

URGENT PRESS & HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL

Collective Testimony From Detainees at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, UK

This report is written and submitted collectively by approximately 80 detainees held in G Wing at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. It is sent with our names and signatures. We request urgent attention, investigation, and protection.

Press & Public Introduction

We are asylum seekers detained in the United Kingdom. We write this report because we no longer have any other way to make our voices heard.

We are not criminals. We are people who fled war, persecution, and injustice. We came to the UK believing in human rights, freedom, and protection. Instead, we are detained, isolated, and silenced. This document is our collective testimony. It is a call to the press, human rights organisations, freedom activists, and the international community to hear us and to act.

Collective Testimony and Human Rights Report

Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), United Kingdom

Submitted by the Detainees of G Wing

Who We Are

We are more than 80 asylum seekers detained together in G Wing at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. Many hundreds more are detained across other UK immigration detention facilities.

We come from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and other countries affected by war, political persecution, corruption, and serious human rights abuses. Each of us has a different personal story, but we share the same reason for fleeing: to stay alive.

We submit this report together because individually our voices are ignored.

Why We Came to the United Kingdom

We did not come to the UK for comfort or advantage. We came because remaining in our home countries meant death, imprisonment, torture, or lifelong fear.

We believed the UK respected the right to seek asylum and the dignity of human life. When we saw the British flag, many of us believed our suffering was over. Instead, we found ourselves detained behind locked doors.

We ask only for basic human rights:

- The right to seek asylum
- The right to due process
- The right to healthcare
- The right to dignity
- The right to freedom from arbitrary detention

Arrival, Trauma, and Denial of Due Process

After crossing the English Channel by small boat, we were intercepted by UK Border Force and taken to Dover under Home Office authority. We were exhausted, frightened, and traumatised.

We were interviewed immediately and told repeatedly that this interview was not important and that a main interview would follow. Later, we discovered this was not true. This first interview became the basis for decisions that now control our lives.

We believe many statements were inaccurately recorded while we were vulnerable and unwell. No meaningful opportunity to correct errors was provided.

Forced Removals, Night Transfers, and Discriminatory Treatment (*ADDED SECTION*)

We report that people were **taken to planes by force**. Detainees were removed against their will, under intimidation and physical pressure.

In several cases, we were **taken at night, before our scheduled flights, by force**, without proper explanation, preparation, or access to legal support. These night-time removals caused extreme fear, panic, and psychological harm.

We also report **discriminatory treatment based on nationality**.

Pakistani nationals who were with us were not taken by small boat to detention. Instead, they were **separated from us and taken to hotels**.

Those of us from other nationalities were detained in Harmondsworth IRC, while Pakistani people were accommodated in hotels. This unequal treatment further demonstrates that detention decisions are **arbitrary, discriminatory, and not based on individual assessment**.

Detention as Punishment

We were transferred to Harmondsworth IRC and detained in a secure facility alongside people with criminal convictions.

We repeat clearly: **we are not criminals**.

Our only action was seeking asylum.

Detention feels punitive, humiliating, and designed to break us psychologically. This is arbitrary detention used as a deterrent.

No Real Access to Lawyers

We were told we would have solicitors. Most of us do not. We have received refusal decisions without proper explanation or defence.

Every person in our wing has been refused. None has been released. We feel our cases were decided without genuine examination.

Without lawyers, we are powerless.

Isolation From Families and the Outside World

Our personal phones were taken. We were given basic phones with very expensive calls. Many of us cannot afford to speak to our families.

We are cut off from social media, news, and the outside world. Families do not know where we are or how we are treated. Letters are delayed. Visits are denied.

This isolation is destroying us emotionally.

Healthcare Neglect

Many detainees suffer from serious physical and mental health conditions. Access to hospitals and specialists is routinely denied.

Instead, we are repeatedly given painkillers while conditions worsen. We feel that our health is

ignored because we are detainees.

Mental Health Emergency

Prolonged detention, fear of forced removal, and lack of support have created a severe mental health crisis.

People are breaking down. Those in mental distress are isolated or punished instead of receiving care. Fear and despair are constant.

We wake up every day asking:

“What is our crime?”

Treatment by Staff and Loss of Dignity

We report verbal abuse, intimidation, discrimination, and provocation by some staff members.

Complaints are ignored or punished.

We feel dehumanised.

Degrading Living Conditions

More than 80 people share one working washing machine. Access to education and computers is extremely limited.

Daily alarms, lockdowns, and unexplained delays increase stress and tension.

Arbitrary Selection and Injustice

We know that most people who arrived by small boat were placed in hotels. We were detained instead. We were told this was “bad luck”.

This confirms to us that detention is arbitrary and discriminatory.

Our Appeal

We urgently call on:

- International and UK media
- Human rights organisations
- Freedom activists
- UN bodies and special rapporteurs
- Independent inspectors and lawyers

Please investigate Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre.

Please listen to us.

Please help protect our lives, health, and dignity.

We are not asking for privilege.

We are asking to be treated as human beings.

This report is written and signed by us collectively so the world may hear our voices.