# Migrant camp opposite Dorchester hotel sparks public outrage and calls for swift clearance



A group of Romanian migrants camping opposite the luxurious Dorchester Hotel on Park Lane has sparked outrage among members of the public, who branded them "disgraceful grifters." Footage of the camp, which includes scenes of public defecation and early-morning drinking, has circulated widely, prompting strong reactions. One migrant confronted a reporter, asserting their "right to be there," which only intensified the public outcry. "No normal country allows grifters like this to set up camp in the capital city," remarked one viewer on social media. Another added, “Imagine them telling you to leave as if they own the land; it’s laughable and ridiculous.” The social media commentary underscores a growing frustration among citizens regarding what they perceive as a deteriorating moral fabric within London.

Local authorities are under pressure to act, with a court order permitting the removal of the camp issued last month. Labour-run Westminster Council has stated that it is collaborating with Transport for London (TfL) to expedite the clearance of the area. This situation reflects a larger trend in London's evolving landscape of migrant accommodation. In recent months, protests by asylum seekers have highlighted widespread discontent over poor living conditions. For instance, 25 migrants protested outside the Comfort Inn in Pimlico after being relocated from Essex, citing cramped rooms and inadequate facilities. This dissatisfaction reflects a growing systemic issue within the UK's asylum-seeking framework, with reports emerging of significant increases in rough sleeping among asylum leavers.

The backdrop of these events is the UK government's ongoing efforts to reduce the financial burden associated with housing asylum seekers. As costs soar—recently reported at £6 million a day for hotel accommodations—the government is reducing reliance on hotels, planning to move hundreds of asylum seekers from expensive establishments to larger accommodation sites such as former military bases. New strategies have been proposed that include extending the notice period for refugees facing eviction from relocation hotels; however, advocates argue that more substantial measures are needed to prevent homelessness.

Moreover, in tandem with these developments, issues of illegal working among migrants have also surfaced. This October, authorities arrested multiple individuals at the London Marriott Hotel Regents Park for working without the proper legal status. These incidents raise further questions about the socioeconomic dynamics of migration in the capital, especially in areas where disparities in wealth are starkly evident.

The situation is emblematic of wider tensions within London’s socio-economic landscape, illustrating the challenges faced by both migrants and local communities as they navigate the complexities of housing, legality, and public sentiment.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2065916/express-viewers-opinion-migrant-camp-billionaires-row), [[4]](https://www.gbnews.com/news/marriott-hotel-regents-park-london-illegal-migrants-working)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2065916/express-viewers-opinion-migrant-camp-billionaires-row), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/01/migrants-asylum-seekers-london-hotel-pimlico-protest/), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/apr/11/hundreds-of-asylum-seekers-to-be-removed-from-hotels-in-england)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/14/call-refugees-uk-twice-long-find-homes-hotel-evictions), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/23/luxury-mansions-handed-over-migrants-closed-crackdown/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2065916/express-viewers-opinion-migrant-camp-billionaires-row> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/06/01/migrants-asylum-seekers-london-hotel-pimlico-protest/> - In June 2023, 25 migrants protested outside the Comfort Inn in Pimlico, London, after being moved from Essex. They were dissatisfied with the cramped conditions, being forced to share rooms with three others, and the 'smelly' toilets. The migrants, from countries including Iraq, Iran, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Bangladesh, used their belongings to barricade the hotel's entrance and displayed protest posters stating 'Help us' and 'Homeless by the Home Office'. This move was part of the Home Office's strategy to reduce the £6 million-a-day cost of housing asylum seekers in hotels.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/14/call-refugees-uk-twice-long-find-homes-hotel-evictions> - In March 2024, leading homelessness and refugee charities urged the UK government to extend the period for newly recognised refugees to find housing before being evicted from asylum hotels. They recommended increasing the notice period from 28 to at least 56 days, citing a near 1,000% rise in rough sleeping among accommodation leavers since July 2023. The call aimed to provide refugees with more time to secure stable housing and prevent homelessness.
4. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/marriott-hotel-regents-park-london-illegal-migrants-working> - In October 2023, immigration officers arrested 11 individuals working illegally at the London Marriott Hotel Regents Park. The workers, employed as cleaners, porters, and maids, were found working 15 hours a day through third-party recruitment agencies. Five of the illegal workers were detained pending deportation, while a further six were bailed. None of them had the right to work in the UK, and one had been smuggled into the country illegally.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/apr/11/hundreds-of-asylum-seekers-to-be-removed-from-hotels-in-england> - In April 2025, the UK government announced plans to remove hundreds of asylum seekers from hotels across England. The Home Office identified 50 hotels to cease housing migrants by January 2024, including luxury establishments like Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire and Great Hallingbury Manor in Essex. The closures aimed to reduce the £8 million daily cost of housing asylum seekers in hotels, with plans to move individuals to larger accommodation sites such as disused military bases and the Bibby Stockholm barge in Dorset.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/23/luxury-mansions-handed-over-migrants-closed-crackdown/> - In October 2023, the UK government initiated a crackdown on asylum hotels, targeting luxury mansions and country houses used to house migrants. Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick announced plans to close around 100 hotels within five months, starting with four-star establishments like Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire and Great Hallingbury Manor in Essex. The closures aimed to reduce the £8 million daily cost of housing asylum seekers in hotels, with plans to move individuals to larger accommodation sites such as disused military bases and the Bibby Stockholm barge in Dorset.
7. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/zone-1-news/refugees-protest-outside-london-hotel-27046897> - In June 2023, a group of refugees protested outside a London hotel due to cramped living conditions. They were being forced to sleep four to a room, leading to concerns about overcrowding and inadequate facilities. The protesters were informed that without accepting the accommodation, they would be left homeless. This situation highlighted the challenges faced by refugees in securing suitable housing and the pressures on the UK's asylum accommodation system.