



## PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 00.01 Tuesday 3 March 2015

### **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](mailto: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