

Quotes of the Year 2008

Reduce Detention

“Only detain asylum seekers who are a threat to national security or those who pose a very serious risk of absconding”

Centre for Social Justice (Chair Iain Duncan Smith MP): ‘Asylum Matters’ December 2008.

“Detention ... is appropriate only for those who pose a threat to national security or where there is absolutely no alternative to effect return”

Independent Asylum Commission: ‘Safe Return’ June 2008.

Grant the Right to Work

“Grant temporary right to remain to those who cannot return home”.

Centre for Social Justice (Chair Iain Duncan Smith MP): ‘Asylum Matters’ December 2008.

“Refused asylum seekers who cannot be returned ... should be eligible for a time-limited, revocable, permit to work in the UK”

Independent Asylum Commission: ‘Safe Return’ June 2008

“ ... the [UK Border] Agency estimates that a fifth of the legacy cases [ie 49,000] cannot currently be resolved as there are external factors which prevent the Agency from either removing the applicants or allowing them to stay in the UK.”

National Audit Office: ‘Managing Asylum Applications’ January 2009

Improve Decision Making

“Improve the quality of decisions on who needs to be given asylum”

Centre for Social Justice (Chair Iain Duncan Smith MP): ‘Asylum Matters’ December 2008.

“The UK should have a fair and effective decision making body that takes pride in giving sanctuary to those who need it, and denying it to those who do not”.

Independent Asylum Commission: ‘Saving Sanctuary’ May 2008.

“Over a quarter of Asylum applicants are not receiving a full screening interview when they make their claims”.

National Audit Office: ‘Managing Asylum Applications’ January 2009.

Improve Detention Conditions

“Staff often struggled with an inappropriate or crowded environment ... particularly Haslar where old accommodation was scarcely fit for purpose”

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons: ‘Annual Report 2007 – 2008’ published January 2009.

“The [detention] estate is not ideally suited for the new [asylum] process”.

National Audit Office: ‘Managing Asylum Applications’ January 2009

Haslar Visitors Group

Supported by

