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"Being an asylum seeker means waiting – always waiting. We've been waiting for four years now. It's stopping you doing so much that you could achieve: I would be driving by now, I would be working, I would be going to uni." This is part of the Maheen Habib Gill's story at the [Claiming a New Place on Earth](#) exhibition in London.

Focusing not only on their journeys to the UK but also on their efforts to establish new lives, the exhibition tells the stories of ten young asylum seekers. They are portrayed through professions and careers they dream to have such as mechanic, doctor, accountant, but without the legal status and papers in the UK, possibilities for work and studies are limited.

Madina Bamba wants to be a nurse. "The most painful is not working and having people think that I don't want to work, that I just want to sit here and take benefits.

