

STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH REFUGEES



THE NATIONALITY & BORDERS BILL

The heinous Nationality & Borders Bill, voted through parliament in April 2022 will vastly change the current asylum system in the UK. The legislation will effectively create a discriminatory two-tier asylum system, undermining how the UK fulfils its international obligations to those seeking asylum. The Bill will criminalise and punish refugees, depending on how they arrived in the UK. This would result in a significant reduction in the number of women, men and children who are able to access family reunion - one of the few existing safe and regular routes into the UK.

WHY ARE WE CONCERNED?

1. It could criminalise people seeking asylum or punish them simply for how they got here.

People arriving in the UK for safety could instead be imprisoned for arriving without correct paperwork. The bill would create a system that would treat refugees differently, and deny them rights, simply because some people were forced to take a dangerous route of arriving by boat. The Bill would give the UK government the power to jail people seeking asylum for up to four years after being forced to take a treacherous journey by small boat.

2. It could force people to 'processing' centres – some offshore!

People trying to seek safety could be detained in other countries, leaving them waiting in anguish to rebuild their lives or be reunited with family members in the UK. If in the UK, the proposals are to use large scale accommodation centres – rather than allowing vulnerable people to feel safe in communities. The Bill also seeks to legalise the government's "Rwanda Plan", where people seeking asylum will be sent to Rwanda instead of being allowed to settle in the UK.

3. It does nothing to help refugees find a safe way to get here.

If the Bill is about stopping unsafe journeys to the UK, it needs to also create safe and legal routes - it does not do this and could further restrict what routes there are such as family reunion.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The UK's inhumane Nationality and Borders Bill will soon become law. This is scary news for people seeking safety, so it's time for us to stand in solidarity with refugees and people seeking asylum from all the world. As our government seeks to bring in heinous and cruel policies we must all stand together and show them how we feel - find out what you can do below!



1

GET ACTIVE ON CAMPUS!

There are so many different ways to get involved in campaigning - so now's the time to get active on your campus! You could host a stall, film night, letter-writing session, or even join a rally in your local area - there are lots of different things you do to stand on solidarity with people seeking sanctuary. Get active as an individual, join your local Oxfam Student Activist Group (or you could even set up your own!) and start campaigning!

2

SUPPORT REFUGEES IN YOUR AREA

Our current asylum system can leave those still in the asylum process at risk of destitution if their claim is turned down, living in poverty while they go through the process with just £40.80 a week to live on, and no recourse to public funds. Women can be most at risk. Providing support to local groups across the UK that are working with people seeking safety can act as a warm welcome and an important lifeline. Whether it's your time or financial support local groups will be able to let you know what's most needed in your area.

3

SPREAD THE WORD!

The outpouring of support for refugees from the UK public is loud and clear right now. So many people are ready and willing to open their arms and welcome people who have already suffered enough - so let's amplify this and spread the word across social media!

LIFT THE BAN

Currently people seeking asylum in the UK are not allowed to work. This means they have to live off just £5.66 a day, making it hard to afford even the bare essentials. It means the UK government are also wasting the opportunity to use the talents of thousands of people across the UK because of their immigration status. People who have risked everything to find safety should have the best chance of contributing to our society and integrating into our communities. This means giving people seeking asylum the right to work so that they can use their skills and live in dignity.

The Lift the Ban Coalition, comprising over 240 different organisations are calling for the UK government to allow people seeking asylum in the UK to work. On 21 October 2020, the Coalition presented the Home Office with a petition signed by more than 180,000 people calling on the Government to lift the ban. There is however lots of campaigning still to be done!



Find out more about the campaign here:

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban/>



Download the Activism Pack here:

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Lift-the-Ban-Activism-Pack.pdf>



LIFT THE BAN

FIGHT FOR FAMILY REUNION

Right now, refugees in the UK are denied the right to be with the people they love needlessly by strict UK laws. Such rules are leaving vulnerable people isolated, traumatised and alone.

Currently adult refugees can sponsor only their closest relatives to join them - their partners and children under 18 years old. Refugee children do not have the right to sponsor any family members to join them. This means that parents in the UK are unable to bring children over the age of 18 to join them; refugee children in the UK are forced to live apart from their parents, and refugees are unable to bring elderly relatives to live with them in safety.

The rules keeping refugee families apart are unfair, and the Families Together Coalition are campaigning to change them! **We are campaigning for...**



Child refugees in the UK to have the right to sponsor their close family so they can rebuild their lives together and help them integrate in their new community



The definition of who qualifies as family to be expanded so that young people who have turned 18 and elderly parents can live with their family in safety



The reintroduction of legal aid so refugees have the support they need to afford and navigate the complicated process of being reunited with their families

STAND AGAINST DETENTION

In the UK, immigration detention is the policy of **detaining people seeking asylum in centres who don't yet have leave to remain or whose leave to remain has expired.** In the UK, 28,000 people are detained each year, many without any warning.

There is also no time limit on detention in the UK, meaning people in the asylum system can be detained for months, and sometimes even years without a trial or release date. This can cause serious harm to people stuck in the system.

There are lots of organisations you can get involved with who are standing against the use of detention policy. One of them is These Walls Must Fall, a growing movement of organisations, groups, communities, people and networks who are fighting against the injustice of immigration detention.

Take a look below to find out more about how to get involved:



<https://twitter.com/wallsmustfall>



<https://detention.org.uk/>



USEFUL LINKS & RESOURCES

Materials

There are lots of amazing materials for this campaign, so please do share them far and wide across your social media! You can download them [here](#). We can also send you materials for your campaigning, like action cards, posters and petitions - get in touch with Sophie at smorbey1@oxfam.org.uk!

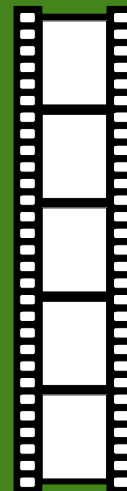
Articles & Blogs

Together With Refugees response to the UK's "Home for Ukraine" scheme: <https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-and-proposal-for-all-refugees/>

Families Together 2022 Coalition Briefing: <https://famielsttogether.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NBB-Report-Stage-Families-Together.pdf>

Films

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/artists-and-films/online-films/>
<https://www.unhcr.org/innovation/7-videos-guaranteed-to-change-the-way-you-see-refugees/>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2019/06/world-refugee-day-watch-documentaries-190619133119156.html>
<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/education-resources/educational-videos/>
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2016/04/12/473007477/watch-these-3-unfair-yaes-and-see-if-they-move-you>



THANK YOU!

