

Welcome to the Umeå Region

FOR VOLUNTARY DISSEMINATION AROUND THE COUNTRY
– INFORMATION TO ASYLUM SEEKERS

Bjurholm | Nordmaling | Robertsfors | Vindeln | Vännäs | Umeå



This is the Umeå Region

The Umeå Region is made up of six municipalities: Umeå, Bjurholm, Nordmaling, Robertsfors, Vindeln and Vännäs. The region is both a geographical area and a collaborative organisation. These six municipalities share a natural sense of affinity and they work together to provide good quality of life and public services and strive to improve trade, industry and economic growth.

This form of cooperation has improved the efficiency of the municipalities' work and resulted in better use being made of common resources. This in turn means greater financial power of action so the municipalities can offer common services at a lower cost.

The Umeå Region is also one of Sweden's fastest growing regions. It has two universities, dynamic economic life and an abundance of cultural activities. Cooperating and exchanging ideas over municipality boundaries makes it easy for people and businesses to develop.

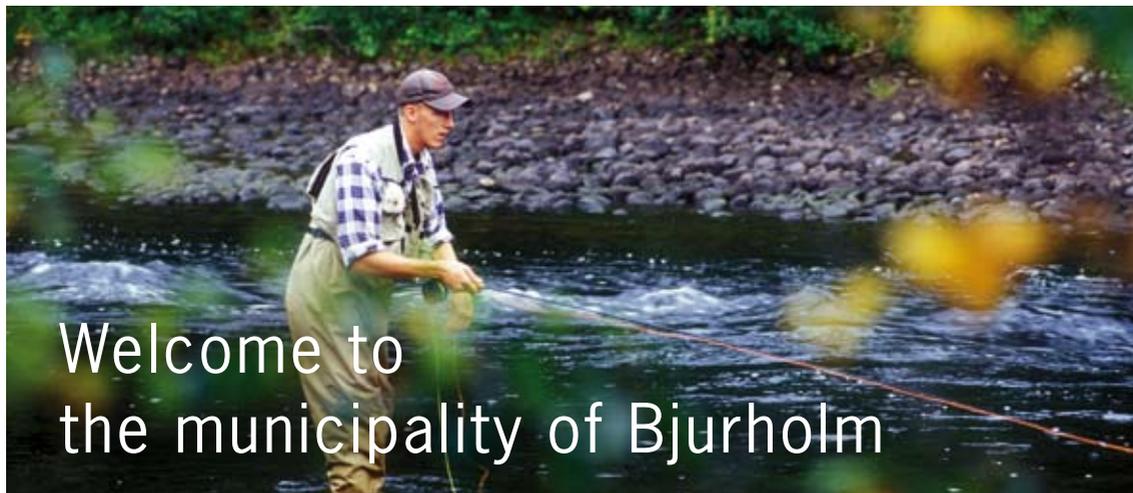
THE REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTRE IN THE UMEÅ REGION CAN OFFER:

- Refugee officers who receive new arrivals and help to introduce them to the community
- Swedish classes, at least 15 hours a week, as part of the introduction
- Work placements/trainee posts
- Contact with the Swedish Public Employment Service within six weeks
- Support in cases of family reuniting
- Support from a working life coach
- Leisure activities through adult educational associations and non-profit organisations

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU:

- That you participate full-time in the introduction, 40 hours a week, if full-time activities are on offer
- That you actively strive to reach the goals set up together with your refugee officer, employment service adviser or any other person involved in your introduction
- That you actively strive to make a living for yourself as soon as possible
- That you study Swedish at the place in the Umeå Region which is deemed to best suit your prior knowledge





Bjurholm is Sweden's smallest municipality with a population of about 2 600 people and an area of about 1 374 square kilometres. Here everything is close at hand and the people who live here are very happy. We have Sweden's lowest crime rate, lowest rent rates and best teacher/pupil ratio.

HOUSING

Bjurholm has many different kinds of housing to choose from. There is a good availability of apartments and both new and old houses which are very reasonably priced, located in the town or in the surrounding rural areas.

