

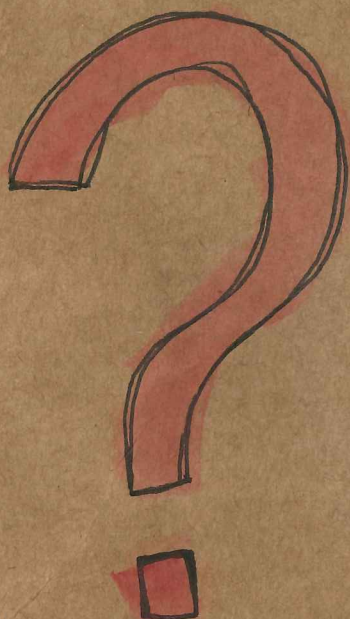
Immigration detention

z i n e

**A rough guide
for people at risk
and their supporters**

Made using accounts from
Experts-by-Experience
& the Right to Remain Toolkit

What is Detention?



Detention is when people are locked up by the Home Office.

The Home Office is the part of the UK government which deals with the immigration and asylum process.

The Home Office justify detaining people for the sake of identification and removal/deportation.

Detention is one part of the government's "hostile environment".

It has been used for decades to appear to be "tough on immigration".

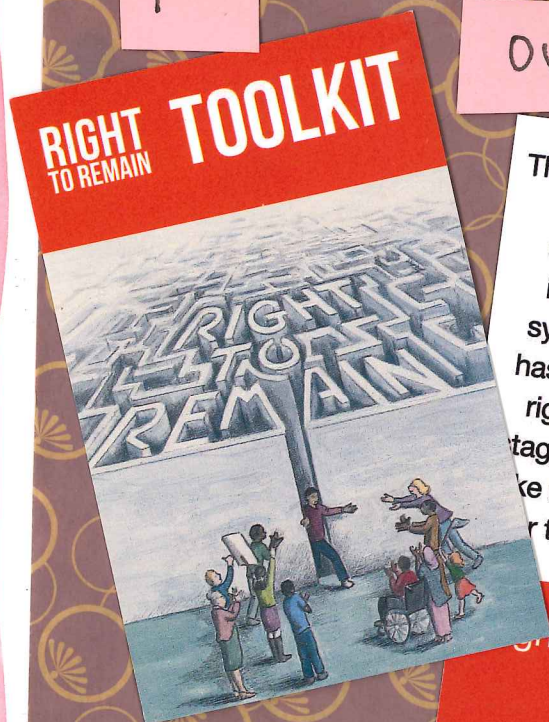
There is usually no limit to the amount of time you can be detained for.

Many people who are detained are not removed from the UK: they have ongoing battles but go on to be granted the right to remain in the UK.

find

out

more



The Right to Remain Toolkit is a self-help and mutual support guide to the UK immigration and asylum system and procedures. It has detailed information on rights and options at key stages, with actions you can take in support of your claim, or to help someone else.

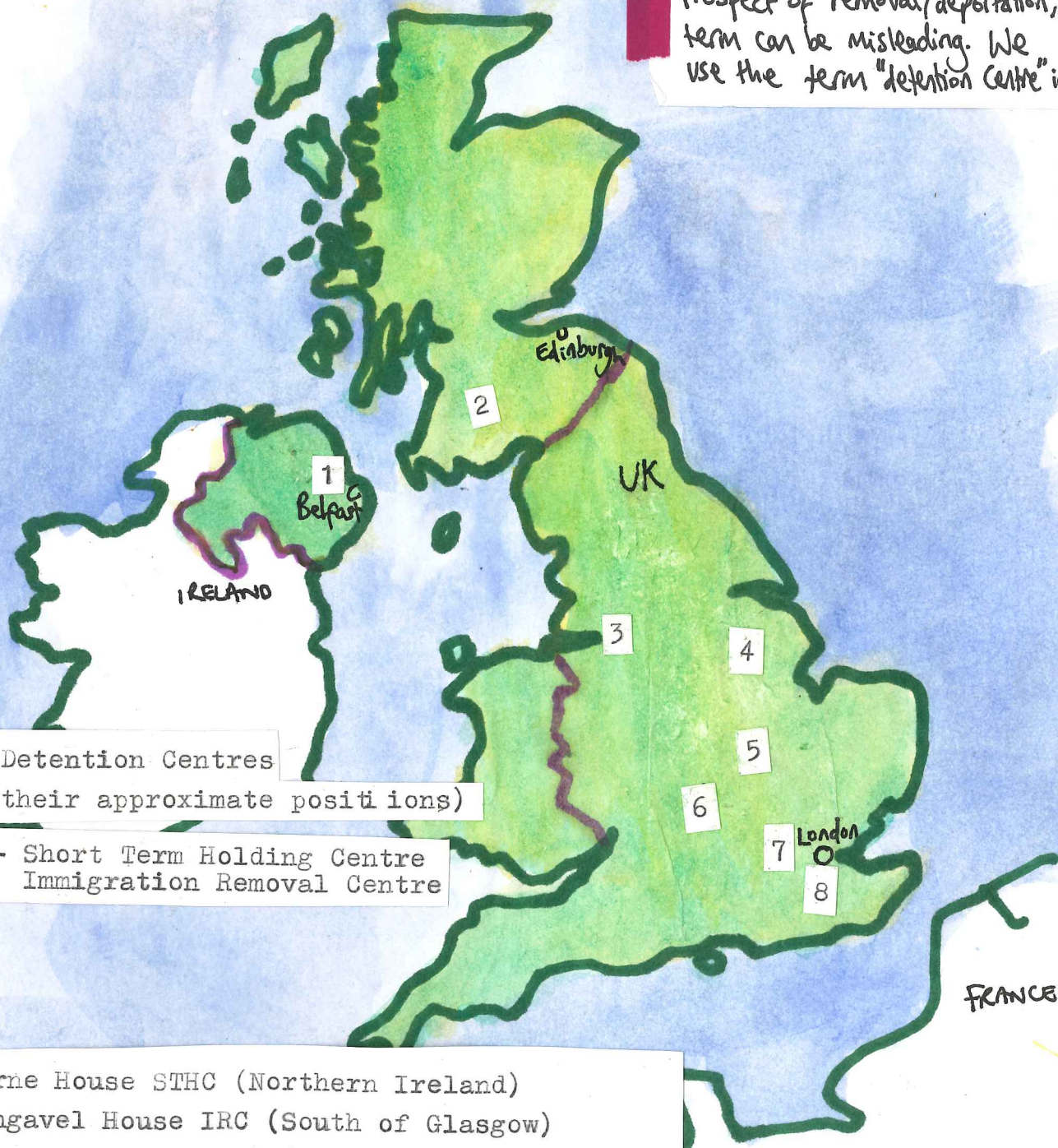
righttoremain.org.uk

RIGHT TO REMAIN

There are lots of points not covered in this zine. Take a look here for more info & links

Where are
the detention
centres?

