



PRESS RELEASE

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Jewish charity welcomes parliamentary report on detained asylum-seekers and urges Government to act

The charity René Cassin welcomes today's report by The Parliamentary Inquiry into the use of Immigration Detention in the UK. **The report damns current policy as " ... expensive, ineffective and unjust"**. René Cassin particularly welcomes the recommendation that the UK ends the practice of holding some asylum-seekers *indefinitely* and introduces an upper limit of 28 days' detention.

The UK is currently unique in Europe in having no time limit – and some migrants are kept in detention for years. Even Russia has set a time limit for immigration detention, and there is mounting pressure on the Government to act to prevent damage to the UK's international reputation for defending human rights

René Cassin's campaigns director Sam Grant, said:

This country is rightly proud of its record of providing a safe haven to refugees from oppression and violence. But its current treatment of large number of asylum-seekers – locking innocent and vulnerable people up indefinitely – is inhumane and blights that reputation.

Jewish experience of immigration to this country is still very raw and recent. How would I have wanted my grandparents to be met off the kindertransport – with further fear, humiliation and uncertainty? But, scandalously, that is exactly what many of today's migrants to the UK have to face.

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Notes for editors

1. For more information contact Sam Grant at René Cassin - Sam.Grant@renecassin.org or **020 7443 5131**
2. *The Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom* is attached as a PDF
3. The inquiry was conducted by Parliament's all-party groups on refugees and migration, under the chair of Sarah Teather MP – <http://detentioninquiry.com/about/>



4. René Cassin's submitted evidence to the inquiry – <http://www.renecassin.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Detention-Inquiry-Submission.pdf> – and also helped asylum-seekers affected by detention submit their own evidence.
5. René Cassin has campaigned for a time limit to asylum detention as part of the Detention Forum – <http://detentionforum.org.uk/> – a wide coalition of charities, NGOs and faith groups.
6. The charity René Cassin is named after the French-Jewish co-drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights