

# Stand Up!



# Speak Out!

2025

## STAND UP! SPEAK OUT!

An online training series for resisting the Hostile Environment in public services.

### THE POWER OF WORDS

3rd edition: March - June 2025



Social Workers  
Without Borders

migrants  
organise

PAFRAS  
Positive Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers

### Impact of the 2025 series

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 Brian Dikoff at Migrants Organise, Ally Swadling at Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS) and Naomi Jackson at Social Workers Without Borders who all became connected through the SKNB network.

Following some successful training delivery in 2022 as part of the British Association of Social Workers Annual Conference, we developed Stand Up! Speak Out! (SUSO) which we also ran in 2023 and 2024 delivering 46 sessions to 2300 participants and connecting 38 different specialist organisations and academics. In 2025, 866 participants attended 25 webinars running from March to June

For our third year running the series, we organised around the theme **"The Power of Words"**. We are tired of hearing the same old racist rhetoric about immigration from politicians and mainstream media which has fuelled the rise of far right violence and led the way for dehumanising hostile anti-migrant policies. We want public sector workers (and others) to build their confidence and commitment to using the power of their words in solidarity and for justice; to know when and how to listen and learn from the people they are working with; how to advocate and support the individuals they work with, and when not to share information.. Our aims for attendees of SUSO 2025 were to:

- Reframe their work through use of language
- Use their expertise to provide powerful evidence
- Resist complicity with the hostile environment
- Take a trauma-informed approach to gathering information
- Change the narrative on immigration policy

### 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.

**We won't let our public services become a tool of hostile immigration enforcement!**

# STAND UP! SPEAK OUT! 2025 IN NUMBERS

This data has been gathered from attendees who chose to complete the Google feedback form provided during the webinar and in follow-up emails. RSVPs who do not attend still receive resources after the session and communication from SKNB.

**2431** RSVPS



**866** ATTENDEES



**60% currently said that they currently work in essential public services**

Professions of attendees include:

Social Workers and Managers, foster carers, MP caseworkers, Welfare Rights Advisors, ESOL tutors, banking (for no fixed address), healthcare professionals, food bank coordinators, housing support workers,

**40%** of attendees said that they currently work in either voluntary/Charitable Sector as staff or volunteers or are students

**97%**

**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**

**99%**

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

**25** WEBINARS

**25** DELIVERING ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

## 3 YEARS OF STAND UP! SPEAK OUT!

**8062**  
RSVPS

**3123**  
ACTUAL ATTENDEES

**51**  
WEBINARS

**71**  
DELIVERING ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

# ATTENDEE FEEDBACK OF SUSO 2025

**I learnt so much from the training, it was super clear and informative** - we work with a number of young people that have been/are going through the age assessment process and this has given me a better understanding of how it works

It has been a **very informative and inspiring session**, as professional and future social worker. I recently completed my second and final placement with a LA children Services and I witnessed disappointing practices towards NRPF families, echoing what you said during the session re. barriers to s17 support. I decided to write my final assignment for my apprentice course in SW on this topic, and your session provided me with additional material and source of reflection. **Most importantly you gave me hope that a real anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory social work is possible.**

I will make use of the points made when advocating for migrants with my MP / councillors as well as in public-facing comms, and I will share the notes I have written up with my colleagues. **I also want to lobby my MP to sit in on a session run by a local migrant support organisation to help build awareness and understanding of the challenges.**

**This will inform our approach to commissioning immigration advice locally**

Incredibly informative. The speaker referred to it being 'a rant' but I learnt a lot and **feel more confident thinking critically** about the prospect of people being supported under legal aid and to think about some other options locally

I now know **to challenge the lack of service provision when due to a lack of understanding about entitlement**, how to inform people about their entitlement, the significance of trauma in pre and post arrival as well as the journey itself. The barriers faced in accessing healthcare and the importance of working in a trauma-informed way when working with and recording interventions.

**it's useful to feel more confident on where to find info and where I stand legally** on different issues.

Really wonderful speakers, **infectious energy helps maintain hope and drive!**

I will continue to **reflect on, question and develop my own language use both professionally and personally to make sure it does not inadvertently feed into harmful rhetoric.**

# CONTRIBUTORS OF 2025

**A huge thank you to all the organisations who delivered sessions in the 2025 series.**

ASAP, Atleu, BID, Dr Chris Webster, Jo Gowers at Barnet Council, Sipilien Birani, MP Nadia Whittome, Zoe Gardner, Sabrina Huck at RAMP, Helen Bamber Foundation, Hackney Council, Manuel Bravo Project, Siân Pearce at University of Exeter, Migration Work, Public Law Project, Med Act, Open Rights Group, Right to Remain, Just Right Scotland, Leeds Anti Raids Action, South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice, Migrant Rights Network, Migrants Organise, PAFRAS, Social Workers Without Borders



## NEXT STEPS FOR SUSO

Firstly we will be working on getting all recorded sessions edited and online on our Stand Up! Speak Out! YouTube channel which we hope will be a key resource for the future.

As the organising committee for the last three years, the 3 of us are also busy with side projects and life changes that has left us to re-consider and reflect on our previous decision to run SUSO unfunded.

We are committed to holding these critical spaces for public sector workers to reflect on their professional identity and empower them to resist complicity with hostile and inhumane immigration policy. Agitate, educate, organise!

Watch this space...

Ally, Brian and Naomi