[The Home Office uses the term "Immigration Removal Centre" but as many people are held in detention for long periods of time with no prospect of removal/deportation, this term can be misleading. We use the term "detention centre" instead.]



UK's Detention Centres
(and their approximate positions)

STHC- Short Term Holding Centre
IRC- Immigration Removal Centre

- 1 Larne House STHC (Northern Ireland)
- 2 Dungavel House IRC (South of Glasgow)
- 3 Pennine House STHC (Manchester Airport)
- 4 Morton Hall IRC (Lincolnshire)
- 5 Yarl's Wood IRC (Bedfordshire)
- 6 Campsfield House IRC (Oxfordshire) *closing 2019!*
- 7 Harmondsworth & Colnbrook & STHC (Heathrow)
- 8 Tinsley House & Brook House & STHC (Gatwick)

If you are subject to immigration control
you can be detained at any time
but it is more likely:

→ when you first enter the UK

especially

→ when you claim asylum, if the Home Office categorises your case as a "Dublinsafe country case", or as a "non-suspensive appeals case".

see toolkit ↑
for more info

→ if you have claimed asylum, been refused and you are "appeal rights exhausted".

this means after you have been refused and either have appealed to the First tier Tribunal and lost your appeal, or if you did not take the opportunity to appeal, or if you did not have the right to appeal.

remember this is a Home Office term and you may in fact have legal options/further appeals available to you.

→ it is common for someone at risk of detention to be picked up when they go for their regular reporting/signing event at the Home Office.



→ if you do not have any immigration status or applications pending and you are picked up by an immigration enforcement team,

people are also picked up from their homes (sometimes in dawn raids), during immigration raids on businesses, and stop-and-searches at train and bus stations.

most people who have applied for asylum or other immigration status and have not had a positive decision have to regularly

report, sign

at your local Home Office reporting centre or a police station.

At every reporting visit,
you are at risk of detention,
particularly if your application has been
refused, which you may not
know until you go and report.



...for example...
I am going to report at.....
..... If you don't hear
from me in two hours please
contact 0114 27273664
(my lawyer)

You could phone or text a friend
when you are going to the
reporting centre, with
instructions for what to do if you
are detained.
If your friend doesn't hear from
you within an hour or two to say
that you are safe, they can call
your lawyer and/or support
group if you have one.

Work this out with your friend
before you need them.

Prepare in case you are detained

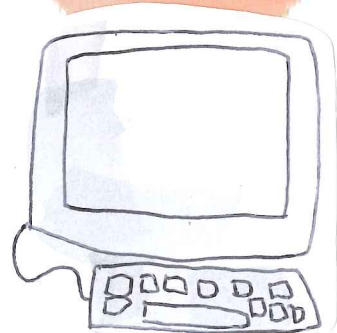
Make copies of the documents and letters which relate to your case
Keep copies for yourself, give copies to a friend and your lawyer.
It may be impossible for them to access vital evidence if it is in your home.

Scan all your paperwork (or take clear pictures with your phone) and email them to yourself

If you do not have an email address ask for help from your local library to set one up. They should have a scanner, too.

Have a list of emergency contacts
Give a copy of your emergency contacts to a friend/supporter, this might include:

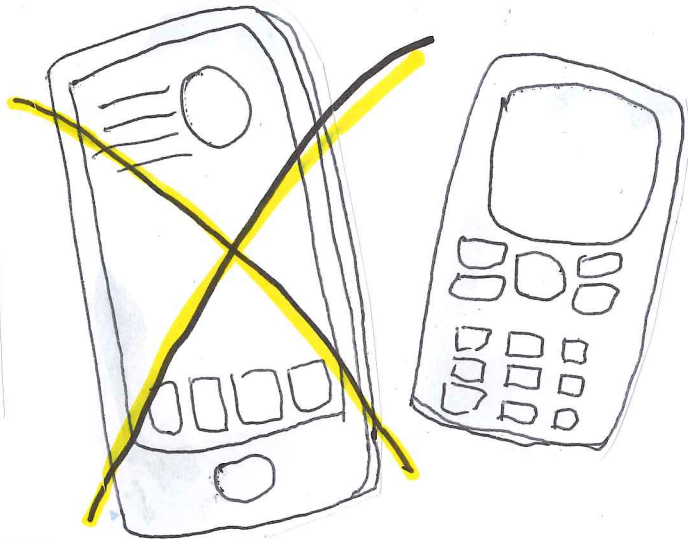
- your lawyer's contact details (and your case reference)
- Friends and family
- Your child care contacts
- Doctors or hospitals if you have a medical condition



Your phone will probably be taken off you and you will be given a basic handset

Your SIM card may not work in the detention centre device

Write down all your phone numbers



Give a copy of your house/room key to someone you trust.

If you are detained, they can get essential things from your house.

Make sure that this is allowed in the rules of your accommodation. This may not be possible, for example if you live in asylum accommodation.



Take any medication and prescriptions with you

The Home Office may take that medication from you and prescribe their own, which can cause delays; but having a record of the medication you usually take might help this process.

You could ask your GP to write a letter to keep with your prescription, explaining why you are taking the medication.



setting up a support group

It could start with a "natural" group of concerned people from something like a choir/mosque/church that you are already involved with

Find out where people have to sign/report and where they are likely to be taken when they are first detained

What personal information does the group need?

How will you communicate together?

Respect each other's personal boundaries and privacy

Make a consent form and look through the action plan...
(It would be great to hear if there are other things you would find useful to include, please email: detentionzine@gmail.com)

Watch this
YouTube
Video:

Bristol Signing Support
by Right to Remain



Of course not even a strong group
can make everything fine!

action plan

With supporters, you can make an action plan for what you want to happen if you are detained.

This is a chance to think & talk about what is important to you.

Some examples of roles for supporters:

Communication

- ❑ Find out which detention centre you have been taken to and what is the best way to stay in contact with you
- ❑ Communicate updates and coordinate helpers/supporters

Who to contact

- ❑ Contact family members and friends to let them know the situation
- ❑ Professionals involved in your case (you may need a letter confirming that you agree with a supporter contacting people such as your GP on your behalf)
- ❑ Your Member of Parliament-MP.
- ❑ Supporters can also contact MPs in their own constituency- area, to ask for their support. See "contacting your MP"

Gathering things you might need

- ❑ Your own possessions
- ❑ Or if this is not possible then gathering essentials like toiletries and clothes
- ❑ Buying phone credit

Legal representation

- ❑ If you have a lawyer: do you need someone to talk to (liaise with) them, what is your reference number and what is the best way to stay in touch with them?
- ❑ If you do not have a lawyer: find out about legal aid firms working at the detention centre. See BIDUK.org for a list at every centre. See "legal options in detention"

Visiting

- ❑ Coordinate lift shares for friends, family and support group members
- ❑ Contact the local detention visitor group (Especially if it is too far for people you know to visit) see AVIDdetention.org.uk
- ❑ Perhaps fundraise for travel expenses

...action
plan
continued...

