

# NEWCASTLE STANDS TOGETHER AGAINST THE ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL

Newcastle is a City of Sanctuary. We are a city built on solidarity, and we are proud to welcome people seeking safety. In the face of relentless Government hostility towards people seeking asylum, we do whatever we can to support people as they rebuild their lives.

Every day we support people to overcome the huge obstacles the UK's asylum system throws in their way: the endless limbo of waiting for a decision; being banned from working and using their skills and talents; having little choice but to live in often harmful, inappropriate accommodation. Where the Government could be working alongside us and our communities to build a just, compassionate asylum system, it is instead intent on destroying the right to seek asylum altogether.

The Illegal Migration Bill will make it almost impossible to seek asylum in the UK. Tens of thousands of people will be denied recognition as refugees, and will be unable to ever move on with their lives. The Bill will allow the Government to indefinitely detain people on a mass scale, with military sites, prisons and ships used to warehouse people and segregate them from our communities.

This cruel Bill will have a horrendous impact in Newcastle. It will destroy the lives of people who have become our friends and neighbours. Young people will face deportation when they turn 18, regardless of the dreams and futures that they have built here. More and more people will be pushed into extreme destitution.

We know that this is not what Newcastle stands for. Our City Council has passed a unanimous motion to fight these anti-refugee measures, and every day, our communities work together to make our city a more welcoming, joyful place. We will not stand by while the Government destroys people's lives for political gain. Newcastle will always welcome people seeking sanctuary, and we will oppose this appalling Bill at every turn.

