



Statement

3rd April 2021

RR calls for the UK's Home Secretary Priti Patel to Rethink the “New Plan for Immigration”

On 24 March 2021, the Home Secretary Priti Patel made a statement to parliament setting out [the new plan for immigration](#), including the deportation of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the UK via routes deemed illegal or unauthorised by the government.

Whilst Rethink Rebuild Society (RR) appreciates that there are serious problems within the UK asylum system, it expresses deep concern about the Home Secretary's statement as it will potentially affect the lives of hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and abroad.

The statement does not give the impression that an “*overhaul*” in the asylum system will undergo with empathy. The indication that “*whether you enter the UK legally or illegally will have an impact on how your asylum claim progresses*” is deeply concerning as it gives the perception that individuals' means of arrival will decide how worthy they are of protection in the UK. Refugees and asylum seekers who arrive in the UK through means other than resettlement will potentially receive a lesser form of protection including temporary status, limited rights to family reunion and limited or no access to financial support.

RR calls on the UK government to remain fair but humane. The narratives that the asylum system needs to be “*fair but firm*” and that some refugees or asylum seekers are using “*illegal routes*” may affect their wellbeing and safety. It is worth to remind that some individuals fled death and prosecution in their home country and were left with no option but to jeopardise their lives with the hope to reach safety and dignity in the UK. Individuals should be given the opportunity to select the county that ensures their safety and wellbeing and enables them to reunite with relatives and friends. This is an essential step for the rebuilding of their lives.

It is necessary to remind that whilst developing the asylum system in the UK is important, it is equally important to preserve the rights of individuals to be safe in their own countries. We call on the UK government to play its role in ending the conflicts in war-torn countries like Syria in a fair manner and help communities get rid of corrupt leadership. Ultimately, the influx of refugees will significantly decline.

ENDS

For further information and press enquiries, please contact 07533155533 or email: moaz@rrsoc.org

Rethink Rebuild Society (RR) is a Manchester-based charity that works towards improving the lives of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants, in particular but not exclusively Syrians in the UK, helping them become positively established within the British society. RR endeavours to promote peace and protection of civilians to its audience in the UK and the wider public.