Campaigning

Do you want to go public with your case? This is a big decision and needs careful consideration. Public campaigns can be stressful, exposing and potentially dangerous to you and your family in the country you are in danger of being deported to, but can also be encouraging and give you and your supporters a focus.

At the end of the day having a good legal case is the best way to reverse a Home Office decision.

TEMPLATE CONSENT LETTER

Your name

Your Address

Date of birth

HOME OFFICE REFERENCE:

Dear

I am aware that I am at risk of being detained in an Immigration Removal Centre/detention centre.

I give permission for to correspond with you on my behalf and to send and receive information relating to my immigration matter, and any other relevant issues.

Their contact details are.....

I appreciate your cooperation in this.

Many thanks

[Check with the person you have written to: do they accept this letter?]

SIGNED:.....

DATE:.....

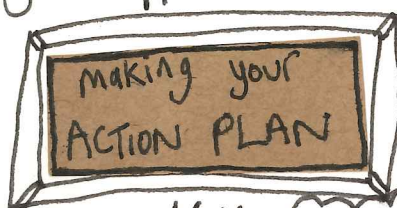
You could add any other details, for example if this is going to your lawyer then add the reference number they gave you.

This agreement does not make someone into your lawyer.

Thank you to Mark at Glasgow Unity Centre for the template

- ☐ You don't have to make
- ☐ a perfect plan:
- ☒ in fact some things
- ☐ might not be
- ☒ sorted at all and that is fine.

it is ok to change your mind about things.



use the organisations which exist, find out what they can offer to support you

plan in breaks

don't spend all your time planning...

all this big detention - planning!

some ideas... time out from

- playing games or sports
- being in nature
- making connections in the community
- talking about how you feel
- eating good food

What helps you feel better ???

It is so important to not make promises you can't keep

different people can offer different things & will offer different amounts and that is O.K.

Notes for Supporters

this is a marathon not a sprint

You are human & THE SYSTEM is big & it can be overwhelming

Support of supporters is an important role = think about communication between supporters



"You can't pour from an empty cup" = think about Self Care

“

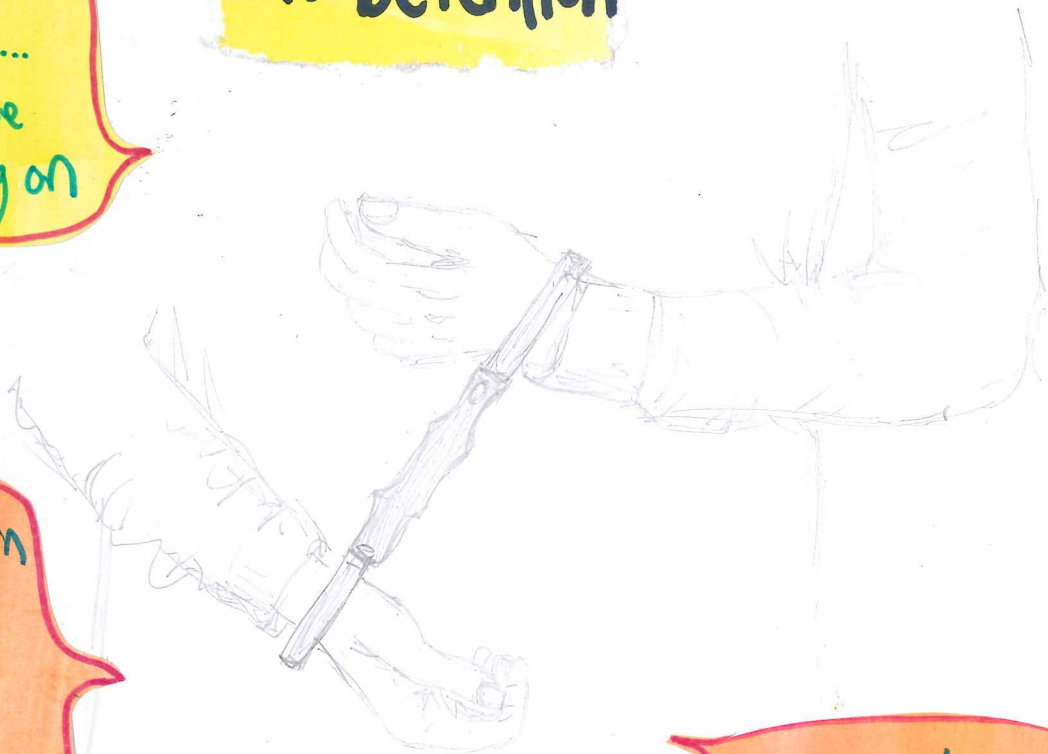
they told me
they were taking
me to "a safe
place"

