

British Immigration Policy

This Union notes:

1. The case of Victor Ruttoh and other students, from this Union and others around the country, who have been targeted by the immigration service for removal because of minor infringements of their visas. We now understand that he has been removed from this country.
2. That Victor has passed information to the Union concerning detainees in Campsfield and Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centres. In particular he has told us of detainees who are over 70 years old and of detainees who have spent significant amounts of time within those centres.
3. That removals require either charter flights or scheduled flights and that, in both cases, these are provided by airlines. That the requirement to use an airline has been seen as a weakness by anti-deportation campaigns across Europe.
4. That the current Labour government has done more than any other in recent history to legislate against immigrants.
5. That many of the claims in the right wing press which are taken as reasons to act against asylum seekers are inaccurate.

This Union believes:

1. That Victor's case is part of a greater picture of crackdowns by the immigration service which are preventing people from staying within Britain's shores.
2. That while some restrictions are necessary, the level of restrictions is now at such a height that it is unnecessarily affecting the rights of the international students who form a major constituency within Union membership.
3. That the current legislation is often racist and does not treat asylum seekers as human beings. That the Labour government should stand up to the demands of the right wing press and push forwards the case for immigration.
4. That the Union should provide information on the truth about asylum in Britain.
5. That the forthcoming General Election must be fought over how harshly each side will attack the rights of immigrants. That Labour must not attempt to use an immigration crackdown to boost its campaign.

This Union resolves:

1. To call on the Government to review its immigration policies, to stop victimising students and to be more humane in its provisions for asylum seekers.
2. To continue its support for Victor and to work to clear his name and get him back into the country to finish his studies.
3. To fulfil the Union's responsibility to provide information to students about the myths and facts surrounding asylum seekers.

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