# Unrest intensifies across UK as protests against asylum hotel housing escalate and polarise communities



Protests against the housing of asylum seekers in hotels have surged across the United Kingdom, reflecting escalating tensions and community divisions over the government's approach to asylum accommodation. These demonstrations, often organised under the "Abolish Asylum System" banner, have unfolded in multiple cities and towns, including Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle, Liverpool, and London. The demonstrations have brought confrontations between anti-immigration campaigners, anti-racism activists, and police into sharp focus.

Yesterday saw a wave of clashes as protests erupted nationwide. Notably, the Britannia Hotel in Canary Wharf, east London, emerged as a significant flashpoint. Over 200 protesters gathered outside the hotel, where rival groups were separated by the Metropolitan Police, indicating the charged atmosphere surrounding such sites. Authorities are bracing for further demonstrations in London and elsewhere, recognising the persistence and scale of the unrest.

Across the country, the protests have ranged from relatively peaceful to more confrontational episodes. In Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, more than 250 anti-immigration demonstrators blocked roads and ignited red flares outside the Delta Marriott hotel, underscoring their strong opposition to housing asylum seekers in local hotels. Meanwhile, in Orpington, Surrey, clashes between opposing groups near the Four Points By Sheraton hotel necessitated police intervention to prevent escalation.

Cities like Bristol and Newcastle have also witnessed heightened tensions. For example, in Bristol’s Castle Park, mounted police were deployed to separate competing factions amid scuffles, while Newcastle and Wakefield experienced notable gatherings under the same abolitionist slogan. In Liverpool, police efforts helped maintain separation between rival factions during largely peaceful protests, though broader unease remains palpable.

Underlying many of these protests are developments that have intensified local concerns. In Nuneaton, Warwickshire, tensions increased following the arrest of two Afghan asylum seekers on serious charges, which has fueled fears and apprehensions within the community. The involvement of far-right groups has further complicated the situation; for instance, figures like Nigel Farage have publicly urged the continuation of campaigns opposing hotel accommodation for asylum seekers, contributing to the politicisation of the issue.

Alongside anti-immigration protests, counter-demonstrations have been organised by groups such as Stand Up to Racism, with their events taking place in locations including Bristol, Leicester, and Derbyshire. These opposition protests highlight the deep societal divisions over asylum policies and the treatment of migrants within the UK.

The widespread nature of the demonstrations—from Aberdeen and Perth in Scotland to Mold in Wales and across England—demonstrates how the controversy over asylum seeker accommodation has become a national flashpoint. Police forces across regions have faced significant challenges in managing the protests, seeking to balance public order with the right to peaceful assembly amid increasingly fractious clashes.

As the UK government continues to house asylum seekers in hotels, often as a stopgap measure due to a shortage of dedicated facilities, the public response suggests that this approach may be struggling to find social acceptance. The protests underscore not only the challenges of integration and local community relations but also highlight broader debates about asylum policy, immigration control, and social cohesion.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099388/migrant-protests-live-asylum-hotel-demonstrations), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/metropolitan-police-cannock-liverpool-wakefield-newcastle-b1244198.html), [[6]](https://www.livemint.com/news/world/uk-anti-immigrant-protests-erupt-over-hotels-housing-asylum-seekers-what-you-need-to-know/amp-11754850335786.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099388/migrant-protests-live-asylum-hotel-demonstrations), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/canary-wharf-refugees-metropolitan-police-police-london-b1242187.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/migrant-hotel-protests-cheshunt-orpington-asylum-seekers-b1244201.html), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/canary-wharf-refugees-metropolitan-police-police-london-b1242187.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/horley-police-nigel-farage-newcastle-wakefield-b1244237.html), [[6]](https://www.livemint.com/news/world/uk-anti-immigrant-protests-erupt-over-hotels-housing-asylum-seekers-what-you-need-to-know/amp-11754850335786.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.livemint.com/news/world/uk-anti-immigrant-protests-erupt-over-hotels-housing-asylum-seekers-what-you-need-to-know/amp-11754850335786.html), [[7]](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/29/WS6887bc6ea310c26fd717c21e.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/metropolitan-police-cannock-liverpool-wakefield-newcastle-b1244198.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099388/migrant-protests-live-asylum-hotel-demonstrations), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/migrant-hotel-protests-cheshunt-orpington-asylum-seekers-b1244201.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/metropolitan-police-cannock-liverpool-wakefield-newcastle-b1244198.html), [[6]](https://www.livemint.com/news/world/uk-anti-immigrant-protests-erupt-over-hotels-housing-asylum-seekers-what-you-need-to-know/amp-11754850335786.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2099388/migrant-protests-live-asylum-hotel-demonstrations> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/migrant-hotel-protests-cheshunt-orpington-asylum-seekers-b1244201.html> - Protests against the use of hotels to accommodate asylum seekers have erupted across the UK, with demonstrations in towns such as Cheshunt and Orpington. In Cheshunt, over 250 anti-immigration protesters blocked a road and set off red flares outside the Delta Marriott hotel. In Orpington, rival groups clashed near the Four Points By Sheraton hotel, leading to police intervention to separate them. These protests reflect growing tensions surrounding the housing of asylum seekers in local communities.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/horley-police-nigel-farage-newcastle-wakefield-b1244237.html> - Protests against asylum hotels have intensified across the UK, with demonstrations in cities like Bristol, Exeter, and Newcastle. In Bristol, mounted police were deployed to separate rival groups in Castle Park, resulting in scuffles. The protests, organised under the 'Abolish Asylum System' slogan, have led to increased tensions and confrontations between protesters and law enforcement.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/metropolitan-police-cannock-liverpool-wakefield-newcastle-b1244198.html> - A series of protests and counter-protests have been planned outside hotels housing asylum seekers across the UK. Demonstrations under the 'Abolish Asylum System' slogan are set to take place in cities including Bristol, Exeter, and Liverpool. A separate batch of protests organised by Stand Up to Racism will be held in various locations, highlighting the deepening divisions over the accommodation of asylum seekers.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/canary-wharf-refugees-metropolitan-police-police-london-b1242187.html> - Protests against the housing of asylum seekers in hotels have led to arrests outside the Britannia Hotel in Canary Wharf, London. Over 200 people gathered, with rival groups separated by police. The Metropolitan Police are preparing for further demonstrations, indicating the escalating tensions surrounding the accommodation of asylum seekers in the capital.
6. <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/uk-anti-immigrant-protests-erupt-over-hotels-housing-asylum-seekers-what-you-need-to-know/amp-11754850335786.html> - Anti-immigrant protests have erupted across the UK over the housing of asylum seekers in hotels. In cities like Liverpool, police have managed to keep opposing groups separated during largely peaceful protests. However, tensions have escalated in places like Nuneaton, where protests have intensified following the arrest of two Afghan asylum seekers charged with serious crimes. These events highlight the growing divisions and concerns within communities regarding asylum accommodation.
7. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/29/WS6887bc6ea310c26fd717c21e.html> - Protests against the housing of asylum seekers in hotels have spread to multiple UK cities, including Norwich, Leeds, and Southampton. Clashes occurred between anti-immigration protesters and counter-demonstrators, leading to heightened tensions. The protests have been linked to far-right groups, with political figures like Nigel Farage urging continued campaigning against hotel accommodation for asylum seekers.