

“Are we going to be allowed to stay here?”

How are government anti-immigration campaigns affecting Bradford?

In the run-up to the General Election in 2015, all major political parties are talking about being ‘tough on immigration’. The Government, using public funds, has increased its high-profile communications to tell ‘illegal’ immigrants to ‘go home’ and that there is ‘no hiding place’. We have been doing research to find out how politicians’ threats and promises are affecting people in Bradford and across the UK. **Please come along on Thursday 11th December, 6pm-7.30pm, to Bradford Resource Centre, 17-21 Chapel Street BD1 5DT**, if you are interested in finding out more about what we have found – and telling us what you think.

BACKGROUND

In July 2013, the UK Home Office arranged for a billboard saying ‘In the UK illegally? Go home or face arrest’ to be driven around ethnically and nationally diverse areas of London. They also carried out highly visible immigration raids on public transport and sent pictures of immigration raids with the caption #immigrationoffender from their public Twitter account. Since then, the Prime Minister has been pictured on immigration raids, posters have gone up in hospitals say ‘NHS treatment is not free for everyone’ and the political debate and public worries on immigration have continued to increase.

Over the last year, a team of researchers have been trying to find out how government measures to reassure the public that they are ‘tough on immigration’ are affecting ordinary people. We are doing research across the UK and in six areas including Bradford. We want to share what we have found so far, and hear from more people about what they think.

SOME KEY FINDINGS FROM BRADFORD

On the whole, people we spoke with in Bradford felt it was a welcoming place for migrants. Many people contrasted Bradford favourably with other places they had lived, in the UK and abroad. However some people had experienced discrimination and abuse in Bradford and felt that the government campaigns might increase this. We heard about British citizens who were worried they might be asked to leave the country because their parents or grandparents were migrants.

Bradford people told us:

‘You good people, my country no good people, looking at black people [as if] they no good! England good.’

‘Where I live, there have been a few racist things going on, every time they’ve seen me they’ve always told me to go back to my country. But now imagine if they saw this and they know this has come from the Government...’

‘You talk to people and they say... “Are we going to be allowed to stay here?”. This is third generation.’

SOME KEY NATIONAL FINDINGS

Some of the things we found in the national research were:

- People are angry and afraid some because they feel like the government is picking on them (whether they are a migrant or not, legal or ‘illegal’); others because they are worried about the effects of immigration
- Many of the government’s measures were increasing fear and anger. For example, the ‘Go Home van’ made 34% of people who had heard of them feel like people might be treated unfairly, and it only reassured 28% of people that action was being taken.¹
- All of the government measures we asked people about made at least 14% of people feel more worried about illegal/irregular immigration than they had been before.¹

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The research is being conducted by a team of researchers at 7 universities, led by the University of Warwick. We are working with Bradford Resource Centre to conduct the local research in Bradford. You can find out more here: <http://mappingimmigrationcontroversy.com> and here: www.twitter.com/MICresearch or by emailing Dr Hannah Jones on h.jones.1@warwick.ac.uk, or coming along to the public meeting on Thursday 11th December, 6pm-7pm at Bradford Resource Centre, 17-21 Chapel Street BD1 5DT.

¹Data from a survey commissioned by the Mapping Immigration Controversy project from Ipsos MORI. Questions were placed on the Ipsos MORI Omnibus (Capibus) amongst a nationally representative quota sample of 2,424 adults (aged 15 and over). Interviews were conducted face-to-face in respondents' homes, using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing software. Interviews were conducted between the 15th August and 9th September 2014. All data are weighted to the known national profile of adults aged 15+ in Great Britain.