

The Nationality and Borders Bill

(widely seen as the "anti-refugee" Bill)

"a wrecking ball to the right to claim asylum in the UK" *Refugee Action*

The harshest legislation on Immigration and Asylum ever seen.

Most people seeking asylum will be deemed inadmissible. The proposed legislation is profoundly flawed, unjust, unlawful and will lead to unprecedented suffering.

- **Removal of the Right to Claim Asylum.** Any adult who enters the UK spontaneously - including refugees from Afghanistan - will be refused, no matter the situation they have fled, their experience of war, torture, or being forcibly trafficked. This would violate international law, and has been strongly condemned by the United Nations.

WHY they have come will NOT MATTER - only HOW they have come.

- **Mass Asylum Camps and Deportation.** Instead of being housed in communities as now, people will be held in mass asylum camps, to be deported as soon as possible.
- **'Offshoring'.** They will also be liable for 'Offshore Processing' - where people are sent to a third country to live in detention camps; countries so far being suggested include Tunisia, Ascension Island, and Ruanda.

Australian offshore camps have held men, women and small children for years in brutal, dehumanising conditions. Beyond the reach of any support networks, these are places of huge cruelty where inhumanity prevails.

- **Criminalisation of refugees.** People will become liable to up to FOUR YEARS IN PRISON for 'knowingly' entering the UK unofficially - a new criminal offence.
- **Criminalisation of people who help.** People who help them to arrive will also be criminalised. This could mean simply pulling a dinghy full of sodden and famished people to shore. The implications for RNLI have caused huge outrage.
- *Fact: For **most** people seeking asylum here their **only** option is to enter in small boats or a lorry.*
- *Fact: almost **everyone** arriving **in small boats** is seeking **refuge**. Under the new laws, virtually **NONE** of them would be eligible to have their asylum cases heard.*
- *Fact: **Two thirds of women and children** seeking asylum would be **turned away**.*
- *Fact: Recent research confirms that **most people** by far want a **kinder, fairer** asylum system. **In the South East, 72% are of this view** and would see these proposals as 'going too far'.*

Please urgently write to your MP to ask her/him to oppose the Bill, and to ensure a kind and fair asylum system which ensures compassionate support for people forced to flee their homes, in rebuilding their lives here with us.