being taken into Detention

We went in a
secure van like
prisoners

We had to wait
for a long time...
Nobody told me
what was going on

I was kept in
a police cell
until I was
moved to the
detention centre



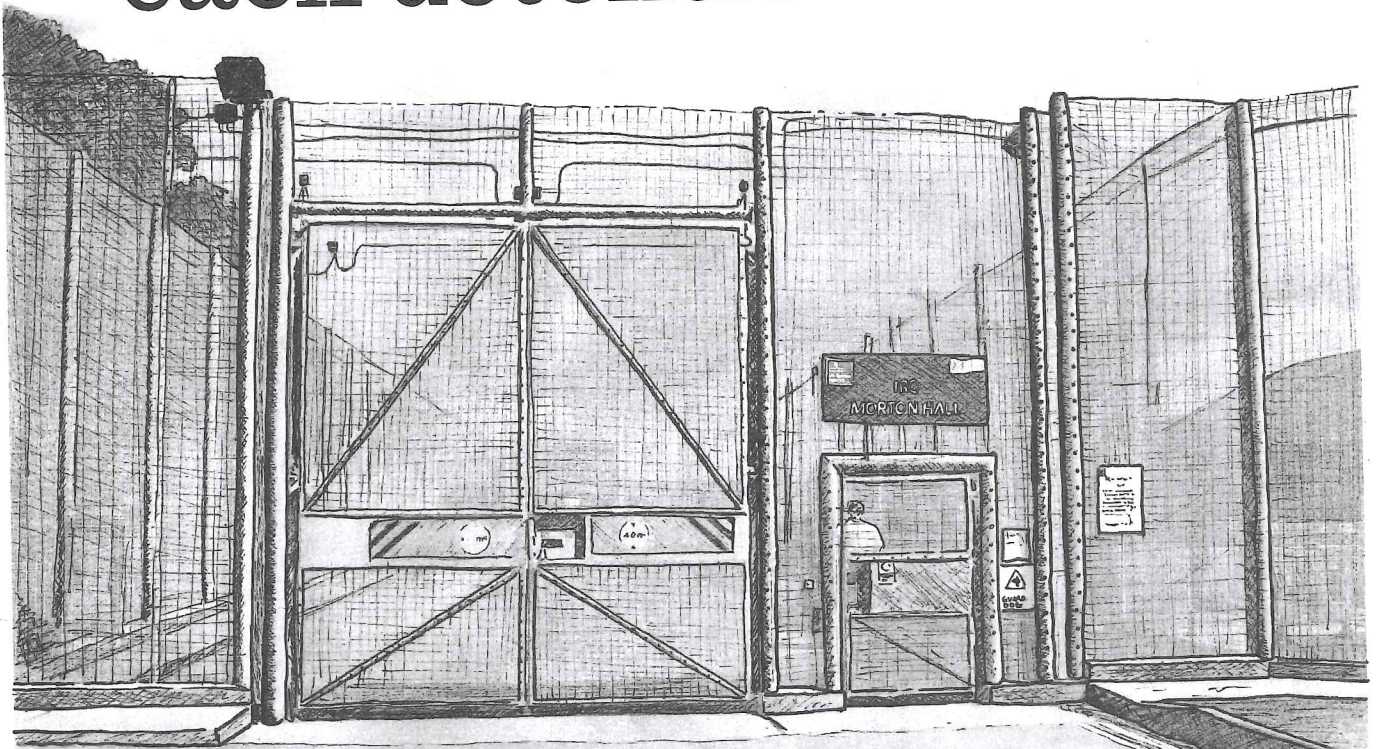
We picked up
other people on
the way

We arrived in
the middle of
the night

”