SERVICES

In Bjurholm, everything you need is close by. There are shops with food, clothes, shoes etc. There is a library, swimming baths, sports hall, post office, banks and corner shops and of course a health care clinic with doctors, district nurses and dental care.

CHILD CARE AND SCHOOLS

The municipality has junior, intermediate and senior levels of nine-year compulsory school. We have good after-school care for school children and good child care, offering both pre-school units and private childminders.

EDUCATION

You can study SFI (Swedish for Immigrants) at the school Castorskolan in Bjurholm. The municipal adult education college KomVux is located in Vännäs about 30 km to the north. The university in Umeå is within commuting distance.

TRADE, INDUSTRY, LABOUR MARKET

There is a broad spectrum of trade and industry in Bjurholm, ranging from small manufacturing businesses to high-tech industry. The service sector is of great significance to the municipality. Bjurholm is known for its agriculture and forestry, engineering and plastics industries. Because Bjurholm is so small, decision-making processes are short and politicians and officials easily accessible.

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In our municipality, there are many opportunities for people interested in sports and outdoor pursuits. There is an 18-hole golf course 2 km from central Bjurholm. We have an extensive network of illuminated tracks for skiing in the winter and jogging in the summer. The Rågberget downhill ski slope is located about 10 km from the town. In the summer you can canoe on the Öreälven river. We have beautiful, long hiking and riding trails out in the country and good angling waters.

Bjurholm has a wide range of organized activities, offering everything from sports clubs to music and culture societies. We also have a number of adult educational associations with a varied selection of classes.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are good bus connections to Umeå with buses running several times a day. The 60 km trip to Umeå takes about 1 hour. Umeå also has an airport and there is a train station in Vännäs, about 30 minutes away.



For more information

Refugee officer

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Welcome to the municipality of Nordmaling



Nordmaling has a splendid location, right on the coast. It offers public services, good sports facilities and a quiet, safe environment. If you want big arenas, shopping malls and cultural centres, a 45-minute journey in either direction will take you to Örnsköldsvik to the south and Umeå to the north. Nordmaling municipality has a population of about 7 400 people.

HOUSING

Most people in Nordmaling live in their own house but there are also apartments to rent both in the town itself and in the villages around Nordmaling.

SERVICES

Nordmaling municipality has all the public services needed for a comfortable life. There are also food stores, banks, post office, a number of boutiques and restaurants.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE

Nordmaling has preschools and nine-year compulsory school for all children. Child care and schools function well and parents can be confident that their children are being taken care of by competent and committed staff.

EDUCATION

The school Artediskolan has SFI (Swedish for Immigrants) classes and other forms of basic adult education. It is also possible to study at the adult educational associations Vuxenskolan and ABF in Nordmaling.

TRADE, INDUSTRY, LABOUR MARKET

There is a strong industrial tradition in the municipality of Nordmaling. Today trade and industry is based on many small companies and a few larger ones, e.g. Olofsfors AB, Masonite and Pumpex. The local authority is also a major employer, primarily within care services and nursing.

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Being located close to forest, river and the sea, Nordmaling is great for outdoor pursuits. There are fine hiking trails in the municipality and good fishing

waters. If you are interested in sports, there are many excellent facilities e.g. ice-skating hall, sports hall, swimming baths and downhill ski slope. A wide variety of clubs and societies offer activities like horse-riding, shooting, fishing, sports and cultural interests. Everyone can join a society or start their own. The municipality's major attraction is the Olofsfors ironworks which goes back to the 18th century. Today it attracts many visitors with its museum, craftsmen, café, restaurant and various events. The community comes alive in the summer, not least in conjunction with the popular "Returning-home week" (Hemvändarveckan). During that week, there are many activities going on around the municipality and the fair held in central Nordmaling attracts several thousand visitors. Nordmaling also has an autumn fair, "Höstmässan".

COMMUNICATIONS

Nordmaling's location in between Örnsköldsvik and Umeå means there are two airports within easy reach, providing gateways to the rest of the world! Daily bus services along the coast of Norrland with stops at smaller villages also facilitate good communications. At present the Bothnia Railway is being built which will further improve communications. When the railway is complete, the nearest two towns will be only twenty minutes away.



