

# Stand Up!



# Speak Out!

2024

## Stand Up! Speak Out! A toolkit to resist the Hostile Environment in public services. (The second edition! - March - July 2024)



migrants  
organise

PAFRAS  
Positive Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers

## Impact of the training series October 2024

### Background

This series originally began as a political education working group, which was born out of the Solidarity Knows No Borders (SKNB) summit in September 2021. The group has predominantly been organised and facilitated by Migrants Organise, Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS) and Social Workers Without Borders who all became connected through the SKNB network. The SKNB network links up over 60 migrant justice organisations groups and individuals, working in solidarity, to end hostility and racism against migrants and refugees.

We first ran the series in 2023 with 23 organisations delivering 24 webinars and 1000 attendees across the UK ranging from frontline, management and senior practitioners from professions including social care, housing, employment, welfare, education & health. Following the success and positive feedback from 2023, we ran 2024 series re-running some popular practical sessions and addressing gaps from 2023 such as domestic violence and maternity issues.

We also launched the YouTube channel in September 2023 to provide an invaluable resource and to ensure the longevity of the project.

### Our mission

**We view education as a powerful tool for social change.** SUSO is designed to give public sector workers up-to-date knowledge of the rapidly changing immigration policy context and the implications for their work. We create spaces for public sector workers to reflect on their professional identity and empower them to resist complicity with hostile and inhumane immigration policy. We invite and inspire public sector workers to be allies in the movement for migrant justice.

SUSO is a completely unfunded project - neither the organising committee nor the organisations delivering training are paid. We have made a conscious decision not to seek funding for SUSO in order to as we value our grassroots approach which focuses on the needs of the community we serve rather than adhering to the priorities of grant-makers.

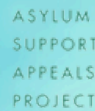
**Solidarity Knows No Borders Network** - SKNB does not want to replicate or replace work that you are already doing, but instead support all of us to recruit new people and build our capacity, and provide resources that we can all use to build the movement and to win.

**Organisers** - This series has been organised by the Brian Dikoff, Legal Organiser at Migrants Organise, Naomi Jackson, Development Lead, Social Workers Without Borders, Ally Swadling, Young Person's Development Worker at PAFRAS and the young people who access PAFRAS.

**Contributors to SUSO 2024** - Maternity Action, Migration Work, War on Want, People and Planet, GSCC - Global Strategic Communications Council, Racial Justice Network, One Pump Court, Deighton Pierce Glynn, Leeds Anti Raids, Kind UK, Right to Remain, ASAP, SLRA Positive Action in Housing, MedAct, Law Stop, WAR - Women Against Rape, All African Women's Group, Atleu, University of Durham - Contextual Safeguarding Unit, ECPAT and Southall Black Sisters.

**A huge thank you to all the organisations who delivered sessions in the 2024 series. We couldn't have done this without your support and expertise!**

**Who's involved**



**99% STRONGLY AGREE or AGREE that as a result of the webinar they attended that:**

**they feel more confident supporting people who migrate**

**they now know where to access resources to understand more about this topic**

**would recommend the series to their colleagues and comrades**



**94% STRONGLY AGREE or AGREE that as a result of the webinar they attended that:**

**feel more confident understanding how the Hostile Environment functions in their work and daily lives**

### **Attendee feedback:**

*I will equip myself with effective counter narratives and practice at home with my family, at information stalls in the community, and at work. Initiate conversations about how we can work together for cross issue collaborations across community action groups*

*I plan to design a similar exercise on legal support and guidance to share at the team meeting with focus on separated and unaccompanied children to further develop the teams knowledge around this area*

*We will continue to use the toolkit to support clients (but also support staff knowledge), and I plan to disseminate information to our staff re the difference between legal support and legal advice*

*Very knowledgeable professionals and great opportunity to meet other initiatives and organizations*

*Such an expert speaker with years of experience! Really appreciate the speaker's open approach. Slides are great and good to have all the links for access to further resources.*

*Absolutely fantastic how all 3 key speakers articulated their points so clearly and concisely. I would like recordings of all of your short speeches so I can learn how to do it too! You've nailed some counter narratives.*

*Really clear, interesting and informative session well-presented and thoughtful information included to understand the problem in a practical way*

### **Delivering organisations feedback**

"The great value of SUSO is that it gives us a platform to reach a range of people who would be interested in our work but might not know the detail of what we do or the main principle that we work with in raising community awareness. Our values align with theirs and so it's a way to engage an audience that's ready to listen, and fight for the rights of marginalised communities. plus it's a great way to tell people how easy it is to get involved. It was a really great collaboration and we're looking forward to the next one." - Leeds Anti-Raids Action

"I gave a talk about migrant access to healthcare at this year's SUSO. It was a fantastic opportunity to discuss some of the work we do at Patient's not Passports and engage with public sector workers. Preparing for the session was a great way to refresh my memory about all the wonderful things the campaign has achieved, as well as what challenges lie ahead. All the attendees were really receptive to our message and asked great questions. I hope we provided them with some new knowledge and useful tools to help advocate for migrants across all public services" -Sara el-Solh, physician-anthropologist, organiser for Patients not Passport

"It is a great opportunity to connect with individuals in public sector roles, and in the process help to build more solidarity with those navigating the immigration system. We need more opportunities and spaces like this!" - Leah Cowling, Right to Remain

Over the last two years we've had 2200 attendees to SUSO and have brought together incredible specialist organisations across the UK.

We plan to run SUSO again in 2025! We want to grow our organising committee in order to protect the longevity of SUSO and we are keen for individuals who are serious about putting in the time and effort needed to plan and deliver the series as well as ensuring it reaches as many public sector workers as possible.

## **Next steps**

We will continue to run the series as "bite-size" webinars which focus on equipping attendees with practical skills and knowledge to be able to more confidently support people who migrate, to understand how the Hostile Environment works and how to challenge it.

We recognise that the challenges we face feel overwhelming, but there are so many ways that we can all play a part in building strong communities of care and resistance. Educate! Agitate! Organise!

***"As an asylum seeker, I always wondered what could've happened if I wasn't failed by the system. What could've happened if I was asked the right questions by my social worker, and an action was taken to help me before I turned 18 with my status. This training is very personal to me as it gives me the opportunity to let people in power gain more understanding on how to help young asylum seekers. Our voices, our stories deserve to be heard and understood by those with the ability to enact change. In the hopes that our needs are met with compassion and action and my hope for a world where the right actions lead to brighter outcomes for all."***

**- PAFRAS Youth Ambassador**

***In solidarity,  
Ally, Brian, Naomi and the PAFRAS Youth Ambassadors***