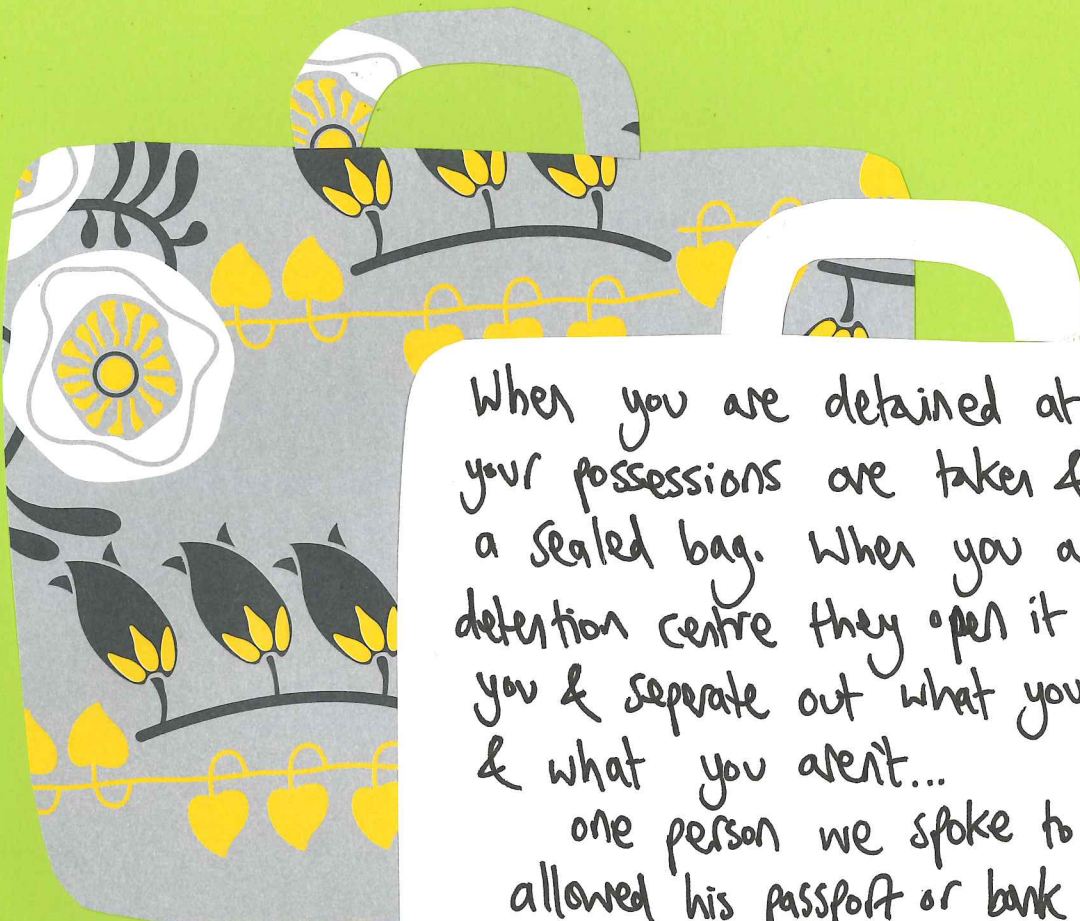
if you are detained

Procedures are different in each detention centre



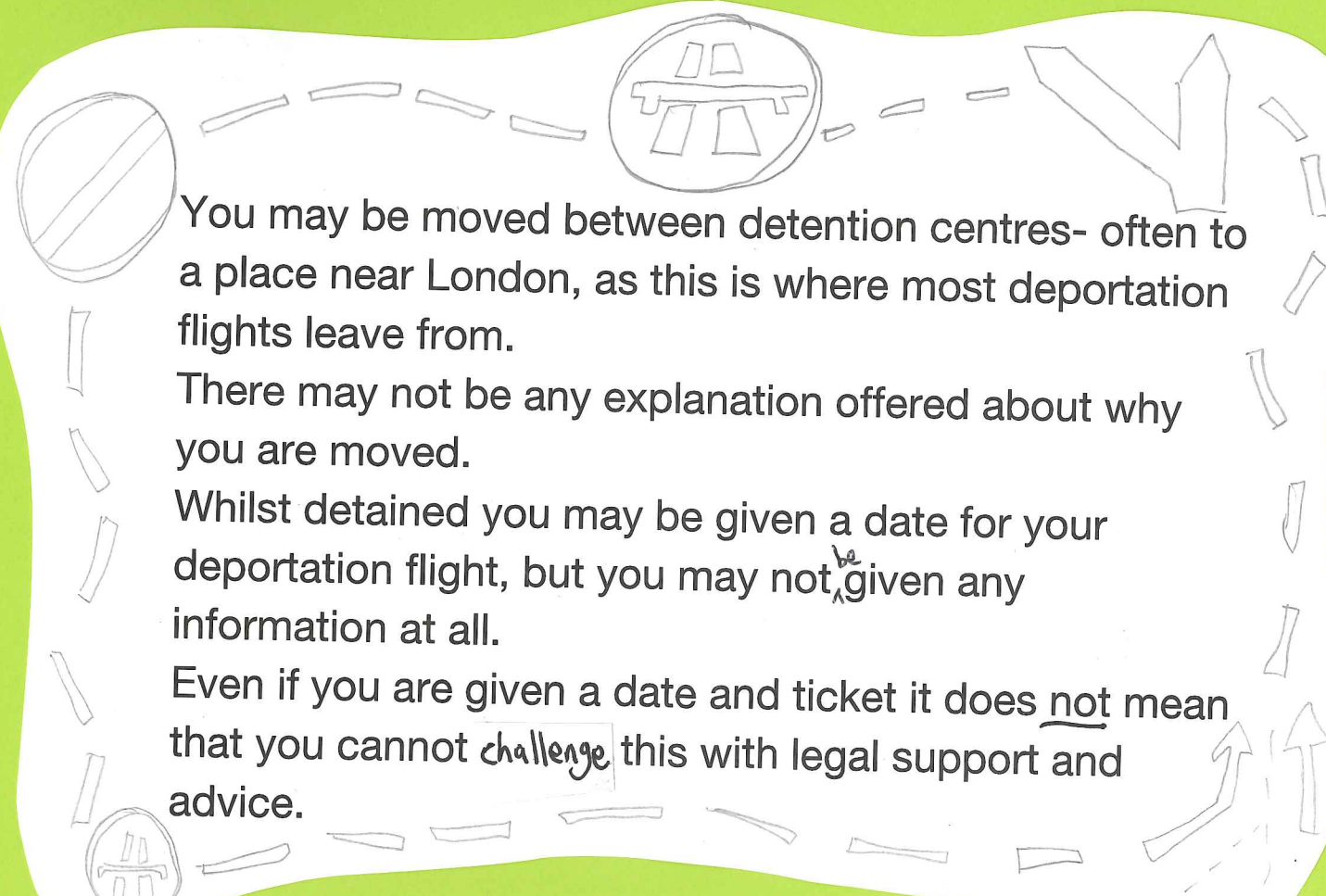
You may not be able to rely on the staff there to give you helpful information about procedure and your rights, so it could be a good idea to contact a local visitor group and talk to other people in detention about what they know:

find local visitor groups through AVID
Association of Visitors to Immigration
Detainees aviddetention.org.uk



When you are detained at reporting, your possessions are taken & put in a sealed bag. When you arrive at the detention centre they open it in front of you & separate out what you are allowed & what you aren't...

one person we spoke to was not allowed his passport or bank statement because they said he could make fake ID!!



You may be moved between detention centres- often to a place near London, as this is where most deportation flights leave from.

There may not be any explanation offered about why you are moved.

Whilst detained you may be given a date for your deportation flight, but you may not ^{be} given any information at all.

Even if you are given a date and ticket it does not mean that you cannot challenge this with legal support and advice.



there are limited times
when you can leave your
room and restrictions
on where else you can be
all the time.

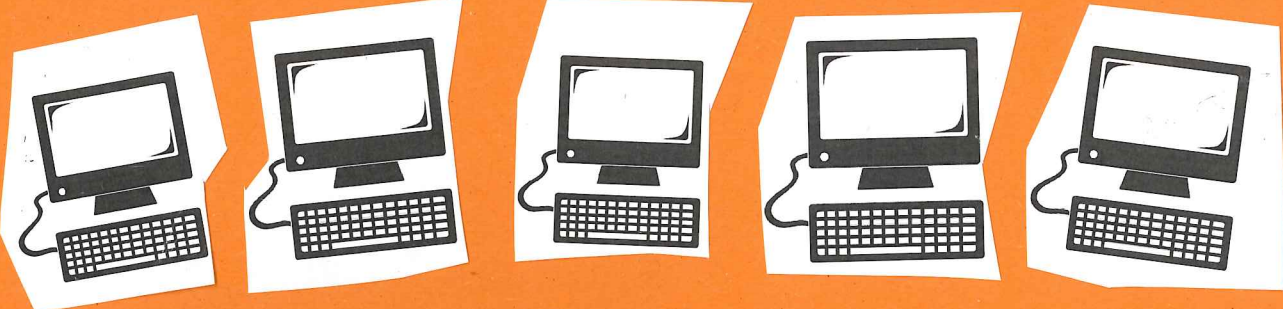


There are LOTS of cameras



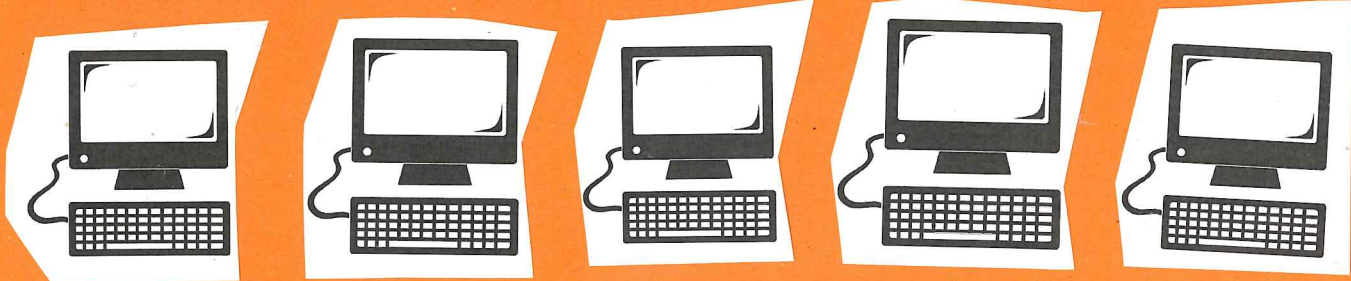
To go from one area to another
you will have to go through
security doors & may be
searched.

It can be noisy, especially at night
with staff making noise with keys,
whistling, banging doors etc



You should have access to
the internet in detention,
but you may have limited
time to use the computers...

Certain sites such as
Facebook and Skype are
blocked



In detention centres there is a *mixture* of people who have been there for a long time and people who are only held for a short time.

a MIXtURE

Even though you are being held by the Home Office, they will still mainly communicate with you through letters.

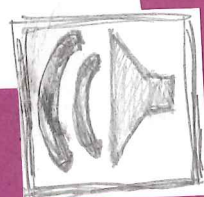
MMM... I ♥ THE
HOSTILE
ENVIRONMENT!

Theresa May
UK Prime Minister
& former Home Secretary



Home Office

If they want to see you during your time in detention they may call for you using a loudspeaker and your ID number.



