

# Resilience, Belonging, and Patience: Ali & Ayesha's Journey

When Ali and Ayesha first arrived in Swindon with their two young children, they were carrying the weight of a turbulent and uncertain future. Like many of the families we stand alongside, they had almost no control over their circumstances. To make things harder, Ayesha was pregnant and unwell, and they knew no one in the area. They had already experienced the isolating side of negative attitudes:

***"We have experienced speaking with people, and then as soon as we say we are asylum seekers, they no longer speak with us",*** they share.  
***"We can't contact people because of this".***

First impressions are crucial when you are searching for safety. When the family found The Harbour Project, those immediate barriers vanished. ***"At Harbour, they help with everything. There are no tensions",*** Ali says.

By reducing that initial uncertainty and offering clear guidance, a foundation of trust is built. For Ali and Ayesha, The Harbour Project quickly became a place where they didn't have to hide their status, and somewhere they could authentically be themselves. Ayesha began joining in with our Women's Group and Ali and his son would play table tennis together in our cafe. Step by step, surrounded by a supportive community, their trust and confidence in us and society began to grow.

At The Harbour Project, we are here for the joyful moments as well as the



most difficult times. When Ali and Ayesha's new baby was born prematurely, it was an incredibly stressful period. Thanks to our community of supporters, we were able to stand beside them, providing both the emotional and practical guidance they needed.

The real privilege for our team is watching a family's independence develop. Whether that be their children settling into school, the parents learning the English language and using their new skills to interpret for other new arrivals, it is a joy.

While they wait patiently for the outcome of their asylum claim, they are already looking toward to the future and planning how to give back to the place that welcomed them:

*"After we get a job, and we have settled, when we earn money, we want to help Harbour. Because we got a lot of help, especially mentally, so we have to help. We see that people are giving donations to Harbour. Afterwards, surely we have to do the same - because Harbour is doing very important work".*



## Join The Anchor today!

**Your regular gift will keep people, like Ali and Ayesha, safe, secure and hopeful during the storms of life.**

**Thank you.**