

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Hello and welcome to a new season of the Migration Oxford Podcast. I'm rob macneill.

00:00:06 Speaker 2

And I'm Jackie brodhead.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

So, Jackie, today I've been asking the questions, but I've been asking the questions about a project that you obviously know very well because you lead it, which is the understanding migrant destitution project, which is run by the global exchange on migration and diversity here at Oxford University.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

And we've had a very, very interesting conversation about no recourse to public funds and no recourse to public funds system.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

And the role of this in really making life very difficult for a lot of migrants. But let me start by asking you why would there be a problem with limiting people's access to public funds? I mean, it seems.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

As a journalist, my immediate presumption would be well, you have to have some kind of limits in place because you can't just provide people who've arrived in the country with immediate access to everything. Otherwise, you're creating a situation where you are.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Presumably encouraging people to migrate for the purposes of of accessing welfare. What what? What is the problem with that?

00:01:09 Speaker 2

Yeah. Thanks, rob. I think lots of countries choose to have restrictions on access to their welfare systems in particular, as you say, for kind of short term arrivals. And the UK is no exception and that's primarily the function of the no recourse to public funds.

00:01:29 Speaker 2

But there are a couple of things that are quite particular to the nrpf system that.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

Really. Make it make it kind of more tricky. So I think there is a case of.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

Being actually, there's a lot of people who are coming to the UK, so I think it's about 2.6 million people now that are subject to the nrpf condition, who are totally self-sufficient. So quite often I'm in this project, we're talking to social workers quite a lot of international social workers will have leave to remain within RPF, but it would also include, you know, Premier League footballers.

00:02:01 Speaker 2

Etc.

00:02:02 Speaker 2

And actually having a system where you say there are limits on your access to the welfare safety net, I think you know there is a case to be made for that, but there are some, there are some problems. The 1st is the what happens when things go wrong question. So the presumption that is made in a lot of the legislation is that people will return to their country of origin.

00:02:24 Speaker 2

That basically if something goes wrong and you would and then you know you lose your job, you have health difficulties, whatever you'll return. And that's not always possible, particularly if we're not talking about short term migrants. But we're talking about people who've been here for a long time.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

So one of the recommendations within RPF is to limit the amount of time because it really applies for a very long amount of time for a lot of people.

00:02:47 Speaker 2

So actually at that point they might have had children here. They might be in relationships, they've kind of built their lives here. So there's this question of kind of temporary versus kind of longer term residency.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

The second is that actually we have a lot of conditionality built into the mainstream welfare system.

00:03:03 Speaker 2

So we don't have very many kind of universal welfare benefits. They are they're conditional based on meeting certain criteria for housing, for example, or for Universal Credit. And those would apply exactly the same to migrants.

00:03:21 Speaker 2

So you would already have restrictions for migrants even if you got rid of the no recourse to public funds category, you still wouldn't be having people getting those things if they had very high incomes, for example, in exactly the same way.

00:03:34 Speaker 2

As you would for kind of UK residents, so some of that has kind of become moot as the UK welfare system has become more restricted.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

What the UK has also decided to do that we hear a lot about in the podcast is to devolve this system to local government, say oh, we have a safety net. It's at local government, but give them absolutely no money to run it at a time when they're in real kind of financial dire straits.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

So we have this kind of technical safety net and we've done a lot of research kind of understand that safety net. But it's really kind of hobbled and it's dysfunctional. So the argument would be well, if you are going to do it this way, then you should kind of fund it properly and make it function decently.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

OK so.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

Of the other things that I think is really important in the conversation that we've just been having is about the role of peer researchers. We we've been speaking to a lady called Anne who is somebody who has experience with the Nrps condition.

00:04:29 Speaker 1

And who is working with the with the understanding migrant destitution project to help actually undertake interviews with people and do all the various things that we need to do in order to understand how how the system's affecting people? Can you just?

00:04:44 Speaker 1

Elaborate a bit more about what the purpose of of having peer research.

00:04:48 Speaker 1

Is.