Visiting

"having someone to visit you is so important...
if no one comes to visit you, you think you belong in that place"

"reminds you there's a world out there"

"felt like a human being"

"having visitors gave me something to reach for"

"people from my church came, this helped me a lot"

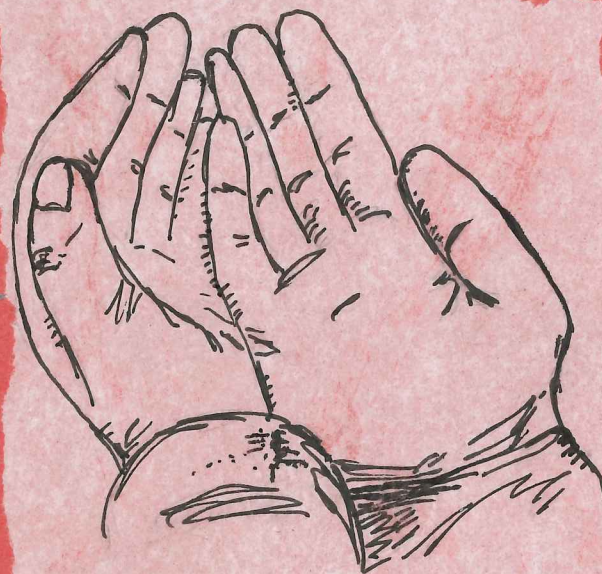


Visitors will need to notify the centre in advance (they may need to give 24 hours notice) and bring identification: ID with them. They will have their photograph taken at the centre, and their fingerprints might be scanned.

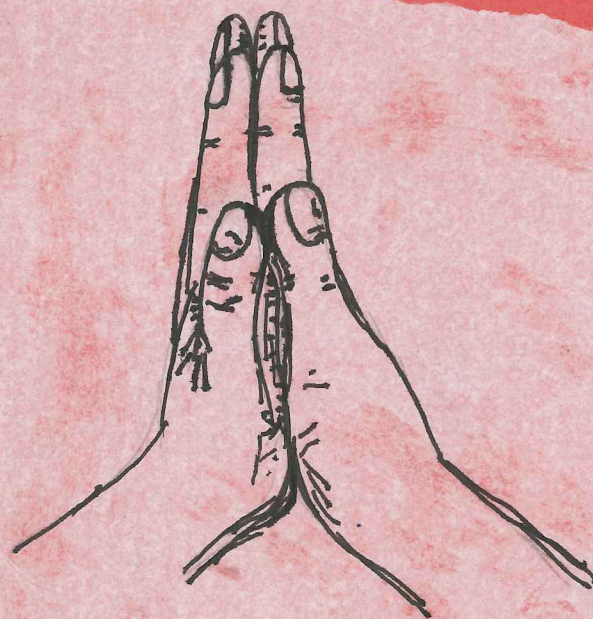
contact the detention
centre to find out
procedures & visiting times.

As well as helping you understand the system, visitor groups (co-ordinated groups of people, usually volunteers) can regularly visit you in detention to provide company and emotional support. See AVIDdetention.org.uk for details of each group.

Chaplain



At every detention centre there will be one or more chaplains (religious ministers). There are usually several chaplains from **different faiths** who work in rotation. Chaplains can provide religious support, emotional support, or help in practical ways too. The place of worship may provide a **quiet place** for reflection and prayer.



There are usually prayer groups in detention centres (often organised by people in detention), which some people find very comforting.

Use the Right to Remain
TOOLKIT to learn more
about evidence & the
stages of asylum etc

Follow your case at
every stage

Keep your
documents in
order

this
is

YOUR
CASE

It's not enough
to say "I
have a
solicitor"
they have a
job to do, but
so do you

understand that immigration/
asylum policy portrays you as a
liar and fraudster, so prepare
all your evidence clearly.

some want to help, some
just want to 'help their pockets'

Agree a Routine
with your solicitor:
they will call you
on X day, you
will contact them
if they don't.

WORDS FROM
"Experts-by-Experience"
OF IMMIGRATION
DETENTION

Share your fears and worries with those affected. Together you can find ways to help each other.

Don't make yourself comfortable

Contact organisations with links to Experts by Experience for advice and support

Reading can offer the mind an escape

You have rights

You can detain the body but not the mind

You haven't done anything wrong

Train your mind to not be in detention

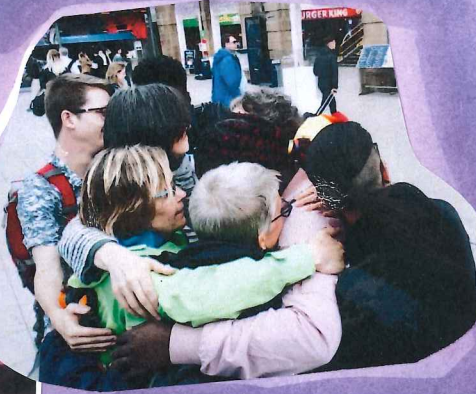
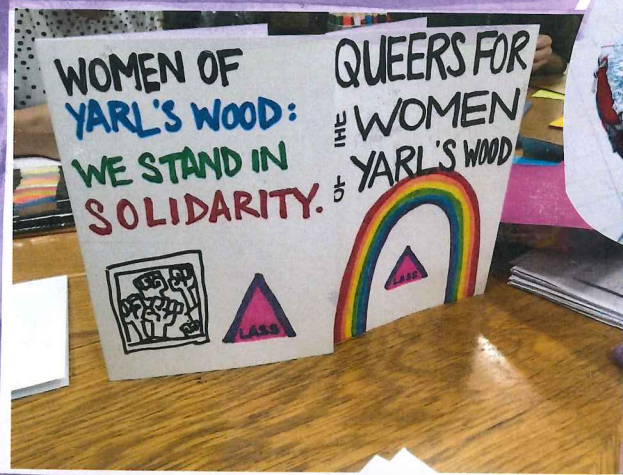
Get rid of fear

Befriend detainees who speak your language and english to understand the processes in detention

You are never alone in or out of detention. There are people who are willing to support you. They may not be able to get you out of the situation but they can help you feel wanted, accepted



Showing
Solidarity



there are lots of
people who want
to end
detention....





raising voices

taking action



educating

legal options in detention

1 legal aid contracted firms



If you are claiming asylum you are entitled to legal aid. If yours is a non-asylum immigration case there might still be a chance to use legal aid to challenge your detention.

Each detention centre in England has a few legal firms contracted to work there to provide legal aid. See BIDUK.org for a list at each centre.

These legal firms hold "surgeries" which you can sign up for, but they get booked up very far in advance and have varying quality. See the online toolkit for more details about how to complain if you are having problems.

2 Keeping your lawyer



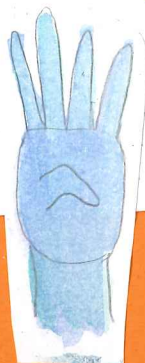
You may have a lawyer who is still working on your case when you are detained. They can carry on working for you, for example submitting a fresh claim, although this might become difficult if it is too far for them to come and visit you. Most deportations in the UK happen from London airports so you could be moved to near London (see map of detention centres in UK).

3 pro bono legal advice



This is legal advice offered by a lawyer for free. This might be available through your local university, law centre or you can also try www.barprobono.org.uk. The lawyer is more likely to work for you if your case is strong- try to think (perhaps with supporters) about how to best present your case. Friends and supporters finding evidence to back up your case may help with this.

