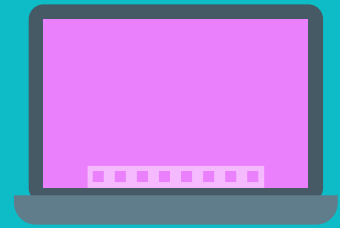


# Awaiz's Story

Awaiz had seen a news article, on his social media account, about families drowning at sea trying to flee their country.



Awaiz, having a migrant background himself decided to write a public post, sharing his emotions and sympathy for those suffering.

The post sparked numerous reactions...

"They just come over and take all our jobs"

"Go back to your own country"

"It's their fault for ruining their country. We don't want this in the UK!!"

"GO BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG!!!"

"I can't believe this is happening in my home country! I am so lucky to have got to safety here in the UK and have the opportunity to change my life at university. You're all in my thoughts, those that have lost their lives, who were trying to restart a safe life for themselves and their families"

Awaiz was upset with these comments and was starting to regret writing the post.



Awaiz started to feel ashamed of his background and logged off to avoid the negative comments

That week, Awaiz decided to skip university lectures. He couldn't face any more negative comments



His friends texted Awaiz when they realised he was skipping university, showing their support for his recent post and telling him 'not let the trolls win'.

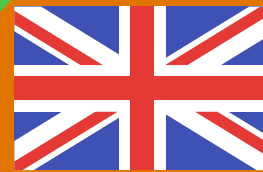
Having received this encouragement, Awaiz logged back on and responded to new comments...

"I can't get a job because you refugees are taking them all"

"Refugees are only 0.18% of the UK's population, I am sure you still have a high chance of getting a job with the right skills"

"The UK have too many people coming over here from other countries"

"Actually, the UK is only the 4th in Europe for the amount of refugees it takes."



"You illegals just come over and claim all our money on benefits"

"Illegal immigrants cannot collect benefits, and refugees can on the same basis as UK nationals once their request for asylum is granted"

Awaiz felt better once he'd challenged some of the myths about refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. He realised that there is a lot of misinformation out there and felt better doing his bit to set the record straight. Even better, his posts had been shared and liked by all his friends and people Awaiz didn't know were sharing his posts too!

Think of the following...

- What impact did the comments have in this example?
- What was the intention of the comments?
- Who may have seen the comments?
- How may they feel after seeing these comments?

- What impact did the counter narrative have in this example?
- What was the intention of the counter narratives?
- Who may have seen the counter narratives?
- Can you suggest an alternative way to respond?