00:04:49 Speaker 2

Yeah, absolutely. So for this project, we wanted to composite done a piece of research in 2015 that had looked at what are the numbers around this system, like how many people are supported, how much does it cost local authorities and then what is the impact on people?

00:05:06 Speaker 2

And one of the things that had done through that is kind of interviews and focus groups.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

Groups, but one of the things that we really want to develop within Compass and within the global exchange is nothing about us without us. So having research methods that that include those voices of lived experience and the reasons for that are not only about kind of improving our research. So Anthony Anne talks about it in our interview with the kind of level.

00:05:30 Speaker 2

So that you have in having quite personal conversations with researchers who who haven't gone through that versus people who have direct lived experience, but also we wanted to improve the research questions that we were asking and the type of recommendations that we were making by drawing on different types of expertise. So we're able to bring.

00:05:48 Speaker 2

Bring our kind of academic perspective and understanding of the research literature. We're also able to bring some work that we've done with kind of policy makers and professionals understand, you know, what does government think about this? But there was a kind of missing piece. It's kind of what do the people actually impacted by this policy? How did they understand it? How did they navigate it?

00:06:07 Speaker 2

And having community researchers was both about building trust so that we can get better answers to the questions that we have. But it was also about shaping what those questions are, making sure that we're asking the right questions so that we can get the best answers.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

Excellent. Well, I think that on that note, we should probably pause our chat and introduce our guests for today. Today, I'm very grateful to be joined by Rupinder Pahar, who's a specialist in nrpf issues in local government in London.

00:06:37 Speaker 1

And who's also worked on the issue for NGOs by Lucy Leon, who's a researcher for the global Exchange on migration and diversity, which is based here at the centre of Migration Policy and society at Oxford University.

00:06:52 Speaker 1

And by Anne, who is a peer researcher, an expert by expert.

00:06:55 Speaker 1

Experience on the understanding migrant destitution project, which is also run here at Compass.

00:07:03 Speaker 1

I'm going to start with you, Lucy, if that's OK. So can I start by asking you to explain what this term nrpf actually means, who it affects and why that matters.

00:07:16 Speaker 3

So Nrpf is no recourse to public funds. It's a Home Office immigration policy that essentially restricts migrants from accessing mainstream benefits. So basically excluding them from the welfare safety Nets.

00:07:30 Speaker 3

In terms of who it affects, we've seen a significant increase in the number of people impacted by the policy in recent years around 2.6 million people hold visas within the nrpf condition in 2022 and that's an increase of of 1,000,000 people.

00:07:47 Speaker 3

In just two years, we've seen new cohorts of people who are now subject to the policy. We've seen a sharp increase of European nationals post Brexit who are now subject to to the nrpf policy.

00:08:00 Speaker 3

So it does impact a huge cohort of.

00:08:03 Speaker 3

People. And why does it matter? Well, not everyone's subject to an RPF is going to experience economic hardship, but it does mean that they're in a much more

vulnerable position if their financial circumstances change, because they'll have no access to a welfare safety net.

00:08:20 Speaker 3

And we know that destitution across the UK is rapidly rising. The JRF estimate that it's doubled in in just kind of five years. Number of people who are experiencing destitution, but we can't.

00:08:33 Speaker 3

Hope to kind of tackle or do anything to to address destitution. If we don't look at how migrants are impacted by the nrpf policy, we know that their migrants are disproportionately more at risk of destitution. It's 35% D compared to the kind of average rate of of of people in the.

00:08:51 Speaker 3

UK and obviously destitution has a huge detrimental impact on on people's lives, particularly when we're talking about children who are growing up in long term deep poverty for for their entire childhoods.

00:09:04 Speaker 3

But it also has a kind of real impact. This policy on local authorities as well.

00:09:09 Speaker 3

Local authorities have a legal responsibility to support vulnerable people who are destitute and cannot access their the mainstream welfare safety net. Now it's only particular cohorts of people. It's it's families with children under 18.

00:09:24 Speaker 3

Or very vulnerable adults with kind of care and support needs, who who are struggling to live independently but local authorities themselves are under a huge kind of pressure already. They're operating on, on massively overstretched, a social care budgets, and they're seeing a huge rise in the number of number of families and vulnerable people approaching them in recent years.

