

Useful contacts

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC)

NCADC is a voluntary organisation, which provides practical help and advice to people facing deportation on how to launch and run anti-deportation campaigns.

Tel: 0121 554 6947

Email: ncadc@ncadc.org.uk

Birmingham Anti-Racist Campaign (ARC)

ARC is a campaigning organisation fighting against racism and for the rights of migrants, past and present, to this country. We believe in banning all immigration controls and enabling people to move and live with dignity wherever they wish.

Tel: 079 7394 5873

Email: birminghamantiracistcampaign@yahoo.co.uk

Birmingham NoBorders:

Birmingham No Borders is group of activists who stand against all forms of border controls and struggle for the freedom of movement for all people. It is part of the No Borders UK network. See www.noborders.uk.

Tel: 079 7104 4928

Email: noborders-brum-contact@aktivix.org

Are you a person seeking asylum, refused asylum, an overstayer... a person without Leave To Remain?

And you have to sign on at Sandford House daily, weekly or monthly?

Please read the following practical information to protect yourself

How to protect yourself when you sign on

Most asylum seekers have to report daily, weekly, monthly to an immigration reporting centre or police station. This is hard, humiliating and, above all, stressful, especially that you are not allowed to take anyone with you and are cut off from all support. Many people have been 'snatched' when going to sign on and taken into detention pending their deportation.

If you are worried that you might be detained when going to sign on (if you have exhausted your appeals etc.), the following precautions may provide some protection:

- Make sure you know exactly where your case has reached in the legal process. Check with your solicitor every now and then. You can even ask your solicitor for a letter explaining your situation to avoid any confusion or mistakes.

- Always have your solicitor's mobile phone or emergency number on you.

- You can also try contacting your MP and have their contact details. Some of them are sympathetic and may help you out.

- Take a friend with you when you go to sign on so that, when you are detained, someone knows. If you can't take a friend, at least make sure someone knows where you're going and when you should be back.

- Make sure this friend has all the needed information about your case (your personal details, your HO reference, your solicitor etc.) so that they can do something when you are detained.

If you are detained

- Whether in a detention centre, at a police station or an airport terminal, insist that you call a friend and let them know what happened to you.

- If you have a solicitor, call them immediately. If you don't, ask the people around you if they know one.

- Ask if there are any visitors or detainee support groups and try to see them.

- Do not sign any paper saying you agree to return home and the like. Also do not sign any agreements to leave your children behind or take them with you. They might use all kind of tricks and threats; be strong!

At the airport

In many cases, pilots refuse to fly if there is someone on board who's stressed, making noise or refusing to sit down, or if other passengers object to having a deportee on board.

- Tell passengers and crews that you are being forcibly deported against your will. Ask them to talk to the pilot as soon as possible (even before boarding).

- If you have friends and supporters, ask them to come to the airport and make some fuss and tell other passengers.

Don't give up, keep fighting! You can be taken off the plane up till the doors close. If you're not deported on that flight, you would be taken back to the detention centre and that gives you some time to legally challenge your detention and deportation or even start an Anti-Deportation campaign!