



Theory of Change

The Detention Forum



The Detention Forum is a network of groups who have come together to challenge the UK's use of immigration detention.

The UK routinely deprives migrants of their liberty in the name of immigration control. The UK is also an outlier in Europe in having no time limit on immigration detention. Every day, over 3,000 migrants are held indefinitely in prison-like detention centres across the UK, out of the public gaze.

Immigration detention is used with impunity. It causes serious harm to migrants and their communities and its incalculable human and social cost has long been acutely felt by them. Yet for many years, immigration detention remained a marginal issue.

The Detention Forum came together to fundamentally change this. In 2012 we developed and agreed a joint strategy to reduce detention: we recognised the need for an overarching narrative to enable us to mobilise the diverse campaigns and voices and coordinate effective parliamentary, policy, campaign and communications activities around clear shared asks and messaging.

We identified three key asks:

1. Ending indefinite detention with the introduction of a 28-day time limit;
2. Ending the detention of vulnerable people;
3. Automatic judicial oversight within 72 hours of detention.

We also committed to develop a solutions-based fourth ask:

4. Development and implementation of community-based alternatives to detention that use quality case-management.

Since then, the Detention Forum has been at the heart of putting detention reform on the political agenda and turned detention into a key migration issue. While debates during the 2014 Immigration Act barely mentioned detention, it was one of the central issues in the passage of the 2016 Act, resulting in legislative changes. All except one of the major political parties have now made manifesto commitments to a time limit, and our asks are central to the calls for reform in parliament. In 2014 and 2015, we supported the crucial All Party Parliamentary Groups detention inquiry and provided much of the evidence that ensured that the report gained cross-party buy-in, managed dissemination of the findings and used it to drive change. The Minister bowed to pressure and promised detention reform in 2016. Our collaboration mechanism has continued to involve new partners and enable rapid co-ordinated responses and interventions to shape detention debates and advocacy.

The Detention Forum has already transformed the narrative around detention. In this revised Theory of Change, agreed in summer 2017, we envisage a realistic opportunity for radical detention reform.

The Detention Forum's four asks are:

1.

Ending indefinite detention with the introduction of a 28-day time limit

2.

Ending the detention of vulnerable people

3.

Automatic judicial oversight within 72 hours of detention

4.

Development & implementation of community-based alternatives to detention that support the well-being and protect the rights of migrants through case management

Theory of Change

2017-2020



STRATEGIC AREA 1

We amplify political pressure to compel the government to accept the need for change and negotiation



STRATEGIC AREA 2

We build our position as a credible commentator and advisor to civil society organisations, policy makers, influencers and parliamentarians



STRATEGIC AREA 3

We strengthen our solution-based messages and define our vision of detention reform



SO THAT

The government implements a **detention reform programme** that incorporates our asks

SO THAT

There is a **significant reduction** in the UK's use of immigration detention (the length and the scale of detention)



STRATEGIC AREA 1

WE WILL:

- 1.1 → Prepare for possible legislative change.
- Plan and instigate more parliamentary questions, debates and select committee interventions
 - Regularly scan opportunities and respond to unexpected parliamentary opportunities
 - Prepare for Shaw Review II: risk assessment, action planning and messaging (August 2017)

Depending on the progress of our advocacy and availability of opportunities:

- Consider if recall of the inquiry is necessary in 2018
- Consider the need for setting up APPG on detention after 2017

- 1.2 → Map targets and appropriate activities for each party and coordinate actions among partners to engage more politicians
- Identify and cultivate potential parliamentary ‘brokers’ who work at cross-party level to create space and opportunities to advance negotiations with the government.
 - Connect with different partners within Labour, strengthen relationship with supportive parties (Lib Dems, SNP, Green). Seek new Conservative contacts and also those within the government.