00:09:43 Speaker 3

And and they don't have the infrastructure, the resourcing, quite often the training to be able to kind of meet the demand or even kind of provide an adequate support or or provision to families and kind of most importantly what we really heard in our recent research is actually what a humiliating and distressing experience it is for for families and bundled adult.

00:10:04 Speaker 3

To approach local authorities for support. So that's why it kind of matters in a nutshell.

00:10:10 Speaker 1

That's obviously all fairly significant.

00:10:13 Speaker 1

Rabinder, if you could maybe give us a bit of a background to to why the NRP conditions actually exist in the 1st place. And obviously Luby's explained really that I mean nrpf conditions preclude people from accessing mainstream welfare, welfare and benefits. And that means that people find themselves in severe poverty and that that responsibility falls on local authorities now.

00:10:34 Speaker 1

My call my former colleagues Jonathan Price and Sarah Spencer described this as creating a sort of parallel welfare state.

00:10:41 Speaker 1

That's a massive responsibility. I mean, can local authorities actually cope with this and and do you think that they have the skills and resources to provide this kind of support?

00:10:51 Speaker 4

In terms of how the nrpf condition came about, I can probably speak to that a bit further in a bit, but you know we we have a kind of history of exclusion baked into the British welfare state. So we can see that actually even from the inception of the National Assistance Act, which obviously happens after the war, but also actually even prior to that in terms of.

00:11:12 Speaker 4

Even as far back as the kind of early modern period where we have.

00:11:16 Speaker 4

The poor laws and those that are both external to the country as well as people that are trying to move internally between countries, can't access the support they need, and I think that's helpful to think about the kind of context in which this happens. But there's a really specific thing that's happening around no equals to public funds.

00:11:34 Speaker 4

Now that that we need to speak about, so in terms of the issue around whether local authorities can actually deliver the support that's required of them and if they're set up in that way, there's been a lot of evidence of evidence being produced through local authorities.

00:11:49 Speaker 4

Themselves, which demonstrates that they're really struggling to provide this resource for people in terms of.

00:11:55 Speaker 4

You know, cuts to their budgets, the increasing demands on their resources, but also there's a cumulative impact of policy changes that have been made that impact on migrants, right. So we've got changes to immigration rules over the years.

00:12:11 Speaker 4

We have significant cuts to legal aid for migrants that were instituted from 2012 onwards. You know, often quite exponentially rising visa fees. The introduction of the NHS.

00:12:21 Speaker 4

Judge. So all of these have a cumulative impact of forcing families that already impacted by no recourse to public funds into further destitution and further risk of quite deep poverty.

00:12:35 Speaker 4

I think it's also worth noting the kind of distinction of the people that are impacted by no recourse to public funds in particular. So we have people that have status as well as people that are undocumented, but obviously.

00:12:48 Speaker 4

Entitlement to support is usually contingent on having status.

00:12:51 Speaker 4

But obviously we can see, you know, all of these kind of things. I'm talking about these bureaucratic processes, the kind of changes in law, the changes in policy also contribute towards creating undocumented status, which I think is an important thing for us to note because one, it moves us away from.

00:13:09 Speaker 4

The the sort of negative value judgments that we attach to people that are undocumented, right, because we see how systems create this undocumented status.

00:13:18 Speaker 4

And it helps us to understand the really difficult situation that people are put in. You know, often because of factors that are outside of their control. So we've got this quite big cohort of people that are impacted by no recourse public funds, both those that

have status to be in the country and can work and those that don't currently have status, possibly because of factors.

00:13:38 Speaker 4

That are sort of outside of their control.

00:13:40 Speaker 4

So with all of that kind of context around how how people are kind of being impacted by this state is how they're being produced as really vulnerable. It's also worth noting that, yeah, as Sarah and Jonathan have noted, we are also seeing the production.

00:13:56 Speaker 4

And kind of huge need to scale up this parallel welfare state. So we've always had kind of aspects of the welfare state that are kind of devolved on a local level. We've got housing provision.

