

Nationality and borders bill

Emma Harrison, Chief Executive, IMIX

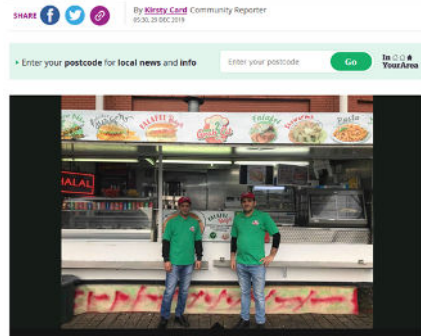
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How two Syrian refugees who fled war became a business success in Birmingham

Hayan Anjari and Yousef Almotlak both came to Birmingham after fleeing war and have now set up their own business



Express & Star

Sanctuary seekers living the good life at Wolverhampton allotments

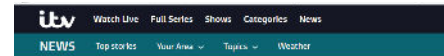
By James Wakelind | Wolverhampton | Published: Aug 17, 2020

A group of sanctuary seekers in Wolverhampton are preparing to reap the rewards after cultivating a vibrant area of growth from a wilderness.

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Patience enjoys a laugh with Geoff Gooding at Mount Road Allotments. The six friends have worked on three allotment plots at Mount Road Allotments to grow a



Syrian doctor tells ITV News he cannot get into the NHS to help fight coronavirus due to strict English exams

HEALTH | WORLD | CORONAVIRUS | SYRIA | Thursday 21 March 2020, 5:11pm



What we do



News Coventry News NHS

Coventry refugee who fled war now working on NHS coronavirus frontline

Iraqi national Aya Jabbar arrived in Coventry in June 2019 through the Home Office's Vulnerable Children's Resettler Scheme

How refugees are leading the way in helping UK communities through the pandemic



25 Nov 2020

Home Office broke equality law over treatment of Windrush generation, watchdog



How we'll spend our together

- An overview of what is in this new parliamentary bill
- Tell you how a bill goes through parliament
- Talk about how together we can try and change the bill
- Share ideas about how to make things better!

Some of what we discuss may make you feel uncomfortable, if that is the case, please send a private message to Julia.

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What is in this new Bill (according to our government)



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OUR NEW PLAN FOR IMMIGRATION WILL:



Speed up removal of failed asylum seekers and dangerous foreign criminals.



Introduce new maximum life sentences for **people smugglers**.



Empower Border Force to do more to stop and seize small boats and search containers for hidden migrants.



Stop illegal arrivals gaining immediate entry into the asylum system **if they have travelled through a safe country** – like France.



Increase the maximum sentence for illegally entering the UK.



Grant resettled refugees indefinite leave to remain.



Better integrate refugees who are resettled.

What we think this means

- Make it harder for people to seek asylum
- Criminalise people with credible and legal asylum claims just based on how they arrive in the UK
- Make it quicker for people to be removed unfairly and without proper legal advice
- Criminalise people for helping people to reach our shores

Overall, we think its an anti-refugee bill

The logo for 'imix' is displayed in a bold, lowercase, pink font. The letters are closely spaced, and the 'i' and 'm' have a distinctive shape with a small dot above the 'i' and a curved top for the 'm'. The 'x' is also bold and pink.

When are the key dates?

- The Bill was published **yesterday**
- There will be a debate on **19th & 20th July**,
- The stages of the bill mean that it is likely to be debated until **Autumn**

HOW LAWS ARE PASSED



FIRST READING
BILL IS INTRODUCED.
NO DEBATE.



SECOND READING
MAIN DEBATE ON THE
PURPOSE OF THE BILL.



COMMITTEE STAGE
LINE BY LINE SCRUTINY OF
THE BILL. AMENDMENTS
SUGGESTED AND VOTED ON.



REPORT STAGE
FURTHER CHANGES
CAN BE MADE.



ROYAL ASSENT
THE BILL BECOMES AN
"ACT OF PARLIAMENT"



EACH HOUSE
CONSIDERS THE
OTHER'S AMENDMENTS.



THIRD READING
A "TIDYING UP" STAGE. LAST CHANCE
FOR AMENDMENTS AND VOTES.

Most bills start in the House of Commons

- 650 MPs, elected by the people
- Current Government has 80 seat majority
- Once a Bill is 'introduced' it has to go through a process before becoming law



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Second Reading



Chance for MPs to debate the Bill;

charities will often send a briefing to MPs to help them think through what they want to say

MPs will often talk about how the Bill might impact their communities

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Committee Stage

This is where the bill is looked at very carefully by a group of cross-party MPs. The biggest group will be from the Conservative Party as they have the majority.

Every clause and schedule of the Bill is examined, and charities often such changes (called amendments).



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Report Stage and Third Reading



At Report Stage, amendments have been made by the committee and there is a chance for more debate by all MPs

After the report stage, there is more discussion and then it goes to a vote. This is called Third Reading.