Depending on the progress of our advocacy and availability of opportunities:

- Consider taking part in party conferences 2018
- Consider the need for APPG on detention in 2018

- 1.3 → Make more links between community-level activities and Westminster activities
- Establish a centralised feedback loop where local and Westminster activities are strategically coordinated
 - Disaggregate and provide advice on types of parliamentary engagement that communities can aim for depending on the area
 - Support communities’ and individuals’ influencing work through open-source material
 - Build a sense of momentum through communications, involvement and encouragement, to help others own shared ‘story of change’
 - Appoint parliamentary ‘champions’, who are trusted to champion our cause publicly

SO THAT:

We will seek **accountability** for detention reform in a sustained manner

We will **maintain and develop new relationships** of trust with parliamentarians from all parties

We will acquire more **lobbying power**

SO THAT:

We amplify political pressure to compel the government to accept the need for change and negotiation



Note: These are not exhaustive lists of activities. We will prioritise and pursue specific activities, based on regular assessment of the situation. We will use Coordination Group discussions, Quarterly Meetings and bilateral conversations to gather intelligence, check progress against our plan, identify actions and implement tasks.



STRATEGIC AREA 2

WE WILL:

- 2.1 → Conduct regular proactive communications to embed our narrative of and the need for change
 - Engage the media more proactively to strengthen our narrative of the need for change, linking them to our key asks
 - Work with people affected by immigration detention in a meaningful manner to strengthen our voice and credibility
- 2.2 → Convene ad hoc strategy sessions and take part in conversations with members and non-members who are planning/interested in detention-related work
 - Conduct bilateral conversations with identified stakeholders when it brings concrete value to our strategy
- 2.3 → Advocate for the central role of detention advocacy in migration and social justice movement
 - Communicate DF's story, track record, methodology, approach, change model and USP explicitly to all potential stakeholders to gain buy-in and to encourage them to be part of our story
 - Conduct regular stakeholder analysis to identify relevant stakeholders and carry out targeted engagement that brings concrete value to our work
 - Create space for others to engage in detention advocacy safely and easily
 - Conduct more bilateral work with those identified by our stakeholder analysis to build a greater sense of trust
 - Produce PR material on the DF, which captures its story and achievements, emphasising our USP, that we are action-led, coordinated and strategic
 - Continue our open source approach

SO THAT:

We will increase **credibility** of our voice

We will foster greater **collaboration and coordination** of activities and messaging

We will **embed detention advocacy** in a wider migration justice movement

SO THAT:

We build our position as a *credible commentator and advisor* to civil society organisations, policy makers, influencers and parliamentarians



Note: These are not exhaustive lists of activities. We will prioritise and pursue specific activities, based on regular assessment of the situation. We will use Coordination Group discussions, Quarterly Meetings and bilateral conversations to gather intelligence, check progress against our plan, identify actions and implement tasks.



STRATEGIC AREA 3

WE WILL:

- 3.1 → Review our key message
- Create a vision paper that brings together our asks and develop workplans accordingly in 2018
- Develop and run thematic workshops for stakeholders when necessary to help them understand our vision and asks

SO THAT:

We will develop a **coherent message/vision** and workplans

- 3.2 → Disseminate ATD concept and messaging, what it does and what it does not do and its benefits beyond detention advocacy
- Identify potential and relevant ATD advocates and implementers and seek buy-in
- Continue to seek ATD pilot opportunities

We will **build knowledge and confidence** of alternatives of detention advocates

- 3.3 → Conduct scenario planning exercises for negotiations, to gain knowledge of arguments against our demands, to prepare counter arguments, to identify possible compromises and to prepare public messaging in case of compromise
- Clarify who will act as insiders and as outsiders when negotiation happens and their respective messaging
- Seek feedback on our messaging from reliable sources

We will **test our approach** and messages

SO THAT:

We strengthen our solution-based messages and define our vision of detention reform



Note: These are not exhaustive lists of activities. We will prioritise and pursue specific activities, based on regular assessment of the situation. We will use Coordination Group discussions, Quarterly Meetings and bilateral conversations to gather intelligence, check progress against our plan, identify actions and implement tasks.