00:14:08 Speaker 4

But because of the wide scale application of the no recourse public funds condition, as Lucy has really helpfully laid out, particularly post 2012, particularly after we've left the European Union, we have the increase in the demand on this parallel welfare state.

00:14:25 Speaker 4

So taking the example of children's services teams, they have a legal duty to provide a whole range of support to children in need and their families.

00:14:35 Speaker 4

But much of this is focused on promoting children's welfare, and there's a statutory mechanism for that, which is laid out in the Children Act. We also have laws.

00:14:44 Speaker 4

Lay out responsibilities for local authority in terms of supporting vulnerable adults.

00:14:49 Speaker 4

But what this needs to resource this parallel welfare state does is it turns this child safeguarding duty and responsibility that's laid out in the law into more of a duty around the.

00:15:04 Speaker 4

Illustrative allocation of actually fairly limited resource which families need to survive because they can't access the welfare benefit system.

00:15:13 Speaker 4

And you know, this is often in spite of families working. Those that do have status, perhaps they're in low paid work, they're unable to access the top up benefits that they need. So the reality is this sort of parallel local welfare state is not set up in the same way as the centralised welfare state.

00:15:30 Speaker 4

Local authorities don't have the resource. They don't have the staffing, the capacity.

00:15:36 Speaker 4

The formalised structure and processes that are centralised welfare state has, and this is distracting from the local authority being able to deliver its functions.

00:15:46 Speaker 4

And I just finished by saying the backdrop for all of this is over a decade of austerity, which has meant that local authorities don't have the same budgets that they they had, you know, 14 years ago or more, and also a context of decades of neoliberalism.

00:16:02 Speaker 4

Which leads to the significant scaling back of the state's allocation of resource to even be able to support those that are in need, irrespective of their nationality and what their citizenship is.

00:16:14 Speaker 1

Rapinda thanks a lot. So, Anne, you're working with with Oxford's Global Exchange on migration and diversity on this on, on the the understanding migrant destitution project and you're doing it as what's called an expert by experience. Can you explain a little bit about what that actually means and how your experience has helped you to work with this and other projects?

00:16:35 Speaker 1

What sorts of things have shaped your understanding of nrpf and the associated support systems, and also just how people have to navigate this complex area in in real life?

00:16:45 Speaker 5

I would say explode by experience or people who have experience these hardships themselves and they become expert with.

00:16:52 Speaker 5

Time I have lived myself, the struggles of immigration control as a migrant and all the migrants live this life and cannot imagine how challenging it would be for people who suffer the realities of the system going through no recourse to public fund.

00:17:10 Speaker 5

Immigration control and issues with local authority and stuff like that. I have been involved in couple of projects where.

00:17:17 Speaker 5

We strive hard to bring change and also.

00:17:22 Speaker 5

We are working with other people who have got the lived experience and you want to change the system in a way that will be.

00:17:31 Speaker 5

Like easily available for people and the I work for a charity called Nacom. And over there I'm a community researcher. I've also been working in Migrant Voice network. So in those organisations and charities, what we learn, let me conduct the researches and we talk to vulnerable people their experiences.

00:17:50 Speaker 5

Their hardships and their challenges and how they navigate the.

00:17:53 Speaker 5

System and through those projects I have learned research skills and also how to interview people. Then I used all those skills in this project at at Oxford what we did we led focus groups and we interview people in those focus groups.

00:18:10 Speaker 5

We were involved in designing the questions and also how to use our questions with these people because it's sometimes it's really sensitive talking to people living in those hardships and challenging lives.

00:18:23 Speaker 5

I would say it's really important to include lived, experienced people in these kind of work and researchers because we have deeper insights of the life, what we are living like as a support worker or as a person from a territory organisation like you can have an empathy or sympathy for what we have been going through.

00:18:43 Speaker 5

You never know exactly how it feels, so in terms of.

00:18:49 Speaker 5

Dealing with people and clients, it will be really easy because of shared experience. They take us as peers or support workers.

