

Man jailed for smuggling his wife into UK

The sobbing wife of a hospital worker who had helped smuggle her into Kent threw herself onto the floor of a court.

Minutes earlier, Kanar Abbas, 20, had watched as her husband, Farman Kawani, had been jailed for a year for breaching immigration rules.

Canterbury Crown Court had heard how Kawani had been stopped by police at Dover Eastern Docks carrying a suitcase full of women's clothes and an Iraqi ID card belonging to his wife.

As Kawani, who worked for the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, was being led away, Abbas ran from the public gallery and burst into the court crying before flinging herself to the ground.

She was eventually helped away by court staff and Kawani's defence barrister, Andrew Stephens.

Earlier, the court was told how police also discovered a marriage certificate, a mobile phone, but no sim card, and a laptop with no RAM attached, inside Kawani's suitcase plus an e-ticket for a flight to Erbil in Iraq in April 2016 at Kawani's London home.

Ms Abbas is believed to have come to Dover stashed inside a lorry in November 2016 – a day before Kawani was arrested – after £2,000 had been paid.

Officers also discovered photographs of the couple posing in front of the Eiffel Tower and a "goodbye, good luck" card with their names written over pictures of a boy and girl.

The court also heard how Ms Abbas had applied for short-term student visa to attend the Princes College School of English in New Oxford Street in London in July last year – but was refused.

Mr Stephens told the court that Ms Abbas had been promised to another man in Iraq before she met Kawani and she had fled in terror after threats from the family of the man she was promised to.

He said she had been allowed to remain in the UK after she applied for asylum following her husband's arrest but had lost her unborn child in a street robbery attack.

'Baby only solution' to mum and two daughters getting rehomed

Exclusive
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A family cursed with debilitating health problems say they feel the only way the council will rehome them is if one of them has a baby.

Lucy Eve, 34, lives with her cancer sufferer mum Theresa, 70 and autistic sister Amy, 27, in what they describe as a "damp infested" two-bedroom first-floor flat in Park Street, Dover.

They have been battling the council's points system for five years to be rehoused somewhere without stairs, but with Theresa's condition worsening, they now feel suicidal.

Lucy, who is bipolar, lives in constant pain after being diagnosed with fibromyalgia two years ago.

She told this newspaper she doesn't want a baby but feels it is the only way to get her family out of this situation.

Lucy said: "We've tried everywhere. It took us six months to get on the list.

"They [the council] are palming us off and in the meantime we have to live like this. It's not an exaggeration, we feel suicidal, trapped and there's no way of getting out.

"I've got enough to worry about what with looking after my mum and sister.

"I don't want a child but basically if I had one, we'd get a different house."

Theresa, who has spinal cancer also has emphysema, arthritis and depression and Amy has autism and epilepsy.

Theresa was diagnosed with breast cancer six years ago, shortly after the family moved into the flat.

The disease how now reached her spine and she relies on a walking stick and sometimes a wheelchair.

As a consequence, she struggles with the stairs up to the flat.

To make matters worse, she has disturbed sleep because she

shares a bedroom with Amy, while Lucy sleeps on the sofa because her bedroom is so damp-infested.

Despite all their health complaints, they are only graded a B and C.

They look every day for a three-bedroom house without stairs and bid at least twice a month, yet feel their needs are always overlooked by others, especially those with children.

Theresa said: "I don't know what else you need to have wrong to be entitled to a better quality of life.

"I would have thought that everything we have wrong with us would be adequate for us to be an A or B grade."

Lucy said the family have come close to being rehoused on two occasions but have applied dozens of times.

She said: "It's a very small first-floor flat. It's not suitable for three adults.

"We've had somebody from the council come round and look at the damp but they just say keep painting over it.

"We're not physically or financially able to do that.

"We apply for more small places just because they don't have stairs.

The big places are always given to families with small children.

"Some just get withdrawn without any explanation."

The family also feel that Amy, who has the mental age of a five-year-old, needs her own room.

Lucy said: "She requires her own bedroom because she's obsessive compulsive. She's up all night.

"Really she needs a garden because she's technically a child."

The family accept they are not the only ones living in unsuitable accommodation in Dover.

Lucy said: "All the council keep saying is keep applying or advertise for an exchange but the flat is shabby because we can't keep it up. We're happy to move anywhere in the district."

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke said: "I urge Theresa,

Lucy and Amy to contact my office. I will do the best I can to help them."

A Dover District Council (DDC) spokesman said: "DDC continues to work hard to provide help and support to people with housing issues.

"Social housing is allocated in accordance with a published allocations policy, and applicants bid for homes that become available for letting.

"Housing applicants are placed in bands which reflect their assessed housing need.

"Priority within each band is based on the date of application, and priority within the band does increase the longer people have been waiting.

"Applicants in higher priority bands stand the greatest chance of successfully bidding for properties. If people have housing issues, they should contact the council's housing team on 01304 872265."



Lucy Eve and mum Theresa are desperate to be rehoused

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Youth theatre takes centre stage

Young performers unveiled their new show to the public after a week-long workshop.

Dover Youth Theatre's (DYT) New Horizons at Dover Town Hall featured excerpts from musicals, 42nd Street, Half A Sixpence and current West End show Queen, and short film showings.

There was also the performance of a contemporary version of Shakespeare's The Tempest, written specially by playwright Michael Thomas.

The youngsters were guided through the show by industry professionals including choreographer Tamzin Dunstone, film director Jan Dunn and musical director Barney Ashworth.



Dover Youth Theatre's performing at Dover Town Hall beginning next Tuesday at the Salem Baptist Church Hall in Maison Dieu Road, Dover.

There are four classes of drama for youngsters aged six and upwards and two for dance.

To inquire about joining contact the artistic director on 07703 207878 or via doveryouththeatre@hotmail.com

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