

1. ENDING IMMIGRATION DETENTION (GOLDEN MOTION)

Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mark Weston

Motion submitted by: Cllr Hance, Redland ward, Green

Date submitted: 29 November 2018

Full Council notes that:

1. Some Immigrants and asylum seekers ~~who have committed no crimes~~ continue to be detained in conditions that are sometimes worse than mainstream prisons.
2. The UK is the only country in Europe to not have a time limit on how long immigrants and asylum seekers can be detained. This means that many individuals can potentially be ~~are~~ detained for months or even years at a time, without any certainty about when they'll be released or deported, causing significant and unacceptable distress.
- ~~3. There are 11 detention centres used for this purpose in the UK, one of the largest number is Europe.~~
4. Between 2500 and 3500 people are detained at any time and 27,300 ended up in the Centres in 2017 at a cost of over £125 million a year. ~~This is not only a waste of money, but indefinite detention without charge is a clear breach of people's human rights.~~
5. There are still reports of instances where the Home Office is still arriving at asylum seekers' homes in the middle of the night, here in Bristol or stopping them when they are legitimately signing on at the police station in Patchway, whisking them away to another part of the country, ~~where many are unable to have visits from family and friends due to the cost of travel. The majority of detainees are eventually released if they get the right legal support, as they have done nothing wrong, but many never get over the trauma of detention.~~

Full Council:

1. Believes that the Government must ~~end~~ endeavour to implement a humane, efficient and pragmatic immigration policies, in which lawful detention plays a part ~~now~~. This should be used sparingly and for the shortest time feasible.
2. ~~Restates our commitment~~ As a City of Sanctuary it is recognised and recognises these issues form an essential part of the Dignity not Destitution Pledge, which has been signed by the Mayor.

Full Council calls on the Mayor to:

1. ~~Endorse the These Walls Must Fall Campaign~~ (<http://detention.org.uk/>)
2. Call on the Government to revisit ~~implement~~ the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into detention with a view to enacting improvements – including shorter timescales around appeals.
3. Recognise all the hard work that volunteers do to support local asylum seekers who are

detained.

4. Prepare a report – with contributions from all stakeholders involved in this issue – which examines and explains the practices employed in Bristol and the sub-region.

4. Ask our local MPs to support the spirit of the motion, to continue to raise the matter in the House of Commons, and to support changes in current laws and procedures to introduce alternatives to detention where practicable.

~~5. Seek further support for the motion via the Local Government Association, and by encouraging other Councils in the UK to raise the issue.~~

Amended motion to read:-

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- 1 Some Immigrants and asylum seekers continue to be detained in conditions that are sometimes worse than mainstream prisons.
2. The UK is the only country in Europe to not have a time limit on how long immigrants and asylum seekers can be detained. This means that detained for months or even years at a time, without any certainty about when they'll be released or deported, causing significant and unacceptable distress.
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Full Council:

Believes that the Government must endeavour to implement a humane, efficient and pragmatic immigration policies, in which lawful detention plays a part. This should be used sparingly and for the shortest time feasible.

As a City of Sanctuary it is recognised these issues form an essential part of the Dignity not Destitution Pledge, which has been signed by the Mayor.

Full Council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Call on the Government to revisit the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into detention with a view to enacting improvements – including shorter timescales around appeals.
2. Recognise all the hard work that volunteers do to support local asylum seekers who are detained.

3. Prepare a report – with contributions from all stakeholders involved in this issue – which examines and explains the practices employed in Bristol and the sub-region.

4. Ask our local MPs to support the spirit of the motion, to continue to raise the matter in the House of Commons, and to support changes in current laws and procedures to introduce alternatives to detention where practicable.