00:18:59 Speaker 5

The level of fear is really, really minimised because they know that we have been through the system and their information will not be leaked to anywhere, may be its Home Office or any authority or anywhere else. So that changes the dynamic of research totally.

00:19:16 Speaker 1

And that's that's all really, really important stuff. It's really, really fascinating to hear you sort of going through how people experience their interactions with researchers in that sort of way. Now, Lucy, if I can, if I can come back to you. So we've set out the situation broadly and some of the challenges that.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

The system faces effectively so.

00:19:37 Speaker 1

I want to get to the real point of this discussion, which is what needs to change.

00:19:42 Speaker 3

Well, we had a really wide call from the different people we spoke to and that includes local government, people, lived experience, frontline organisations, legal professionals for a significant reform of the system and including from from many people the call to end the use of the nrpf condition.

00:20:01 Speaker 3

It's still early days in the kind of current government, so it's unclear whether that is something that is in scope.

00:20:08 Speaker 3

Um, in the mean time, though, if local authorities are expected to provide this kind of safety net, it really needs to be resourced and and receive the the investment, the kind of training, the appropriate infrastructure to make sure that it's actually fit for purpose.

00:20:25 Speaker 3

And that's what our recent research kind of focused on looking at kind of practical steps to how to make what's currently a very dysfunctional system actually fit for purpose.

00:20:35 Speaker 3

At the moment, many of those basics just aren't there as we've kind of articulated.

00:20:39 Speaker 3

There are some pockets of good practise, but.

00:20:43 Speaker 3

There's a lot of basics, for example clear information on a website about where to seek help or a clear policy on how much people should receive in terms of subsistence payments. To be able to afford their kind of basic essentials, making sure that there's kind of decent housing.

00:20:59 Speaker 3

In many areas, none of that actually happens, and we know that local government is under pressure without a doubt. But it really can do much better. And so therefore we really need to make sure the local.

00:21:08 Speaker 3

Is in the 1st place being resourced to deliver this and so improving the kind of governance structures for tackling destitution and quite often migrant destitution is seen as a kind of very niche issue. Nrpf has seen something kind of really complex, but actually local authorities need to understand that if they don't acknowledge.

00:21:30 Speaker 3

Don't address it. It really impacts on wider priorities.

00:21:33 Speaker 3

Such as ending homelessness or rough sleeping, or trying to tackle child poverty or local public public health inequalities. And so there really needs to be a much more joined up strategy to tackle migrant destitution within local government. That's led a senior leadership level.

00:21:51 Speaker 3

There also needs to be a kind of cross wide cross government wide strategy to also tackle destitution from a national perspective.

00:21:57 Speaker 3

Perspective mirroring some of the learning that we've seen in Scotland where they're ending destitution together, strategy which has kind of pulled together both national government, local government, the voluntary and community sector, but also really importantly involving people with lived experience as well in Co designing policy and practise that actually works.

00:22:17 Speaker 3

There are other recommendations that we've also kind of pushed for in, in, in our findings where we've looked at also widening access to public funds.

00:22:26 Speaker 3

Um to make sure that particularly those that are specifically focused on making sure that that vulnerable people and children are able to receive support, so is repentence and things like child benefit. Making sure that children aren't being punished because of their parents immigration status, and that if where there's benefits that been specifically targeted for children.

00:22:46 Speaker 3

Making sure that all children can access that regardless of their or their parents immigration status, but also through resourcing local government, we need to kind of empower them and fund them to at a minimum actually meet their legal responsibilities, which isn't happening at the moment in many areas.

00:23:03 Speaker 3

And ultimately through kind of funding and resourcing and training, making sure that they're actually developing preventative approaches to tackling poverty and exclusion, and that, as I've mentioned, includes kind of resourcing local government, but also making sure that there's better statutory guidance.

00:23:19 Speaker 3

That explains how to assess and support vulnerable people in need.

00:23:24 Speaker 3

There is guidance in in Scotland and Wales.

00:23:28 Speaker 3

That statutory, however, it there is seeing the kind of lack of.

