



What's wrong with the Nationality and Borders Bill?

A webinar/briefing for clergy and lay leaders of all faiths & denominations

The Nationality & Borders Bill is currently making its way through the House of Commons. It aims to do away entirely with the independent arrival of asylum-seekers to this country – and there are some other very worrying aspects such as criminalising asylum-seekers, detaining them (indefinitely), processing them on remote islands (such as in the South Atlantic), and deporting them to unsafe countries – a prohibited action known as refoulement.

One of the biggest problems is that the bill directly contravenes international refugee law, including the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. The UN has taken the unusual step of speaking out strongly against the bill.

The Home Office has presented the bill to the public in a way that seems compassionate and sensible – but only by knowing a bit about the

way asylum works, and what the government intends, can you unpick the plan and see how devastating it really is. The refugee charity sector is appalled.

Faith groups should be very concerned. The bill is cruel and unjust, and will leave us with a very limited asylum system – which will criminalise and punish some of the most vulnerable and traumatised people in the world.

“Christian faith has always been clear: we protect and defend the poorest and weakest people among us. Rather than demonise refugees and asylum seekers, we need to show the sort of costly love and mercy that we would wish for ourselves, were we to find ourselves similarly bereft. ***The government needs to be challenged on its view of basic human value in a contested world.***”

– Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

Here's what we'll cover:

- Is Britain really 'full'? Busting some myths
- What the new bill sets out to do
- 7 key problems with the bill
- Reactions to the bill from leading voices
- Why the government's words can't be taken at face value
- How you can protest the bill – together is stronger.

When is it?

4pm-5:15pm on Tuesday 28 September 2021.

Who's hosting it?

It will be hosted jointly by Ripon City of Sanctuary and Asylum Matters.

How do you register?

Email info@ripon.cityofsanctuary.org and we'll send you a Zoom link. If you can't attend, tell us and we'll send you a link to recording afterwards.

 Ripon City of Sanctuary

 asylum matters