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House of Lords



- The House of Lords has 790 people in it. They are often called 'Peers'
- Some are 'hereditary' (like the Queen), most are nominated by political parties.
- You can write to any Lord and share your views on the Bill - best to find one with an interest in refugee protection
- The House of Lords will look at the Bill and make suggestions (amendments)

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Parliamentary ping-pong

- The Bill then returns to the House of Commons. If they accept the amendments of the House of Lords, the Bill is passed.
- If the House of Commons rejects the amendments, the Bill travels between the House of Commons and the House of Lords until they reach an agreement but...



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Final decision belongs to the Government



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Once the Bill has done through all these stages, it goes to the Queen to sign it off!



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So, what can we do?

- Share our stories – by telling people what its like to struggle to find safety ... and what it means to be able to rebuild a life
- Show that lots of people in the UK care about those seeking asylum
- ***Make lots of noise***
 - Through social media
 - The Press
 - By contacting your MP

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Share your experience

- Stories will always have more of an impact and engage audiences more than just facts which are abstract. They help to avoid sweeping generalisations and connect with audiences.
- Always connect your story with the change you want to see.
- Share positive and community led stories where possible.
- Can also use examples of local welcome, support and community.
- Remember that you are in charge of sharing your history

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Some ideas for key messages

- The UK has a proud history of welcoming refugees like me and want to see this tradition continue
- We're calling for calling for a more effective, fair and humane approach to the refugee system in the UK
- We believe that people shouldn't be given refugee status based on how they arrived here, but the danger they are in.
- We're calling on the government to fundamentally rethink these proposals and introduce new safe routes, so that people don't have to risk their life taking dangerous journeys
- Refugees want to contribute to our communities, help us do

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Making noise – standing up for asylum

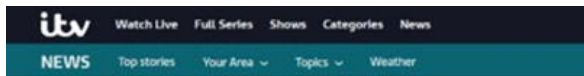
- Sometimes it feels difficult to speak about refugee protection
 - There is a noisy minority who shout about it all the time but...
 - Lots of people in the UK are on our side – 25% of the population!
- Most people aren't sure what they think about it, talking to those people is important but we have to think carefully about how we do it
 - They believe in safety
 - They like it when people do well
 - They don't like 'big numbers'
 - They don't like being told off

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Examples of stories

Birmingham becomes first city in the West Midlands to support asylum seekers' rights to work

Birmingham City Council officially backs the Lift the Ban campaign



How East Anglia became home to Basque refugee children in WW2

ANGLIA | WORLD | CAMBRIDGESHIRE | REFUGEES | Tuesday 16 June 2020, 6:29pm



Erdington church first in Birmingham to be named sanctuary for migrants

This Erdington church has been named the first in Birmingham and the second in the country as a sanctuary for migrants and asylum seekers

by Rakeem Hyatt
65.3K 15 DEC 2017



Recipe book brings real flavour of city

By James Vemirovic | Wolverhampton | Dining Out | Published: Aug 27, 2020

A love of cooking among a city's migrant community has helped to produce a unique cookbook.

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Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary has produced a cookbook called 'Food without borders', which migrants and asylum seekers working with the sanctuary and in association with the Refugee She is pictured with Itama Douarlik who contributed to the book.

NEWS

"Food without Borders" is a special cookbook created from a collaboration between a number of agencies working with refugees and asylum seekers in Wolverhampton.

The Refugee and Migrant Centre, Hope Projects and City of Sanctuary Wolverhampton have teamed up with services users to create an eclectic mix of foods from around the world

Eastern Daily Press

Schoolchildren discover their city's history of welcoming strangers

Bethany Whyman | bethanywhyman@sanchant.co.uk | @EDPBethany
PUBLISHED: 08:30 17 June 2019 | UPDATED: 08:50 17 June 2019



Leeds asylum seeker shares Cameroon prison ordeal as call issued to end evictions for refugees

Fabrice's story is one of tragedy, denial and hope.

CoventryLive
Happy Channel
NEWS - IN YOUR AREA - NUNEATON - WHAT'S ON - COVENTRY CITY FC - WASPS RFC - SPORT - MORE -

Refugee Week brings Cov's own World Cup to FarGo

This week will have art exhibitions, music, the city's own World Cup and two parties to bring together the diverse communities of Coventry.

‘Why would an MP listen to me?’

- Whether you can vote for them or not, if you live in their constituency, they represent you.
- MPs want to hear from those directly affected by the laws being made.
- Write to them to share your story or ask for a meeting. Worried about doing it alone? Ask a friend or ally to help!

You might help change their mind

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Advice and support

- If you need legal advice or support, please contact the Refugee Council and they will put you in touch with the right people 0808 196 7272
- If you want to get more active in your local area, check out City of Sanctuary <https://cityofsanctuary.org/groups/>
- If you want help in how to tell your story, you can ask the IMIX team media@imix.org.uk
- Join the Together With Refugees Campaign <https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk>

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More information

For more information about how parliament works

https://learning.parliament.uk/en/resources/?fbclid=IwAR0gOxrLZjKpM5jXEaHdRDfn_3KOQFw_WP0j6h5M8t_DVhNoQKaFgdTWiV0

How to find out who your MP is

<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

How to contact a Lord (also known as Peers)

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/peers/>

Read the Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023/publications>

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