



## Nurse

**S.O.** is a nurse from Algeria. He came to the UK in 2000 and was granted refugee status on appeal in 2004. He now works as a staff nurse at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel.

### **Tell us about what you do**

For the past year or so I have been working as a staff nurse in the Renal Department of the Royal London Hospital. It's very challenging and there's a lot to learn - if I can work here I can work anywhere.

### **How did you get started?**

It wasn't easy but I took it step by step. When I first arrived I couldn't speak any English and I didn't know if I would get a positive answer from the Home Office. I did free English courses at three different colleges and worked hard. For a few years I kept studying and hoping and in 2004 I was granted leave to remain. Sometimes I don't know how I kept myself motivated - there was just something inside me that told me to keep going.

### **How did you start working as a nurse in the UK?**

I had to pass an English exam and then did six months supervised practice in a hospital. I got some advice and training from Praxis [a charity based in Bethnal Green]. They gave me money to buy books and kept in touch with me. I know so many people still struggling to pass their exams; you have to be really determined to get there.

### **What do you like about your job?**

I enjoy the atmosphere at the hospital. It's really multi-cultural and I get to meet people from so many nationalities. So far I have translated for two patients from English to Arabic and sometimes the patients speak to me in French – it makes them really happy.

### **What advice would you give to a newly arrived asylum seeker?**

It's not a choice to come here and starting from the beginning is hard but try to have some objectives and keep going. Hard work is fruitful.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

I have been studying and working hard since I came here so I need to relax and think about the future. I would like to improve my skills, there's so much you can do with nursing.

## Links

[Praxis](#)

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