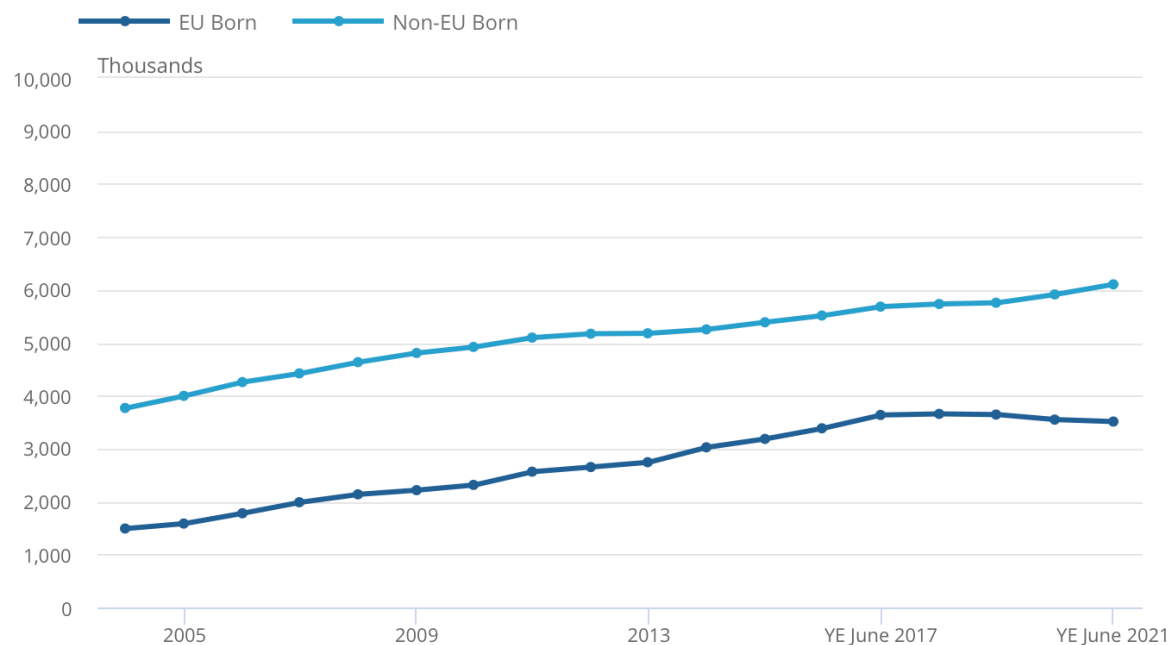

Source: ONS
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/ukpopulationbycountryofbirthandnationality/yearendingjune2021

EU Migration to the UK – Overview and Trends

Estimates of the EU- and non-EU-born resident population of the UK by country of birth, 2004 to year ending June 2021

EU Born — Non-EU Born

Thousands

There is a steady increasing trend of EU-born resident population of the UK since 2011 through YE June 2021.

Year	EU-born resident population in the UK
2011	2,564,000
2012	2,652,000
2013	2,743,000
2014	3,025,000
2015	3,183,000
2016	3,384,000
2017	3,365,000
2018	3,656,000
2019	3,643,000
2020	3,548,000
YE June 2021	3,511,000

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EU Migration to the UK – Overview and Trends

2021 census: passports held

If multiple passports held, counted in order British/ Irish/ other. *If more than one 'other', only the first country written-in taken.*

Passports are a proxy for citizenship, though imperfect

Part of population hold no passport – some will be EU citizens (or EU and British).

Many EU passport holders will also be British citizens, not dependent on this status

Passport	number	%
United Kingdom	45.7 million	77%
EU27	3.9 million	6.5%
Rest of world	2.0 million	3.4%
No passport	8.0 million	13.5%
Total	**59.6 million**	

EU 27 - separate information for nine states. Other 18 counted together.

EU27 states	number
Poland	760,146
Romania	550,298
Italy	368,739
Ireland	364,726
Portugal	286,492
Spain	216,728
Lithuania	185,159
France	163,519
Germany	119,356
Other EU27	870,006
EU27 total	**3,885,169**

EU passports held comprise 6.5% of the total of all passport and non-passport holders in England and Wales in 2021.

Poland, Romania and Italy as top three EU passports held in 2021.

