

Model motion for councils rejecting the Immigration Bill brought forward in March 2023

This council commits itself to defend the human rights of all our residents, and to fulfilling its public sector equality duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people.

We note the Government is bringing forward yet another immigration bill, at a time when there are currently no safe routes to the UK for those who seek asylum here, including those with family members in our communities.

People who arrive irregularly (and there are no other ways to arrive currently) will never be allowed, under the provisions of this Bill, to access the asylum system. Instead, they will be left destitute, without the right to work and in legal limbo indefinitely. The Bill would also remove vital protections for children, victims of trafficking and pregnant people, meaning they could all face detention. Locking up children and people who are about to give birth represents a shocking rollback of human rights.

We commit our authority to safeguarding and protecting all our children, pregnant people and our vulnerable residents.

We condemn this callous Bill, which rips up fundamental tenets of international human rights law, and is an all-out assault on migrants' rights. We commit to defending the rights of all our communities to live side by side in dignity, to continuing to welcome those who make our borough their home, and to working with them so that we can all thrive together.

We call on the Home Secretary to

- a) Withdraw the Bill
- b) Commit to resourcing an asylum system that can deliver fair and timely asylum decisions
- c) End the contracts with providers of temporary, often poor quality and unsuitable accommodation for asylum seekers in hotels, hostels etc

We call on the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities to open discussions now with local authorities about the best ways and resources needed to provide good quality long term accommodation for all those in need, including asylum seekers, within our communities.

We offer our thanks to the many public figures and politicians who have stood up for human rights for migrants and basic decency in their treatment, and call on the British Broadcasting Corporation (that we fund) to support them as they express what we believe to be fundamental shared values.

We mandate our council (leader/mayor/etc) to write to The Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities and the Chair and Director General of the BBC to this effect.

As an authority, we will continue to work with all our communities to develop and publicise proper reporting mechanisms for hate crime and, with all our partners in our community safety, work to ensure that all reports are followed up and action taken.

We pledge to raise a Refugees Welcome banner on the Town Hall and to meet refugee and migrant communities in our area to discuss what more we can do to make them feel welcome here.

(please add in any references to current work, and where relevant add that in response the council will appoint a Migrant Champion councillor. For more information on this: <https://migrantchampionsnetwork.org/becoming-a-migrant-champion>)