For more information

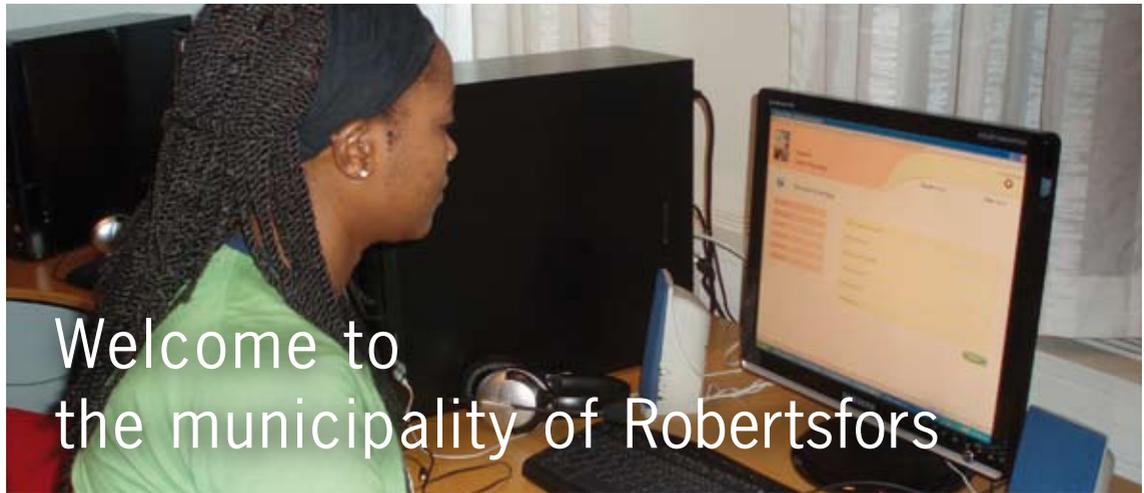
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The municipality of Robertsfors is located in between Umeå and Skellefteå and has a population of about 7 000 people. It is a small municipality where both families with children and single people can feel safe and be happy. Here, it is easy for people of all ages to make friends and there are many things to do in one's leisure time. In Robertsfors, schools and shops are close at hand. It is easy to travel by bus into one of the bigger towns to work, study or meet friends.

HOUSING

Many people in Robertsfors live in their own house but there are also many apartments. You can live either in the town or in one of the municipality's villages.

COMMUNICATIONS

The bus trip to Umeå is fast and there are bus services from early morning to late evening. The journey only takes about 50 minutes and many of the buses stop at Umeå University and Umeå regional hospital where a lot of people work or study. Many people also travel together by car from Robertsfors either to work or to school.

All buses to Umeå stop near the train station and it is easy to travel on out to the airport. The flight from Umeå airport to Stockholm takes about 1 hour.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE

There are 5 nine-year compulsory schools in Robertsfors, 1 upper secondary school and 8 preschools. The child care services and schools constitute a safe and secure environment for children. Young people at upper secondary school can rent a computer to use at home. Adults can study SFI (Swedish for Immigrants) or attend other adult education classes. You can also learn how to drive a car or other skills enabling you to work at a restaurant or hotel, or perhaps with elderly people or in health care.

TRADE, INDUSTRY, LABOUR MARKET

There are a number of industries in Robertsfors municipality, including electronics, tools, surface treatment

and a foundry. The largest industry is a manufacturer of industrial diamonds. Robertsfors municipality is the largest employer. Many people work in schools or care services.

SERVICES

You do not have to travel far to buy what you need. Here there are several large shops where you can buy food, clothes, fabrics, or presents. There are also banks, dentist surgery, a health care clinic, public employment service and chemist.

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In your free time you can go swimming at the swimming baths, ski or skate. There are several sports clubs in the municipality, offering many different activities. Robertsfors is known for its proficiency in football and handball. Ice hockey or riding at the riding club are just a few of the activities on offer. You can also go to the theatre, cinema or visit the library where there are many books written in simple Swedish. If you like fishing, there are many lakes in the municipality with fine fish like salmon and salmon trout. There are also several adult educational associations offering courses in anything from handcraft to languages.