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EU Migration to the UK – Overview and Trends

2021 census: passports held – changes from 2011

	EW 2011	EW 2021	change	change %
TOTAL	56075912	59597550	+3521638	+6.3%
United Kingdom	42456526	45688445	+3231919	+7.6%
EU 26/ EU27 number	2250228	3885169	+1634941	+72.7%
EU 26/ EU 27 %	4.0%	6.5%	+2.5%	
Ireland	372389	364726	-7663	-2.1%
France	146032	163517	+17485	+12.0%
Germany	125465	119354	-6111	-4.9%
Italy	154743	368738	+213995	+138.3%
Portugal	117805	286489	+168684	+143.2%
Spain	81594	216728	+135134	+165.6%
Lithuania	104676	185159	+80483	+76.9%
Poland	558082	760146	+202064	+36.2%
Romania	73208	550298	+477090	+651.7%
Other EU states	516234	870006	+353772	+68.5%

There is a 73% increase in EU passports held from 2011 in England and Wales.

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EU Migration to the UK – Overview and Trends

EU 27 by ethnic group: all England and Wales

Category/ Sub-category	number	% EU27	Category / Sub-category	number	% EU27
Bangladeshi	41451	1.1%	*Arab*	**31974**	**0.8%**
Chinese	7914	0.2%	*Other ethnic group*	**165510**	**4.3%**
Indian	89809	2.3%	White: all British	320105	8.2%
Pakistani	64868	1.7%	White: Irish	281788	7.3%
Asian other	49155	1.3%	White: gypsy/ Irish traveller	9577	0.2%
Asian total	**253197**	**6.5%**	White: Roma	77466	2.0%
Black African	186632	4.8%	White: Other	2405375	61.9%
Black Caribbean	10960	0.3%	*White total*	**3094311**	**79.6%**
Black other	12535	0.3%	**TOTAL**	**3885162**	--
Black groups total	**210127**	**5.4%**	*All excluding white*	790851	20.4%
Mixed groups	**130043**	**3.3%**	*All excluding white + Roma*	868317	22.3%

Diversity among EU migrants: 20% identify as belonging to non-white groups.

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UK Migration in Quick Context: towards a hostile environment

Migration in the UK, in the last decade, has been at the forefront of issues within the socio-political field.

Pre-Brexit/2010 hostile environment policy changes

Government policies on immigration reflect the trend of reducing the number of net migration ("managing migration") to mitigate supposed impacts of UK's growing population in relation to public and social services, employment, etc. (eg restrictive immigration policies, crackdown on illegal migration, asylum seekers and refugee claimants, Brexit).

2011-present

Brexit, which could be seen as a result of previous trends, has been a catalyst which in turn exacerbated immigration policies to a boiling point: hostile environment <u>in full force</u> (eg right to rent checks, further targets of reducing net migration, Covid response, stop the boats, issues emerging and arising from Brexit: EUSS Regime)

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Discrimination and Challenges

EUSS Regime: Discrimination and Barriers for non-white EU citizens

(from Law Centre's study by Prof. Kuba Jablonowski, UK in a Changing Europe report; policy proposals and recommendations by the3million)

1. Disproportionate representation of BAME applicants to the EUSS:

- BAME applicants comprised 44.3% of all clients, while 48.1% were from white groups. Notably, the proportion of BAME clients was even higher among EU14 nationals (those from countries that were EU members before the 2004 enlargement), reaching 49.3% of the total, compared to 39.6% who were white.

- BAME individuals constituted the vast majority within the group of third country nationals accessing support through the EUSS Complex Cases project, with their ratio reaching 83.8%, whereas only 11.4% of applicants were white.

2. Significant rise in children needing support (potentially from non-white population):

- There was a steep rise in children needing support from the EUSS, from 0.3% of all clients to 20.2% of the total in the EUSS Complex Cases project, which could reflect broader issues related to the accessibility and inclusivity of the scheme for families and minors from diverse backgrounds.

3. Language and digital barrier

- The analysis of vulnerability characteristics recorded for the EUSS Complex Cases project confirmed existing concerns about language and digital barriers generated by the EUSS. English and digital literacy were the two main sources of vulnerability, recorded for 30.3% and 23.7% of all clients, respectively. This indicates a significant challenge for non-English speakers and those with limited digital skills, who are disproportionately represented in BAME communities.

EUSS Regime: Discrimination and Barriers for non-white EU citizens

What do we need?

1.   Socioeconomic support

Recommendation: Integrate socioeconomic support within the application process, offering direct links to housing, healthcare and employment services for vulnerable applicants, especially those facing homelessness or financial instability (purportedly a majority are within the BAME/racialised communities).