4 pay for a private lawyer



Your friends and supporters may be able to help fundraise to cover the costs of a private lawyer for you. It is important to know that the person or firm you employ is knowledgeable on immigration issues and that you understand what you are paying for. See the toolkit for more information on this and search the database at solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

5 legal support

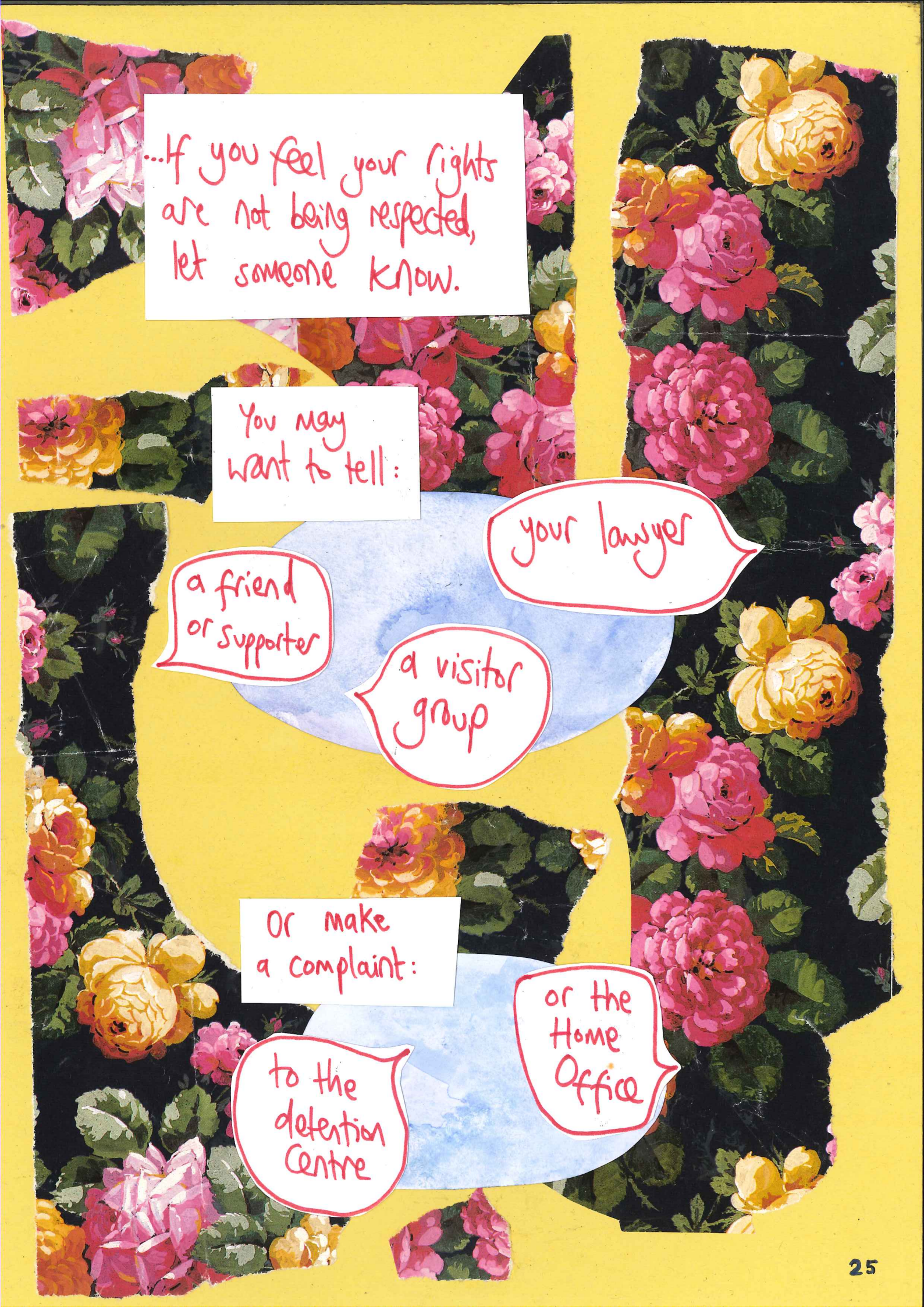


Legal support is not the same as legal advice. It is illegal to give legal advice without the right qualifications, but your friends and supporters can still help in lots of ways. Even if you have a lawyer it is good to understand your own legal case.

Some examples of legal support your friends/supporters could provide:

- Read the Right to Remain Toolkit ^{for} ~~with~~ you, or together with you
- research evidence on your country of origin or your particular situation
- help gather useful letters for the case – this might be an expert report, or supportive letters from a school, Social Services, medical or mental health professionals, community groups
- Read your letters from the Home Office to help you understand them
- Visit you in detention

...there are lots of other examples in the toolkit!



...If you feel your rights
are not being respected,
let someone know.

You may
want to tell:

a friend
or supporter

your lawyer

a visitor
group

Or make
a complaint:

to the
detention
Centre

or the
Home
Office

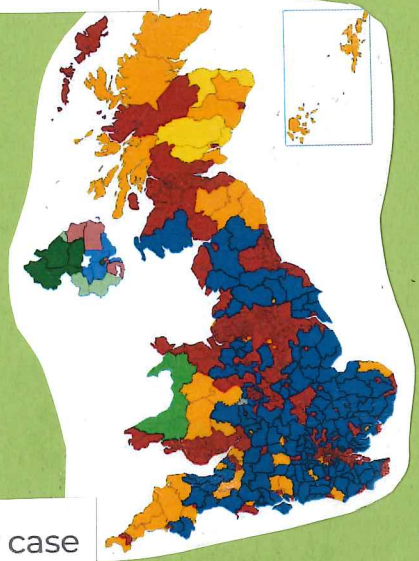
Contacting your Member of Parliament (MP)

Your MP will depend on where you live in the country (their areas are called constituencies)...

You can find out who they are and how to contact them here:



theyworkforyou.com



Your MP can talk to the Home Office on your behalf and raise your case with the Immigration Minister or Home Secretary directly.

Some MPs can be really amazing allies and will help you to get your voice heard by the Home Office.

Tips on contacting your MP:

Talk to your lawyer (if you have one) before contacting your MP.

Talk to a member of your MP's staff first. They often have a great deal of experience of asylum and immigration cases and will be able to discuss your case with you.

Look at the reasons why the Home Office refused your case and see if you can address those reasons for refusal or produce new evidence to support your argument.

Have all your documents and letters with you when you see the MP or a member of their staff. Put the documents in order so that you can find the right paper when asked.

If your case is not urgent then it can take the Home Office a few weeks to respond to your MP – be patient.

The Home Office often work very slowly and progress on your case can take many months. Lots of people are experiencing similar delays – it isn't just you.

immigration bail

What is bail?