00:23:34 Speaker 3

Of how it's implemented shows that it probably does need to be reviewed and there is no statutory guidance for England or Northern Ireland, so it really central government

need to kind of play a a key role in making sure that that's implemented and drafted. Also when we look at a local level in terms of subsistence policies, there needs to be.

00:23:50 Speaker 3

Clear statutory guidance, we're clear.

00:23:53 Speaker 3

Acceptable.

00:23:53 Speaker 3

States that factors in people's needs and that also kind of draws in recent case law and guidance around that and there really needs to be clear information and advice. So so people who can access support locally and let the local authorities are kind of working.

00:24:10 Speaker 3

In partnership with community organisations and Immigration Services to make sure that people can actually access adequate and and and specialist legal advice to support them. But I think one of the the key findings we heard is that really there needs to be dignity and humanity at the heart of the system.

00:24:28 Speaker 3

As I've mentioned before, it's an incredibly humiliating experience approaching local authorities. As we heard from many people about the distressing stories they've had trying to seek support from local authorities. And so we really need to kind of draw on the findings from the Windrush lessons learnt review.

00:24:46 Speaker 3

Which really calls for the dignity and humanity to be at the heart of the system to make sure that respect and dignity in how services treat people and make sure that that people follow principles of fairness and openness and effects of care.

00:25:01 Speaker 1

Lucy, thanks so much, rupinder. I suppose the obvious question here is that, you know, like both central government and local authorities have just a colossal number of competing demands and pressures on them. Is it actually realistic to imagine that either side is going to be willing to put in the the effort and resources that are needed to resolving or improving?

00:25:22 Speaker 1

And can you explain? I'm presuming why you think that they should.

00:25:26 Speaker 4

Yeah, I think on this question of political will, we know there's a lot of things that impact on whether there's political will both on a national level and on a local level, including considerations around what sort of resource it requires.

00:25:41 Speaker 4

Which group is in need of that resource, anticipating whether there'll be, you know, media or other backlash around implementing a particular change and the complexity of the issue?

00:25:52 Speaker 4

And some of these issues seem immediately. It's immediately apparent why making the changes that Lucy's just outlined around no recourse public funds would make sense, because there's a lot of people struggling. That is actually fairly straightforward.

00:26:07 Speaker 4

Solutions. There's been research that has found that if you do make welfare benefits available to people with no recourse public funds, there's a long term cost benefit, not only for those individuals, but in terms of their, you know, participation in the labour market.

00:26:23 Speaker 4

Ability to access.

00:26:25 Speaker 4

Support in terms of resolving long term needs, children have better health outcomes, better educational outcomes. All of these anticipated cost benefits. So on the face of it, certainly for those of us that have worked on this for a long time, it it makes immediate sense that you should make these changes.

00:26:42 Speaker 4

But as I say, there's other things that shape political.

00:26:44 Speaker 4

Will and then going back to what I'd said earlier about how we know migrants are framed. Even you know, we can make the arguments that a lot of these people have been here for a long time. Their children are born here often. Their children are British citizens. You can try and kind of make those arguments to push back against that. But we can see how it doesn't work because.

00:27:03 Speaker 4

Such an easy.

00:27:05 Speaker 4

Route to being able to scapegoat migrants and kind of malign them.

00:27:09 Speaker 4

And make it easy to remove resources from them. So unfortunately there's a sort of balance of a lot of different factors that shape political will around making these changes.

00:27:21 Speaker 4

That said, I think a lot of will does sit on the side of local authorities, and I think Lucy's really helpfully laid out that they need the resource to deliver some of these changes, right? There is ample data produced by the likes of the Local Government Association, London Councils and others around the significance.

00:27:39 Speaker 4

Dent to local authority budgets over the years and we all experienced that. I think another really important point that Lucy made is how.

00:27:47 Speaker 4

Supporting groups of migrants, such as those that are destitute, has a positive impact on all of us. So the arguments that we're making around resourcing local authorities better to be able to support destitute migrants is also an argument about having resource to, you know, collect our bins to deliver basic functions in a community to keep the libraries open.

