



Council – 30 March 2023

Notice of Motion - Illegal Immigration Bill

Notice of Motion from Councillors Sam Pritchard, Rob Stewart, Andrea Lewis, David Hopkins, Jan Curtice, Yvonne Jardine, Nicola Matthews, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis, Lesley Walton, Elliott King & Robert Francis-Davies

This Council is appalled by the UK government's illegal immigration bill which proposes to detain and later remove anyone who arrives in the UK on a small boat meaning the Home Office will not consider any of their Asylum claims regardless if they have fled war or persecution for being a minority.

These people seeking sanctuary will then be deported back to the country they have fled from or a 'safe' third country. This third country could be Rwanda or another country deemed safe by UK Govt but with a questionable record on human rights.

This ill-thought out and inhumane legislation will punish the most vulnerable people from across the world. Questions have been raised surrounding the legality of the Bill and whether it is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and consistent with the 1951 Refugees Convention. The Prime Minister has also stated in writing that if you come to the UK illegally "You can't benefit from our modern slavery protections".

This Council also notes and condemns the dangerous and dehumanising language which has been used to support this Bill. This rhetoric cultivates and provides a platform for a culture of abuse, racism and even violence against refugees and minorities.

As a City of Sanctuary, this Council and the people of Swansea have welcomed and accepted refugees and asylum seekers. This has made the city a more interesting, diverse and tolerant city because of this.

This Council condemns the action of the UK Government in bringing forward this legislation, and calls upon the prime minister and his ministers to withdraw these egregious proposals.

We call upon the Leader of Council to write to the Prime Minister in the strongest possible terms to outline our concerns.

We would also request the Leader of the Council to write to Swansea City of Sanctuary to reaffirm the Council's support for the work they do.