Rationale: Recognising the intersectionality of socioeconomic circumstances of BAME/racialised population, and their ability to successfully navigate the EUSS

2.   Language and digital support

Recommendation: Implement comprehensive language and digital support services for applicants, including translation services, multilingual application assistance, and digital literacy programs tailored to the needs of BAME communities.

Rationale: To directly address the barriers posed by language and digital literacy challenges, which disproportionately affect BAME individuals.

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EUSS Regime: Discrimination and Barriers for non-white EU citizens

What do we need?

3.   Outreach and education

Recommendation: Launch targeted outreach and education campaigns within BAME/racialised communities, utilising community leaders, organisations, and media channels to raise awareness about the EUSS and available support.

Rationale: To ensure that accurate information reaches those who are most in need and to combat misinformation and fear that may prevent BAME individuals from applying.

4.   Monitoring and feedback mechanisms

Recommendation: Establish robust monitoring and feedback mechanisms to track the effectiveness of the EUSS in serving BAME and racialised populations, including the collection of disaggregated data on applicants' race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background.

Rationale: To ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement of the EUSS based on real-world outcomes and feedback from affected communities.

5.   Legal and advocacy support

Recommendation: Increase funding and support for legal and advocacy services specialising in immigration and settlement schemes, with a focus on organisations that work directly with BAME and racialised populations.

Rationale: To ensure that all applicants, regardless of their race, background or circumstances, have access to expert advice and representation, thereby levelling the playing field.

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EUSS Regime: Discrimination and Barriers for non-white EU citizens

What do we need?

6.   Policy and procedure simplification

Recommendation: Review and simplify EUSS policies and procedures to eliminate unnecessary complexity and ensure that it is accessible to individuals of all educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Rationale: Simplifying the application process can reduce the cognitive load on applicants, making it easier for those with limited literacy or educational attainment to apply.

7.   Physical evidence of status (specifically addressing the issue of digital procedures being discriminatory to Black/dark-skinned people)

Recommendation: Offer the option for physical evidence of status in addition to digital status to accommodate those who may not have consistent access to digital tools or prefer tangible proof of their status.

Rationale: To address the challenges and anxieties associated with digital-only status, especially among older individuals and those with limited digital access or literacy.

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Discrimination and Challenges: Case Studies on EU Citizens

Mistaken identity: Home Office confusion meant Hussen Mohamed (pictured) has been granted only limited leave to remain in the UK *(Hussen Mohamed)*

Hussen Mohamed, a Somali-Dutch national: Mistakenly identified by the Home Office as his criminal twin brother, leading to years of unresolved immigration status and significant personal and professional hardships
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-settled-brother-criminal-home-office-uk-b2126491.html

Emma, 22-yo, born to a Portuguese mother with settled status, was shocked when her request for a British passport was rejected despite having lived in the UK all her life.

""When I got the rejection letter I was basically told how to leave the country. There's a high chance I could be deported to Portugal and I would be separated from my family. I would have to start a new life."

https://news.sky.com/story/woman-22-faces-being-deported-despite-living-in-the-uk-all-her-life-13070230

Emma, not her real name, thought she was British. Born in the UK to a Portuguese mother, she's only ever lived here.

Addressing discrimination and challenges

THE3MILLION Community Lawyering: WHAT WE DO

- ✓ **"Know Your Rights" workshops and sessions**

- ✓ **Focus groups and capacity-building sessions (online and in-person)**

- ✓ **Initiating campaigns and spearheading advocacy efforts**

- ✓ **Tied-in with broader community organising work**

- ✓ **"Build power" by building partnerships and networks**

- ✓ **Empowering communities to make collective decisions on strategy, public action and more**

CALL TO ACTION:
Movement- and Solidarity-Building

Legal and policy injustices do not just exist in courtrooms or legal documents. They **are lived everyday by people in our communities.**

Our community lawyering initiative ensures that **lived experiences** are the driving force behind our **fight for rights, welfare and social justice** – whether it's standing up for them in court or pushing for policy changes through campaigning or advocacy.

But this isn't a journey we can take alone. **Share your story**, **amplify your voice**, and **join a movement** dedicated to bringing access to justice to the forefront of our communities. Together, let us stand up for our rights and shape a future where every voice is heard, and every story matters.

Ready to make a difference?

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Thank you!

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