

Immigration Bill

Many constituents have written to me about the Immigration Bill which was recently debated, you can read the transcript [here](#).

I supported the amendment tabled by Labour Peers that would have required the Government to relocate and support 3,000 unaccompanied children from Europe. Unfortunately, Conservative MPs stood and the way and it wasn't passed. It was a sad move; these are vulnerable children with no families to help them. It's very likely that their parents spent their entire savings trying to help their children escape war and death for a better life, and the UK Government has decided to turn its back on them, leaving them to try to survive the shocking risks of the camps and unsupervised areas in Europe.

I've raised the issue of unaccompanied children before in Parliament, you can read that contribution [here](#) and Yvette Cooper, my colleague, asked a very powerful question about it of the Prime Minister. You will be able to find it [here](#).

I spoke briefly in the debate on the government's failure effectively to protect overseas domestic workers from slavery but had no opportunity to speak on these other issues of deep concern although I share the unhappiness with what the government are doing. I voted for the amendment to end indefinite detention in the immigration system, limiting it to 28 days. The independent Shaw Report, set up by the Government to review immigration detention, also called for action to end excessive detention. The Government also rejected this.

I do welcome the Government's action to introduce a 72-hour limit on the detention of pregnant women; it's a step in the right direction but more needs to be done and I will continue pressing the Government for firmer action, I will not back down I assure you.

Yours ever,



Fiona Mactaggart MP