



MAKE A PLAN BEFORE A CRISIS

- ✓ Practise asking the questions in this guide. Say them out loud. Practicing when you feel calm makes it easier in stressful situations.
- ✓ Keep important contact details and documents somewhere safe, not just on your phone, where you and a trusted person can access them.
- ✓ Make a plan for children, medication, pets, housing or work in case you or someone you know is arrested or detained by Immigration Officers
- ✓ Do not ignore immigration letters, decisions or deadlines. Ask someone you trust for help and use the Right to Remain Toolkit to understand what to do next
- ✓ If you have to report/sign at the Home Office, tell someone when and where you are going. Agree what they should do if you do not come back.
- ✓ Tell people you trust if you are worried about enforcement. Do not carry this alone. The more people who understand, the better we can protect each other.

IF YOU SEE A RAID

DON'T WALK AWAY

WE KEEP US SAFE



- * Ask if the person wants support.
- * Remind them that questions may be voluntary.
- * Help read documents and warrants.
- * Ask what legal power they are using.
- * Tell people nearby what is happening.
- * Record what happens + film Immigration Officers.
- * Send an alert to your local support/anti-raids.

- * **If someone is detained** Find out where they were taken. Contact their lawyer or someone they trust. Share any urgent health or medication information.
- * **If nobody is detained:** Keep any documents, write down what happened, talk to people you trust and get advice or information. Be prepared if they return.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE. MANY PEOPLE DO NOT AGREE
WITH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT. STAY CONNECTED,
SHARE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.**

**RIGHT
TO REMAIN**

Last updated: October 2026

@RIGHT_TO_REMAIN @ANTIRAIIDSLEEDS

A POCKET GUIDE FOR PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES AGAINST IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT



Home Office
BUILDING A HOSTILE
AND DIVIDED SOCIETY

WHAT IS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT?

The Home Office is the part of the UK Government responsible for visas, immigration and asylum.

Immigration Enforcement Officers work for the Home Office. They often harass people in public. They also go to people's homes or workplaces (these are called immigration raids). Sometimes they will arrest people and take them to immigration detention.

WHAT IS IMMIGRATION DETENTION?

Detention is when the Home Office takes away someone's freedom because of their immigration situation and holds them in an immigration detention centre which is similar to a prison. It is not a punishment for committing a crime. Detention can cause serious harm to people, families and communities. Talking about detention and immigration enforcement and making a plan can help us prepare and protect each other.



WHAT CAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS DO?

Immigration Officers are **NOT** the police and do not have the same powers. What they can do depends on where they are, why they are there and what legal power they are using. You do not always have to answer questions, show documents or let them into a building. **Keep reading to learn more or scan the QR code.**

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

Immigration enforcement is increasing in the UK. It can affect people with or without status, as well as their families, friends and communities.

This guide explains your rights if Immigration Enforcement approach you, and how to prepare and protect each other.

Everyone belongs in our communities and should be treated with dignity and respect, not punished because of their immigration status. No one is illegal!

**no
one
is
illegal**

YOUR RIGHTS IF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT APPROACH YOU

IF THEY APPROACH YOU IN PUBLIC

Ask: "Why have you approached me?"
"Are these questions voluntary?"
"Am I free to go?"

If the questions are **voluntary**, you do **not** have to answer them or show proof of your immigration status. You can leave.

If they say the questions are **not voluntary** or you are **not free to leave**, ask:

"What legal power are you using?"
"Am I being formally examined, detained or arrested?" "Why?"

If the questions are formal and you do not understand English, ask for an interpreter.

POLICE AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Police and Immigration Enforcement Officers are different. **They do not have the same powers.** Sometimes they work together.

If they stop you, ask:

"Are you police or Immigration Enforcement?"
"Why have you stopped me?"
"Do I have to answer these questions?"
"Am I free to go?"

They should not stop you because of how you look or sound. **They need a legal reason to question you.**



E-BIKES AND DELIVERY DRIVERS

Police may stop you if they think there is a problem with your e-bike e.g. its speed, power, insurance or licence. Sometimes Immigration Officers are there too.

This does not automatically allow Immigration Enforcement to check your status. They need their own legal reason to formally question you.

Ask: "Are these questions voluntary?"
"Am I free to go?"

YOU DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS!

Wherever Immigration Enforcement approach you, their first questions may be voluntary. **You do NOT have to answer voluntary questions** or show proof of your status.

Refusing voluntary questions does not, by itself, give officers a legal reason to formally question you. If they say you must answer, ask:
"What legal power are you using?"

Do not give Officers information they do not need. What you say about yourself or other people could lead to further questions, checks or enforcement action.



IF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT COME TO YOUR HOME OR WORK



Ask to see their ID. They should show official ID or warrant card.
Ask: "What legal power are you using to enter?"
"Please show me the warrant so I can read it"
"Are you asking for my permission?"

IF THEY HAVE A WARRANT OR AD LETTER



A warrant is a court document.
An AD letter is a Home Office document that can allow officers to enter a business to arrest a particular person.

Ask to see it, and get a copy. Check the address, date, who or what they are looking for, and what it allows them to do.

If something looks wrong, tell the officers and ask them to check it. For example, if the address or date is wrong, or the person named is not there.

A warrant for one person does NOT automatically allow officers to formally question everyone else who is there.

If they ask you questions, ask: "Are these questions voluntary?" If they say no, ask:
"What legal power are you using?"

IF THEY ASK TO SEARCH YOUR PHONE

Immigration Officers cannot simply search your phone. They may ask to see a specific document, e.g. proof of your identity or immigration status.
Find and show the document yourself.
Do not hand over an unlocked phone for officers to look through.



IF THEY ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION TO ENTER



Tell them:
"**I do not consent to you entering.**"

A landlord cannot give permission to enter your private rented home for you. Someone under 18 years old cannot give permission to enter.

IF YOU WORK SOMEWHERE THAT SELLS ALCOHOL OR LATE-NIGHT FOOD



Some businesses that sell alcohol or serve late-night hot food or drinks can be entered without a warrant or permission.

Immigration Officers need a specific reason to enter, such as suspected illegal working. They cannot use this power just to check everyone.

Ask: "What legal power are you using?"
"What immigration offence are you investigating?"

LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISIT RIGHTTOREMAIN.ORG.UK