00:28:06 Speaker 4

This is all about how we allocate social resource and who benefits from it, and that those of us with citizenship or precarious status are actually impacted by very similar things.

00:28:17 Speaker 4

Even if the ways in which the kind of sharp effects of those are faced differently by those that don't have status.

00:28:22 Speaker 4

So I think that's a really important point to make around how the conditions faced by migrants impact on all of us and also as, as Lucy laid out in terms of access to health services, welfare support, homelessness, these are all larger issues that are impacting on those that are British at the same time as well.

00:28:41 Speaker 4

But what I would say is there is a lot of work happening around this. There's a lot of organisations that are doing work on this. You know, there are people working in Parliament, parliamentarians who see the sharp impact of this on their constituents.

00:28:54 Speaker 4

We've also been trying to raise this in their capacities.

00:28:58 Speaker 4

You know, within their political roles, we have a new government. It comes with a new set of political priorities. There is an opportunity to try and make the case for some of these things in that may not have existed in previous years.

00:29:10 Speaker 1

Rabindra, thanks so much. Anne. You've had to cope with the challenges of the nrpf condition yourself, and you also work with other people who do so. I mean, assuming that the government isn't going to grant access to to the welfare state, to all migrants in the UK at any point soon.

00:29:27 Speaker 1

What are the changes to the UK system that you think would make the most difference to people who are facing extreme poverty when they have no recourse to public?

00:29:36 Speaker 1

I.

00:29:37 Speaker 5

Would say the first and foremost thing is it is really, really important to understand. It's not very easy for people to approach and ask for support.

00:29:47 Speaker 5

People in this situation, they are not here to enjoy the ease and welfare of the system. Maybe they have come from broken families, or maybe they have fled from war and those kind of situation. So they often feel humiliated and their dignity is heard when system and workers.

00:30:04 Speaker 5

Disrespect people. They should be treated respectfully and.

00:30:08 Speaker 5

With humanity, regardless of the status, another big bid is about child benefit. I think Lucy has also mentioned about that. There's a policy of every child matters, so every

child matters should include each and every children. They should not be migrant children. They should not be children with nrpf.

00:30:26 Speaker 5

So child benefit is given to only those parents who qualify for recourse public fund. It should not be like that regardless of parent status, whether they have nrpf or recourse public fund child benefit should be given to each child. They should not be locked out of support in this.

00:30:44 Speaker 5

Era of crisis and the cost of living.

00:30:47 Speaker 5

I would also say the information should be accessible to people on people's right. They should be made available in people's own language for better understanding. There should be more effort and more measures put in place when people are new in the country.

00:31:01 Speaker 5

Whether they are educated, whether they are good in speaking English, that totally doesn't mean they understand the system and they are right.

00:31:09 Speaker 5

Another big bit is on the cost of Home Office fee, which is couple of thousands of pounds for each person. So let's suppose a family of three or four. They have to save 3500 something for each person every 2 1/2 years.

00:31:25 Speaker 5

Secure the immigration status. So in this era where the cost of living is too high, where the expenses are too high, people cannot accommodate to live with the expenses, they can't afford the cost of everything. How could we imagine them to save up that much cost every 2 1/2 years? Maybe.

00:31:42 Speaker 5

As a single parent.

00:31:44 Speaker 5

On a parent and child have to submit 7000 something fee every 2 1/2 years to the Home Office and whether they have excess of legal aid solicitor or now which is another nightmare then.

00:31:59 Speaker 5

It's it's not really easy, it's not available. It's really hard this. This should have some consideration to change.

00:32:04 Speaker 5

I would also highlight that it's very important to listen from lived experience people because they are the ones who have lived those challenges. They should be included in policy making places so they could reassure that the policies which are made or change.

00:32:21 Speaker 5

They are able to sense their needs.

00:32:23 Speaker 1

That's fascinating stuff. I really appreciate your time. Thank you so much for talking to us. And so, yeah, thank you very much.

00:32:30 Speaker 2

You've been.

00:32:31 Speaker 2

To the Migration Oxford podcast, I'm Jackie Broadhead.

00:32:34 Speaker 1

And I'm rob MacNeil.