

Fighting the Asylum & Immigration Acts

A working conference for trade unionists, anti-deportation campaigners and anti-racists

Defy Section 9!

Plenaries and workshops on:

- campaigning against section 9
- local anti-deportation campaigns - how to win
- defending civil liberties
- racism / fascism - defence of asylum seekers
- co-ordinating our campaigns

Sat 28th Jan 2006

Methodist Central Hall, Oldham St, Manchester

11:00am – 5:00pm

Conference registration:

£5 waged £3 unwaged. Asylum seekers: Free

Initially supported by: Sukula Family Must Stay Campaign, Samina Will Stay Campaign, Committee To Defend Asylum Seekers, Liberty, British Association of Social Workers, Unison United Left (North West region), National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, Bolton National Union of Teachers, Bolton Trades Council, Bristol Defend Asylum Seekers Campaign, Bury Law Centre

Asylum & Immigration Acts



For more information phone:

Jason Travis, Bolton NUT,
07976 476 181

George Binette, CDAS,
07905 826 304

Fighting the Asylum and Immigration Acts

A working conference for trade unionists, anti-deportation campaigners and anti-racists

Defy Section 9!

Sponsoring donations from trade unions welcome to help pay conference expenses

Conference registration: £5 waged £3 unwaged. Asylum seekers: Free

Fighting the Asylum and Immigration Acts - conference registration

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

..... Postcode

Email: **All cheques should be made out to 'CDAS' (marked 'Manchester Conference' on the back)**

Phone:

I/we enclose a sponsoring donation of £ **Send to: Manchester Conference c/o CDAS, BCM Box 4289, London WC1N 3XX**

Number of delegates: Waged Unwaged

The Government aims to pressurise 'failed asylum seekers' to return to their country of origin. One of the many ways it does this is through Section 9 of the 2004 Asylum and Immigration Act, by withdrawing all state support, making families destitute and homeless and threatening to take children of asylum seekers into care. The Refugee Council reports that support has already been withdrawn from around 40 families and a further 50 families are nearing the end of the process. It is reported by the Consortium of Children's Charities that 35 families have gone into hiding to avoid deportation, posing grave risks to the children concerned.

The British Association of Social Workers has described Section 9 as a 'brutal' and 'wholly inappropriate' practice. The Association of Directors of Social Services called it a matter of 'grave concern' and 'really belonging to an earlier century'. It has been condemned by human rights organisations such as Liberty, and trades unions such as Unison and the National Union of Teachers. Manchester social workers have voted to refuse to implement Section 9 while 10 Greater Manchester councils have called for the measure to be reviewed.

Still further attacks on Asylum Seekers are planned. Section 10 of the same Act compels asylum seekers who 'agree' to repatriation but cannot be deported because their home country is too dangerous, to work in exchange for their meagre 'benefits' £35 worth of luncheon vouchers a week, in effect slavery. There is a Bill, the sixth in 12 years, currently before Parliament that involves further attacks on asylum seekers' rights. The far-right fascists and racists take these measures as a green light to launch their own attacks on asylum seekers and immigrant communities generally.

From Plymouth to Glasgow local communities have come together to prevent families, who have lived here for years and often have children at school, from being deported to dangerous countries with despotic governments. This conference is aimed at refugees, council and social workers, teachers, and trade unionists generally, along with anti-deportation activists and anti-racists, school students and anyone else who wants to build active resistance to Section 9 and other attacks on asylum seekers.

We oppose all racism and refuse to betray human rights and the principles of the trade union movement - an attack on one is an attack on all. We will organise for a united fightback led by refugees, for trade union and other action to oppose Section 9 and all discrimination on the basis of race, nationality or immigration status.