

# Newcastle is Home



**West End Refugee Service**  
*strength through support*

‘Every single day I remember that terrible time. I remember the family I lost, the family I left behind and the terrible memories of what I saw.’



'I was forced to flee'



'I ran away from my country because I had got a problem with the government.'

'I was persecuted because of my religion'

'My politics were a big  
problem'





'They threatened to kill me'

'I was raped by the soldiers'

‘The secret police knew that my  
Dad was always saying  
I’m Kurdish not Turkish’

'I lost so much'



'I lost my country. I never wanted to leave! I feel I lost everything'

'My family, friends and  
our home'



'I haven't seen my family  
for 8 years'



How I felt when I arrived  
in Newcastle

‘In 2003 Newcastle had few African people. It was so hard to adapt especially if your English was poor. It was very safe but we were so lonely!’





**‘Relief! We had a special welcome!’**

'Safe, but lost and isolated'



‘The weather was very cold!’

‘Not welcomed’



How I feel about Newcastle now

Very impressive! Up to 2005 I wanted to leave Newcastle but after advice I stayed! I don't regret it as now the city has become multicultural. I find my new home now!



'I feel very good about Newcastle. I feel just like I'm home. I see goodness in these people they care about each other. I hope one day all over the world become like England.'





‘Not easy but much, much better!’



‘More like London – it’s safe for  
refugees from Africa now’

**'Great and welcoming!'**

'It is my home now'



‘Very settled and feeling  
confident.

Thanks Newcastle!’