For more information

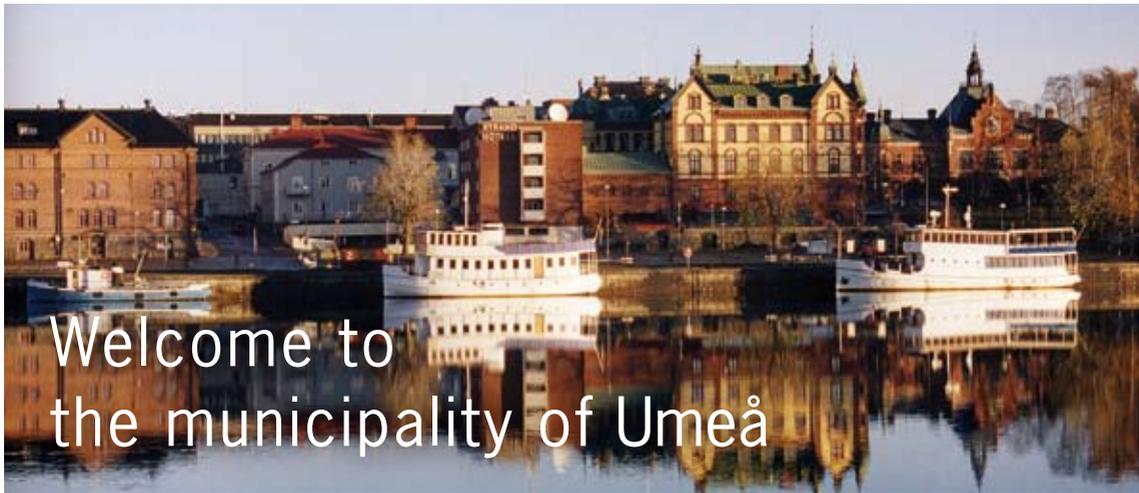
Refugee officer

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Welcome to the municipality of Umeå

Umeå's population is about 111 000 but most of the people who live in Umeå were born somewhere else. The average age is low, 37 years. Umeå is the hub of the Umeå Region.

HOUSING

It is difficult to get accommodation in Umeå. There is a great demand for housing in Umeå and a lot of new production is being built in order to meet the requirements of all the newcomers. Every year about 7 000 people move to Umeå.

SERVICES

The town centre has about 200 shops and several shopping malls. In addition there are many shopping centres, specialist shops and corner shops – all in all a great range for shoppers! Umeå is also home to NUS, the university hospital, which guarantees the most modern medical care available.

CHILD CARE AND SCHOOLS

There is child care and nine-year compulsory school for all children. If you want to study at upper secondary school in Umeå, you have a lot of choice since Umeå has by far the most varied range of upper secondary programmes on offer in Sweden. Umeå municipality cooperates with Vännäs and Robertsfors municipalities to offer 17 national programmes and special schooling at upper secondary level. There are also specially designed programmes available.

EDUCATION

Umeå has two universities. Umeå University is very successful in research; it also embraces a number of university colleges and other training programmes: Umeå Institute of Design, Umeå School of Business, Umeå School of Fine Arts, Umeå School of Environmental Studies, Umeå Institute of Technology, Umeå University School of Restaurant and Culinary Arts, the Police Officer training programme and Umeå Centre of Sports Science. Umeå's other university is the University of Agricultural Sciences which trains forest officers among other things. Umeå also has the municipal adult education service Komvux, Swedish

for Immigrants (SFI) and a number of adult educational associations.

TRADE, INDUSTRY, LABOUR MARKET

Many new businesses are started up in Umeå, not least within the private service sector, education, IT and telecommunications. The engineering industry is strong, as is trading and the public sector.