- Bail is the temporary release of a person from immigration detention for a specific period of time,
- A person released on bail will have to follow certain conditions (e.g. living at a specific address, reporting weekly to the Home Office).
- Bail does not give a person a legal right to remain in the UK, but means that a person does not have to wait in detention whilst decisions about them are made.

You have to convince the judge that you will keep to the conditions of your bail- eg will you run away or not keep to reporting requirements?

You can apply for bail from the Home Office and if this is refused you can apply to the first-tier tribunal to have your hearing in front of a judge.

If you cannot find a lawyer to help you with these applications, you can apply for bail yourself.

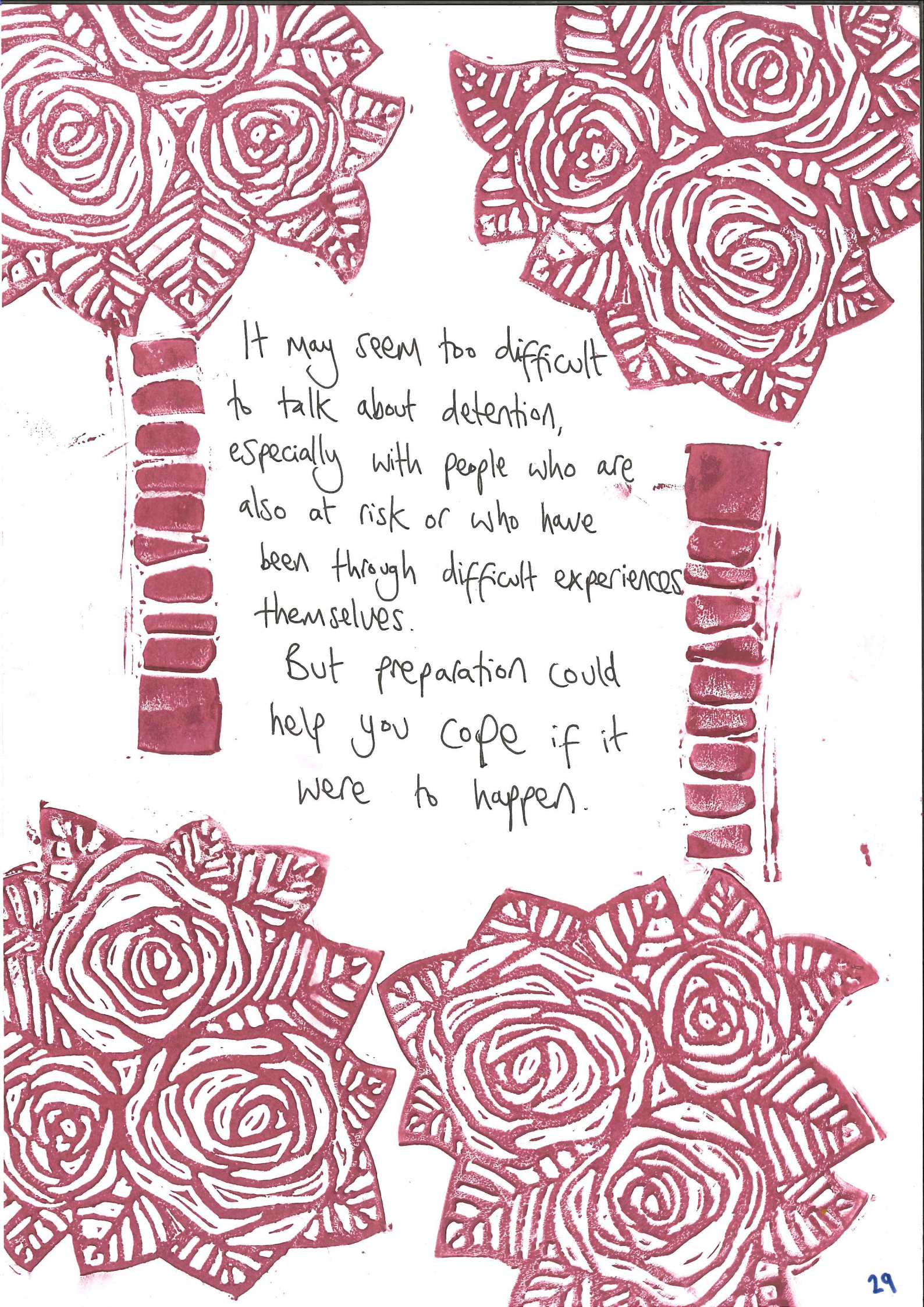
Bail Immigration for Detainees (BIDUK.org) have a handbook which can help with this and lots more information about bail.

The Immigration Bail Observation Project Scotland has useful information for those in Scotland and elsewhere in UK too.

see fighttoremain.org.uk/toolkit
for more details, too!

YOU
ARE
NOT
ALONE





It may seem too difficult
to talk about detention,
especially with people who are
also at risk or who have
been through difficult experiences
themselves.

But preparation could
help you cope if it
were to happen.



Freed Voices are a group of experts-by-experience committed to speaking out about the realities of immigration detention in the UK.

Everyone from Freed Voices for their generosity and tenacity

Lydia & Pride for their precious contributions

Lush UK for their funding

Lisa (Right to Remain)

for her insights and attention!

Tina (Sheffield City of Sanctuary)

for her thoughtful input &

for their references

Hilary (SY Refugee Law & Justice)

Steph (Early Asylum Support)

& Rosie (RtR)

for their edits and encouragement

Daniel Ferguson, Susannah Paul and Sarah Craig (Immigration Bail Observation Project Scotland) for allowing me to use their definitions

Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants, These Walls Must Fall, End Deportations and Lesbian Asylum Support Sheffield for their photos from their awesome acts of solidarity and Michael (RtR/These Walls Must Fall) for his detailed picture p12

Unlocking Detention for their dedicated gathering of accounts of detention

Mark (Unity Centre) for help with consent letter p9
Jason (Law Blomfield MP's Case Worker) for contacting your MP info

Also all my family for
all their support





This is a *zine*- a kind of hand-made magazine about preparing in case you are detained.
It uses the Right to Remain toolkit, text from Immigration Bail Project Scotland and accounts from people who are "experts-by-experience" of detention.



It talks about **practical things** you and supporters can do, as well as giving you **some insight** into what the experience might be like; although everybody is different.

This is not to try to make detention OK, but it is hopefully a way that you can feel more prepared and might help you talk about the issues around detention. Perhaps reading this will encourage you to get involved in one of the groups who support people and campaign against detention...

Take your time reading this zine, different parts may be useful at different times and it is a big subject.

As I write, things are changing: one of the detention centres listed in here -Campsfield- is closing, which is a big step in the right direction... take heart, but also, take action!

Made by Rosie in 2018-19

detentionzine@gmail.com

To find out more or to order more copies of this zine go to:
Right to Remain
righttoremain.org.uk

