



Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Contents

[RRA01.1: Refugees.....1](#)
[RRA01.2: Green Party Conference Deplores Enforced Imprisonment.....1](#)
[RRA04.1: Asylum and Immigration Bill 20031](#)
[RRA08.1: Condem Change in Youth Asylum Laws.....2](#)

RRA01.1: Refugees

(Originally passed – Autumn 2001 Conference)

This Conference deplores the present government’s treatment of refugees. We welcome Amnesty International’s Refugee Advocacy Project, and we declare that the Green Party’s policy on refugees is fully consistent with Amnesty International’s Principles for Refugee Protection. Every asylum claim should be considered fully on its individual merits, and not prejudged on the basis of nationality All asylum seekers should have access to legal advice.

Asylum seekers should not be detained without just cause Immigration controls should not prevent asylum seekers from escaping prosecution The UN Refugee Convention should not be upheld, and properly implemented

Conference request the Green Party Executive to write to Amnesty International informing them of our support for their campaign.

RRA01.2: Green Party Conference Deplores Enforced Imprisonment

(Originally passed – Autumn 2001 Conference)

The Green Party deplores the enforced imprisonment of refugees and asylum-seekers, and welcomes the high court decision on 7 September, which was highly critical of government policy.

We believe that the European Union should give a lead for a modern world-wide migration policy based on burden-sharing, and we further welcome current European Commission proposals aimed at granting all applicants in European countries, whether claiming refugee status or another form of protection, the same rights and reception conditions across the EU.

The Green Party welcomes the UN High Council for Refugees’ consultations, which should recognise the scale of human movement in the 21st century.

We deplore strict border-controls at ports and airports, which have forced refugees to take desperate and dangerous attempts to enter Britain to claim asylum, while restrictive immigration controls bar them from entering legally.

The Green Party calls for:

1. The abolition of the voucher system
2. The end of detention of asylum-seekers
3. The reform of the dispersal system

RRA04.1: Asylum and Immigration Bill 2003

(Originally passed – Spring 2004 Conference)

Conference notes that:

1. The Asylum and Immigration Bill 2003 is having its second reading in the House of Lords on the 15th March;
2. This law intends to remove judicial scrutiny of, and the ability to legally challenge, all decisions of a new asylum Tribunal and all removal or deportation decisions of the Home Secretary - even where these involve an error of law, breach of natural justice, irregularity or lack of jurisdiction;
3. Parents at the end of the process will be denied food and shelter, and consequently face the threat of their children being taken into care as a means to coerce

- them to leave the UK;
4. That all new applicants (including parents with children) could face jail terms of up to two years for arriving in the UK without valid travel documentation, even where this was the only way of reaching safety;

Conference:

1. Believes that this law will mean that vulnerable individuals will inevitably be wrongly returned to face torture, imprisonment and death;
2. Objects to Clause 11 which prepares to abolish the right of asylum seekers to appeal adjudicators thereby removing the inherent jurisdiction - respected since Magna Carta - of the highest courts in the land to review a decision of the lower court or the Secretary of State;
3. Notes that the Bill will entrust sole responsibility for the physical and mental well-being of the appellant, to a demonstrably second rate system of justice;
4. Notes that by taking away the right to appeal such a system, we are breaching Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights that provides for the right to a fair trial;

Conference, therefore:

1. Calls on the Government to abandon the clause;
2. Instructs the External Communication's Co-ordinator to publicise GP views on the bill;
3. Calls on local Green Parties to protest against the Bill;
4. Calls on all those

concerned with human rights and justice to stand together in opposing this Bill, and call upon the government to abandon these unfair and discriminatory measures.

RRA08.1: Condemn Change in Youth Asylum Laws

(Originally passed – Spring 2004 Conference)

This conference condemns the recent announcement of the immigration minister that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who are refused asylum to the UK will no longer be allowed to stay in the UK until they reach 18 years of age. The minister's statement that the current system is a green light to traffickers indicates a dangerous attitude to asylum-seeking children and young people. It means blaming and punishing young asylum-seekers because some are the victims of trafficking.

This conference calls on the government to ensure that young people are protected from harm and allowed to grow up in safety. Young asylum-seekers should be allowed to stay in the UK at least until their 18th birthday.