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Umeå has a wide range of culture and leisure activities. For example, this is the home of Sweden's biggest theatrical society, many museums, attractions, music, dance and other things that spice up the lives of young and old alike. The NorrlandsOperan opera house is located here and Umeå also organizes international festivals of jazz, film, folk music and rock. Umeå has a wide range of ultra-modern sports facilities, all within cycling distance. There are three large sports centres, e.g. IKSU Sportcenter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Traffic and transport services to and from Umeå are busy – whether it be train, car or air travel. Umeå airport is Sweden's sixth largest airport and is located close to the town centre. The airport bus takes 20 minutes; by car the airport is only ten minutes from the town centre.

At present, the largest project ever is underway to improve communications along the coast to Umeå – the Bothnia Railway.



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The municipality of Vindeln has almost 6 000 inhabitants who are very happy with life. This municipality is suitable both for families with children and single people. In Vindeln, everything is close by with short distances between shops, schools, the health care clinic etc.

WORK, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

There are about 500 businesses in Vindeln municipality; most are small or medium-sized. The largest sectors are the manufacturing industry, nursing and caring services. Vindeln's manufacturing businesses are successful and require a lot of manpower.

Vindeln municipality has a trade and industry committee, Vindeln Utveckling, which can help you to start up your own business in the municipality.

EDUCATION

It is possible to study SFI (Swedish for Immigrants) in Vindeln and then there are opportunities for further education. Vindeln has the municipal adult education service KomVux, a Lärcentrum school, a folk high school and various adult educational associations.

COMMUNICATIONS

The municipality's bus services are relatively good and are continually being improved. It takes about 55 minutes to travel by bus to Umeå and there are several buses every day. We have three airports close by: Umeå, Lycksele and Skellefteå. It takes between 50 minutes and 1½ hours to get to an airport. The train station is located in central Vindeln with trains travelling both south and north.

HOUSING

There are apartments in the town and in the villages around Vindeln, some owned by the municipality and others by private landlords.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE

As a parent it is reassuring to know that the schools in Vindeln provide children with good education in a safe environment. There are preschools and childminders located around the municipality. All children are able

to be in an environment adapted to their own needs. As a parent, you can be confident that both child care and schools function well. The staff is competent and committed. After all, children are the most important thing in our lives!

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

The recreational centre Fritidscentrum is located in central Vindeln. Here we have gathered a large number of activities in one place: the ice-skating hall, shooting hall, sports centre and premises for many other sports. Many children and young people in Vindeln play football and ice hockey. There are also premises fully equipped for music.

Vindeln also has a swimming baths and a sports hall. There is a riding school located just outside Vindeln. Vindeln is proud of its wide range of clubs and societies. Here you will find almost everything, from motor and sports clubs to theatre and music societies. If there is something you lack, then there is nothing to stop you from starting up your own club!

SERVICES

Vindeln has everything you need. We have food shops and boutiques selling clothes and shoes. Vindeln also has a hardware store and shops selling paint, electronic equipment and white goods.

There is also a modern health care clinic with both medical services and dental care.



For more information:

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Vännäs is located in the centre of the Umeå Region and is surrounded by exciting and interesting places. It has a population of 8 500. Here we strive for good quality of life for young and old alike. We make a big effort to help everyone who wants to move here and we offer professional help to people wanting to set up business here. Vännäs has the community spirit of a small town combined with the technology and services of a larger town.

HOUSING

In Vännäs you can find your ideal accommodation, whether you choose an apartment or house in the town itself or out in one of the villages.

SERVICES

Vännäs has a wide selection of shops. Here you will find everything from souvenirs and handicraft to antique bargains and the very latest in fashion, all within easy walking distance. There are also shops with everyday commodities, restaurants, banks, chemist, health clinic, dentist surgery and library. Vännäs has a family centre with a maternity clinic, children's clinic, family counselling, young people's centre, open preschool and preventive social services.

WORK, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Vännäs has a wide range of businesses, many in the transport sector. There are also manufacturing industries, trading and service companies. Vännäs has the lowest rate of unemployment in the county of Västerbotten which means there is always a need for qualified workers. The public sector (nursing, education and care services) is in constant need of manpower. The trade and industry office in Vännäs is proficient at helping people who want to start their own company. It also helps to develop and improve local trade and industry.

