Article One

<https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/protest-support-refugees-set-take-4456530>

**Protest in support of refugees set to take place in Dover**

**The event, which is called ‘We Stand With You’ will be attended by campaigners and politicians** [**John James**](https://www.kentlive.news/authors/john-james/)Multimedia Journalist **UPDATED**16:56, 25 AUG 2020

A ‘solidarity stand’ is scheduled to take place in [**Dover**](https://www.kentlive.news/all-about/dover)’s Market Square in support of the refugees crossing the Channel to Kent.The event, planned for September 5 has been organised by the Kent Anti-Racism Network (KARN).

They say they ‘plan to stand in solidarity with refugees and migrants who are seeking sanctuary from war, poverty, persecution or climate catastrophe. ‘

**‘We Stand With You’** will be attended by the Mayor of Deal, along with local refugee groups and Medway Stand Up to Racism.

This year more than 4,000 people have arrived on Kent’s shores. The event is being held following the discovery of the body of drowned Sudanese refugee Abdulfatah Hamdallah in Calais.Mr Hamdallah and his friend were trying to cross the English Channel when their small rubber dinghy sank because of a puncture.

***A spokesperson for KARN said: “We are seeing desperate people fleeing war, poverty and persecution who are prepared to risk their lives to reach safety. We have a duty to welcome them when they reach our shores.”***

The spokesperson added: “**Kent has always welcomed refugees,from turn of the last century when we welcomed Belgian refugees fleeing war, to the present day.** **“Refugees and migrants have enriched our culture and lives.”**

The KARN campaigners deny that the refugees trying to get into Britain are breaking the law and have criticised the government’s response to the crisis.

*Steve Wilkins, of KARN and Stand Up To Racism, said: “Contrary to what many politicians have claimed, it is not illegal to cross the channel.*

*"Under international law anyone has the right to apply for asylum in any country that has signed and ratified the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and to stay there until their claim has been properly assessed.”*

Steve added: “Our government’s policy is to circumvent our obligation under that convention by preventing refugees, many of them children who have family here, from reaching the UK and exercising their right to claim asylum.

“Not only is it failing but it is adding more misery for people who have been forced to leave their homes and are already traumatised by their experiences.”

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### Why KentLive uses the word 'people' when referring to 'migrants'

[**KentLive**](https://www.kentlive.news/) uses the term people when referring to those who cross the Channel and arrive on our shores.

That's because, regardless of their status at the point of entry, those moving from one country to the other are human beings.

You will have seen them commonly referred to as migrants. This is not incorrect.

The UN Migration Agency defines a migrant as - any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of the person’s legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary, what the causes for the movement are, or what the length of the stay is.

KentLive also refers to people in these circumstances as refugees.

The UN definition of refugees is - people who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalised violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection.

The planned event has been warmly received by many in the district and has even attracted the support of two local councillors.

Joe Burman, the Labour councillor for Mill Hill said: “People need to stop pointing fingers at desperate people coming from countries we have torn apart in foreign wars, and start directing their anger towards the fat cats and politicians who rip Britain off day in day out.

"My solidarity goes out to our new friends arriving from France, and we are here to welcome them.”

Meanwhile, the Dover councillor for Tower Hamlets Pam Brivio said: “Britain takes the smallest percentage of refugees than any of our European counterparts.

“We need to show some empathy towards those fleeing war torn countries and risking their lives in the process.

“The difference between us is one word “luck” — luck that we were born here and not in a war ravaged country.”