

Haslemere Herald

& Liphook

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Haslemere Festival

THOSE who attended a talk by the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) were privileged to hear the charity's case for a fairer, person-centred asylum system here in the UK.

Speaking during the Haslemere Festival, Megan Knowles from the JRS outlined why the UK's asylum system is inherently hostile to refugees.

She then argued that the Illegal Immigration Bill, in its present form, will virtually end the right to claim asylum

in the UK.

Her talk exposed the huge challenges faced by refugees and the scale of the problem facing the government. At the end of 2022, there were more than 160,000 people here in the UK waiting for an outcome on their initial asylum claim.

Megan said: "Thank you to the Catholic parish of Haslemere for inviting us to speak during the festival. It is hugely encouraging to know people in the town are keen to know more about this important topic."

The festival has in turn donated the proceeds from ticket sales to the charity.

James Rapp