



Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

23 Lincoln Road, Hindley, Wigan. WN2 3QY

johnskipworth038@btinternet.com (correspondence)

info@ld4sos.org.uk www.ld4sos.org.uk [facebook.com/ld4sos](https://www.facebook.com/ld4sos) twitter.com/ld4sos

President Lord Roger Roberts of Llandudno

LD4SOS AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

A warm welcome to our most recent MPs, Jane Dodds and Sarah Wollaston, and also to Chuka Umunna, who joined us a little earlier. Jane is already a member and strong supporter of LD4SOS and we hope the others will be too.

CHILD REFUGEE NEWS

There are still hundreds of unaccompanied minors in Calais, as well as thousands more across Europe, and in Calais subject to brutal police attacks - partly funded by the UK government's payments to the French for "border security". Despite an announcement by former Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, the Dubs quota for unaccompanied child asylum seekers remains unfilled after over three years.

Sign [this](#) petition to let Boris know that the UK must take in 10,000 unaccompanied children. Show that the UK does care. Then share to others. Remember it is Lib Dem Policy [as here](#), and please remind people of that when sharing.

CHANNEL CROSSINGS

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-boat-crossings-english-channel-latest-asylum-seekers-iranian-iraqi-return-europe-a9039836.html?fbclid=IwAR02a97-T7dJXVukGpOTAYgSF5dscxO0XUK9J_y9s7SrBpXj90degVR57N4 gives the story on how those crossing the

Channel are being returned to Europe.

Christine Jardine, our new Lib Dem Home Affairs spokesman, has called the Prime Minister's comments on Channel crossings "Unlawful and inhumane". You can read more in our web article, [here](#).

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

The [restoration of immigration legal aid](#) for unaccompanied children comes [over a year](#) after the Home Office first made this announcement. It is however good news that children coming to the UK under the DUBS Amendment will be given leave to remain immediately on arrival.

LIFT THE BAN

This is a [really good link](#) to the "Lift The Ban" campaign to give asylum seekers the right to work. A campaign backed by the Lib Dems ([it fits with our existing policy!](#)) which will relieve needless poverty, benefit the economy and help integration within communities. Have a look and see what you can do locally, whether it is getting the petitions signed or your Council Group taking a motion to their Council.

DETENTION

We are more than disappointed that the Government has [rejected the cross party calls](#) for ending indefinite detention.

It is now one year on from the Shaw Review, and we agree entirely with [what Detention Action say](#) "We welcome progress in reducing the detention estate, and the former Minister's commitment to 'going further and faster in reforming immigration detention' and "With a new Prime Minister coming in to No.10, we hope for fresh thinking and a rejection of the failed policies of the past. The Minister conspicuously did not back calls for a 28-day time limit and safeguards such as statutory criteria for detention including judicial review within 72 hours."

We believe it is unacceptable, a year after Sir Stephen Shaw's damning review of detention, that the Government is still routinely locking up 25,000 people a year, which is ineffective and expensive.

A PUBLIC HEARING

It is very good news indeed that the [High Court has ruled](#) that the enquiry into immigration detention centre abuse has to be in public. This is a first, but does not in itself resolve the issues. Whilst conditions must be good and people be treated with humanity – options in the community should replace detention, so that it is used as an absolute last resort and for the minimum of time.

DEPORTATIONS

There was [a letter](#) from LD4SOS Council member Suzanne Fletcher published in The Guardian the other day about the cruelty of how the UK Government treats people being deported. There is a simple answer: to use the National Independent Commission guidelines on Enforced Removals (NICER).

<http://citizensuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NICER-Final-Report.pdf>

IMPRISONMENT FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION (IPP) LETTER TO CHURCH TIMES FROM LD4SOS MEMBER:

[The article](#) in The Church Times on prisoners held under IPP rules and [this item](#) rightly highlight many injustices. It is not only unjust, but the impact of a prisoner's being held with no release date can be catastrophic for them.

Bishops in the House of Lords have rightly supported legislation to end indefinite detention. I hope that they will continue to do so whenever the current Immigration Bill reaches Parliament again.

There is another flaw in the system, however. Those migrants who have been imprisoned for a criminal act before being deported to their country of origin are detained even longer. The Home Office seems not to apply for the necessary paperwork and tickets until after the release date. This means that someone who is not deemed as a risk to the public is detained even longer, whether in the same prison or a prison-like detention centre. These people have no voice and their cause is generally unknown.

TRAFFICKING

British Red Cross Report on Survivors of Trafficking after the National Referral Mechanism

Under National Referral, someone recognised by the Home Office as having been trafficked is entitled to only 45 days of basic accommodation and financial aid. After this, all support stops, leaving people facing poverty and, most worryingly, at risk of falling back into the hands of their traffickers.

Those most at risk are those without UK or EU nationality, because lacking an automatic right to stay in the UK makes them ineligible for any help.

The Report found clear evidence that longer term, personalised support based on needs for at least 12 months should be a core part of a comprehensive support offer to survivors of exploitation and trafficking. You can find the full findings and recommendations [in the report](#).

FEES FOR VISAS

This is a real moneymaking venture for the Home Office, but young people have been forced into destitution as reported in [this Guardian article](#), because fees have more than trebled in last 5 years. The cost of renewing an application for a resident with limited leave to remain has increased by 238% in five years – from £601 per person in 2014 to £2,033 in January 2019. [Let us Learn](#), which is part of the charity Just for Kids Law, compiled the data as part of a report by young UK migrants about life on the Home Office's 10 year route to British citizenship.

USEFUL LINKS

To help you with information for the work that you do: [Friends of Refugees](#) in Bedford, and [Friends of Yarlswood](#).