



Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

info@ld4sos.org.uk

www.ld4sos.org.uk

facebook.com/ld4sos

twitter.com/ld4sos

OUR CAMPAIGN TO END INDEFINITE DETENTION

- **Our top priority is to end both indefinite detention for immigration purposes and the use of the Detained Fast Track system (now suspended after being found unfair).**
- Detention wastes money and lives, and is far more expensive than processing asylum and immigration claims in the community. It must always be used as the **LAST RESORT** and for the **SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE**.
- **The UK is the European Union's biggest detainer of migrants**, mostly in conditions equivalent to high-security prisons and without trial. In 2016 nearly 30,000 people entered detention for immigration purposes.
- **Detention without a time limit contravenes UNHCR guidelines and damages the UK's international reputation for defending human rights.**
- Prior to the Immigration Act 2016 two Parliamentary inquiries* recommended the ending of indefinite detention.

*The All Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into Immigration Detention chaired by Sarah Teather MP and the Government commissioned independent Shaw Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Person

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS BUT MUCH MORE TO DO

- In coalition Liberal Democrats ended the detention of children for immigration purposes in Yarlswood IRC, and imposed a time limit of 72 hours on the pre-removal detention of a small number of families held at the Cedars in Sussex who were looked after by Barnardo's. In 2016 post coalition the Conservative Government reversed the decision regarding the use of the Cedars and children are now sent to an independent unit in Tinsley House IRC run by G4S. Barnardos has refused to work at this establishment. We are again campaigning against this and have published guidelines on it.
- The Immigration Act 2016 introduced some improvements including providing for judicial oversight of people detained after at least 4 months, but this is not enough, and there is still a very long way to go. Pregnant women will be detained for no longer than 72 hours. LD4SOS believes that they should not be detained at all along with victims of rape and torture, people with a mental illness, LGBTI people, and those unable to be returned to their country.

As there have been such limited improvements in the past year, we continue to campaign for :

- **the implementation of the All Party Parliamentary Group report**
- **the implementation of the recommendation of the Shaw Report to reduce the use of detention drastically.**

August 2017