CHILD CARE AND SCHOOLS

The schools in Vännäs are spread out geographically around the municipality, some centrally located in the town, others out in villages. Schooling for mentally

handicapped children is integrated from preschool, through nine-year compulsory school up to upper secondary school. There are good after-school recreation centres for school children and child care consisting of both preschool units and childminders. Upper secondary school Liljaskolan is one of the largest in the Umeå Region with its 1 100 pupils. Most of the pupils come from the Umeå Region but we also have pupils from about 80 other municipalities in Sweden and pupils from other Scandinavian countries.

EDUCATION

You can study SFI (Swedish for Immigrants) at Liljaskolan in Vännäs which also offers municipal adult education classes. Other types of courses are also available, e.g. commercial driver, engine driver, driving school teacher, nursing programme, logistics courses and others. Umeå is close by and thanks to good communications, it is easy to study at the university there. We also have many adult educational associations in the municipality that offer a number of different courses, anything from languages and social issues to culture and leisure activities.

CULTURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Vännäs has a rich variety of clubs, societies and organizations – almost 160 in number! They offer anything from different sports to cultural activities. Vännäs has a cinema, library, ice-skating hall, riding school, illuminated skiing track, downhill ski slope with a half-pipe, football pitches, motor sports facilities, shooting hall, heated outdoor pool, access to country walking trails, good fishing and a lot more.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vännäs is a commuting municipality which means we have good communications to and from the municipalities around us. On weekdays, buses go about 30 times to and from Umeå, a journey of about 30 minutes. Vännäs is a well-established railway junction, making for easy travel by train both northwards and southwards. Moreover, having Umeå so close by means easy access to air travel. The two major highways that run through the municipality create good communications in both east-west and north-south directions.



For more information:

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The labour market in the Umeå Region

The following occupations are likely to face a shortage of staff in the future:

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Doctors
Nurses with special qualifications
Personal assistants (working with someone with a disability)
Assistant nurses (in certain municipalities)
Biomedical analysts

TEACHING

Upper secondary school teachers/vocational teachers (vehicle engineering/construction/painting)
Language teachers e.g. Spanish, German
Remedial teachers
Music teachers

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

CNC operators
Licensed welders and pipe welders
Tool mechanics
Engineers and technicians
Constructors
Machinery
Electronics
Electric power

IT/COMPUTING

Qualified IT strategists
Systems engineers/programmers (qualified computer engineers)

CAR REPAIR SHOPS

Qualified car mechanics
Lorry mechanics
Machinery mechanics (e.g. loader, front loader, excavator)

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Carpenters with experience
Concrete workers with experience from reinforcement

Bricklayers/tillers with experience
Construction and site work, especially people qualified in plumbing (seasonal work)
Plumbing and sanitary fitters – install/repair plumbing in buildings
Cooling system fitters – installation/maintenance of refrigerating plants
Electricians – installation and industry, experienced
Construction sheet-metal workers, experienced
Machine operators in building and construction, e.g. excavator
Foremen/site managers within plumbing, heating and sanitation, electricity and construction
Engineers/Planning consultants within plumbing, heating and sanitation, electricity and construction
Architect/planning engineer

TRANSPORT

Lorry drivers (e.g. ADR, tank lorry)
Truck-driver (truck licence) – handling goods
Forest machinery driver (certain municipalities)

CATERING

Chefs with special qualifications and experience
Waiters, experienced

Important things to remember when applying for a job

- Certificates/qualification documents, (important to prove special qualifications)
- References/Certificates from earlier jobs
- Authorisation cards (e.g. doctor, nurse)
 - Swedish language skills
 - Personal presentation
- Show enthusiasm for and interest in job/company



PHOTO: CALLE BREDBERG, BRITT GUSTAFSSON, VÄNNÄS BILD, LARS KLEFBOHM, BERNT LIDSTRÖM, MIKAEL LUNDGREN, UMEÅ KOMMUNS BIBDBANK, VINDELN UTVECKLINGS BILDARKIV.

FOR VOLUNTARY DISSEMINATION AROUND THE COUNTRY
– INFORMATION TO ASYLUM SEEKERS

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