

PRITI PATEL'S NEW PLAN FOR IMMIGRATION



A GUIDE TO SPEAKING OUT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government is currently consulting the public on Priti Patel's 'New Plan for Immigration'. There's lots in the plan, some of the most worrying things are:

- Discriminating against people who have arrived via irregular routes like small boats or in the back of lorries, potentially in violation of the Refugee Convention
- 'Fast tracking' life and death decisions about vital refugee protection decisions so that they can expel people seeking sanctuary more quickly
- Expanding immigration detention with new 'reception centres' and potential Australian-style offshore detention for people seeking refugee protection

You can also read the plan [here](#). Or, if you want a short overview, look at [this coverage](#) by BBC News.

Government has sent the plan out to their party members and voters encouraging them to participate in the consultation, so it's really important that as many of us as possible make our voices heard too.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

The questionnaire looks complicated and it's ok to find it confusing!

We're giving you some guidance on specific questions to answer. You are of course welcome to answer as many as you like, but do be sure to read them extremely carefully. Lots of them are based on flawed ideas of good/bad refugees, so answering them may accept that premise.

We know that it feels like Government isn't often listening right now. But that's why it's SO important for us to participate. The more of us raise our voices up against their cruel and racist policies, the harder we'll be to ignore!

Deadline for submissions is 11.45pm on Thursday 6th May.

2. DETENTION ACTION'S RESPONSE

We'll be producing our own detailed response to the plans, but there are some main points here:

- We strongly reject the distinction the Home Office is attempting to make between 'legal' and 'illegal' arrivals to the UK. There are many reasons why those fleeing persecution are forced to make spontaneous and dangerous journeys to the UK to seek asylum. The UK must fulfil its commitments as signatories to the Refugee Convention and not punish those seeking sanctuary.
- We strongly reject the plans for reception centres to house those arriving in the UK spontaneously. These plans amount to plans for de-facto detention and a return to a detained fast-track. Those seeking asylum, regardless of their route to the UK, should be offered accommodation and support in the community, have their asylum claims assessed fully and fairly with adequate legal advice available, and should never be punished for having arrived spontaneously.
- We strongly reject plans for offshore detention centres. The Home Office should immediately take these proposals off the table.
- We call for an end to indefinite detention, the introduction of a strict 28-day time limit with judicial oversight and appropriate safeguards, and the introduction of community-based alternatives to detention.
- We call for a humanitarian visa to be introduced to provide genuine safer routes to claim asylum in the UK.

We also feel the plans will inevitably have a disproportionate impact on people and communities of colour that is tantamount to discrimination.

3. HOW TO START THE SURVEY

Step 1: Create an account

- To take part in the consultation, you will need to [go to the website and register](#).
- You'll be invited to register with an email address.
- Once you've created your account, you will be given three ways to take part. You should choose the option 'I am a member of the public submitting a personal response'

About you

Which of the following best reflects the purpose of your response to this survey?

I am a member of the public submitting a personal response

Step 2: start the survey

- You should see three options on your screen now, you should select this one:



- You'll then be taken into the survey, if you scroll down to the bottom of the page you can click 'start the survey'
- You can then scroll through the questions or use the blue arrows on the bottom right of your screen to work through them. If you want to skip a question, just keep scrolling down past it.

4. ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS

We are encouraging our supporters to answer questions 1, 39, 40-41 and 45. You can of course also answer any others that you wish.

Question 1

- 1 → The foreword provides a high level outline of the New Plan for Immigration, including reforms to make the system fair, but firm.

Overall, how far do you support or oppose what is being said here?

Please refer to the foreword of the New Plan for Immigration to help answer this question.

A Strongly support

B Tend to support

C Neither support nor oppose

D Tend to oppose

E Strongly oppose ✓

F Don't know

Detention Action will be answering 'strongly oppose'

Question 39

- 39 → The Government intends on amending the list of factors for consideration of Immigration Bail in paragraph 3 of Schedule 10 to the [Immigration Act 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#), to include an individual's compliance with proper immigration process.

To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

This question relates to Chapter 8 of the New Plan for Immigration, should you wish to refer to this before answering.

A Strongly agree

B Agree

C Neither agree nor disagree

D Disagree

E Strongly disagree ✓

2 of 50 answered

Pow

Detention Action will be answering 'strongly disagree'

Question 40

The Government has a duty to make sure everyone is being treated equally. We believe that lots of people with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act will suffer due to these proposals, but we are particularly concerned about the ways in which they will strengthen institutional racism in the UK's immigration system, and disproportionately impact people of colour.

From the list of areas below, please select any areas where you feel intended reforms present disproportionate impacts on individuals protected by the Equalities Act.

Choose as many as you like

- A** Protecting those Fleeing Persecution, Oppression and Tyranny (Chapter 2) ✓
- B** Ending Anomalies and Delivering Fairness in British Nationality Law (Chapter 3)
- C** Disrupting Criminal Networks and Reforming the Asylum System (Chapter 4) ✓
- D** Streamlining Asylum Claims and Appeals (Chapter 5) ✓
- E** Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery (Chapter 6) ✓
- F** Disrupting Criminal Networks Behind People Smuggling (Chapter 7) ✓
- G** Enforcing Removals including Foreign National Offenders (Chapter 8) ✓
- H** None of these

Detention Action will be selecting all answers except B & H

Question 41

Will ask you to expand on your views about the Equalities Act in respect of the Government's new plan. You can of course outline any concerns you have here, but some of the main points we will address will be:

- The majority of people fleeing persecution and tyranny and coming to the UK via irregular routes will be people of colour. These proposals will make it harder for these individuals to claim asylum here, and disproportionately impact people from African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian countries.
- Data suggests that people of colour are more likely to face deportation as a result of being a 'foreign national offender'. Many of these individuals will not have received proper legal advice in prisons, and may be survivors of trafficking themselves. Extending the Early Returns Scheme, and only providing one opportunity for people in these circumstances to make modern slavery claims will likely mean that more people of colour with a valid claim for being in the UK are deported. This will not only impact these individuals disproportionately, but also their families and communities, many of whom will also be British people of colour.

Question 45

This is an open space for you to express your views. You may wish to refer back to Detention Action's topline on page 3. You can also find some more of our analysis [here](#).

If you are answering as someone with lived experience of the issues covered, you may wish to use your own experience to inform your answer. There is no pressure to share anymore of your personal experience than you would wish to. The most important thing is that we simply tell the Government we oppose these proposals.



Thank you for speaking out!

If you need help with any of the questionnaire, please feel free to contact us at the details below:

T: 020 7062 4211

E: admin@detentionaction.org.uk

Don't forget to share this guide and encourage as many as people as possible to tell Priti Patel what they think of her cruel and dangerous plans.