



**Council – 7 July 2022**

## **Notice of Motion – Rwanda Deportation Policy**

**Notice of Motion from Councillors Rob Stewart, David Hopkins, Andrea Lewis, Louise Gibbard, Alyson Pugh, Robert Smith, Hayley Gwilliam, Elliott King, Robert Francis-Davies, Andrew Stevens, Cyril Anderson, Chris Holley.**

This Council deplores the immoral and unethical policy of the Tory U.K. Government of deporting men, women and children, who may be fleeing conflict or persecution, to Rwanda

Similar policies have previously been found to be unworkable and ineffective when employed by Governments in Israel and Denmark

The U.K. must honour its obligations under international law and support refugees and those seeking asylum.

In addition to the immorality of deporting refugees and asylum seekers, the decision to choose Rwanda, which is a country with a poor record on human rights, and which retains draconian policies on female rights and a women's right to choose, and gay rights, we find it completely unacceptable and deplorable. This is not a country where many of the modern and progressive laws of the U.K. or EU apply and will leave many individuals at significant risk.

The suggestion made by senior U.K. Government Ministers that the U.K. could withdraw from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which was set up after the atrocities of the Second World War, is a further worrying example of this Government's disregard for the rules of international law and looks like an attempt to undermine the principles of freedom, liberty, and equality.

Therefore, we call on the U.K. Government to

- Immediately stop this immoral and unethical policy and instead explore effective ways of preventing people trafficking.
- Engage with European partners and international crime prevention organisations to work together to break the people trafficking and exploitation networks.
- To work with Local Authorities and communities, including people with lived experience to build a fairer and more effective asylum system.

- Invest in immigration services and properly fund the immigration system.
- Restate the U.K. commitment to remain a member of the ECHR.
- Request the Leader (and supporting Group Leaders) write to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary to outline our opposition to this policy, and to call for its immediate discontinuation.