The Nationality & Borders Bill
“Rather than demonise refugees and asylum seekers, we need to show the sort of costly love and mercy that we would wish for ourselves, were we to find ourselves similarly bereft.

The government needs to be challenged on its view of basic human value in a contested world.”

– Nick Baines, May 2021

Bishop of Leeds, sits in the House of Lords
Ripon churches

Anglican diocese of Leeds

6 Anglican dioceses

National faith-based organisations + faith-based refugee organisations

Other denominations & faiths

Some CoS groups + Siân
Webinar for faith leaders

By Zoom
4pm, Tuesday
28 September

Search for ‘faith leaders webinar’
Attendees – inter-faith

- Methodists
- Anglicans
- Baptists
- Quakers
- URC
- Roman Catholics
- Jewish
- Free church
- Church of Scotland
- Church in Wales
- Presbyterian Church of Wales
- Nigerian megachurch in UK
- Atheist

- JPIT Yorkshire
- Jubilee+
- National Justice & Peace Network
- National Justice & Peace Commission in Scotland
- Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees
- Irish Council of Churches
- Mediterranean Hope
  (Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy)
Joint statement
Dear inter-faith colleague,

Whether or not you were able to attend our webinar about the Nationality and Borders Bill on 28 September, we invite you to explore how you can unite with us to protest the bill.

Below you'll find a list of options: feel free to have a look around and choose what you'd like to engage with. If you have any questions at all, please call Nicola David on 07966 444104 or email.
The most important thing you can do is add your/your organisation’s name to a joint statement protesting the bill. These will be collated into a webpage and a PDF. We will then target the national media and politicians, while you could do the same in your local area.

Tell others about this bill
Can you tell your colleagues, congregation or members? We’ve created a PowerPoint you can use, and some text to help with communications or a blog. You can also watch our webinar again, or play it for others.

Write to local and national politicians
Download our template letter and send it to your MP, your local branches of political parties, or a cabinet member. You could do this by yourself, or as lots of individuals, or as an organisation.

Engage with your local media
Our guidelines and resources make it easy to contact your local print, online & broadcast news.
Protest with us outside Parliament

From 10-17 October 2021, the British Institute, Amnesty International, Liberty and Freedom from Torture are holding a Week of Action on Human Rights. In culmination, please consider if you can join us outside the Houses of Westminster in London between 16:30 and 18:30 on Thursday, 20 October. Do get together, share transport, and bring your own placards!

Build a relationship with your local City of Sanctuary group

There are around 125 City of Sanctuary groups of all shapes and sizes across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire. They variously provide direct support to asylum-seekers and refugees: campaign; hold public events; work with schools; run food and clothing banks; teach ESOL; and much, much more. If they don’t know you already, they’d love you to get in touch.

List of groups

Ripon City of Sanctuary

Any questions or feedback?

Please email us at info@ripon.cityofsanctuary.org

Please also use this email address if you would like to unsubscribe.
Home Office is planning to build asylum accommodation centres for 8,000 people

The Home Office has been accused of "warehousing people" after initiating plans to construct new purpose-built accommodation sites across the UK, capable of housing up to 8,000 asylum seekers.

In line with Home Secretary Priti Patel's 'New Plan for Immigration', the department is actively seeking contractors to design, build or renovate large-scale reception centres that can accommodate and support asylum seekers for up to six months while their claims are processed.

"This portfolio of centres has been described by one refugee charity as having the potential to become an 'asylum-industrial complex'," said campaigners, adding that the construction has been "inappropriate for the needs of such vulnerable and often traumatised people".
North Yorkshire County Council has a 75% Conservative majority

7 district councils of which 6 are Conservative

All 6 MPs are Conservative
Letter to 170 councillors + 8 chief execs + 6 MPs

Wouldn’t it be great if every CoS group sent the same letter to their own councils & MPs?

We wish to express our concern that North Yorkshire is being considered by the Home Office for a new immigration processing/detention centre. On 13 August, it was reported that the government had initiated plans to construct 20 centres across the UK capable of housing up to 8,000 asylum-seekers (adults). There are currently 12 immigration detention centres in Britain, but none as yet in our wider region. This raises the concern that North Yorkshire could be considered for a future site: we are largely rural; with the plans for a centre in Catterick scrapped, the Home Office may seek an alternative site in the North.

Timing: Why the sudden cause for concern?
The Nationality and Borders Bill, currently making its way through Parliament, seeks to extend the number of asylum-seeker detentions. Clause 15 of the bill “could be interpreted as making an asylum camp the only form of accommodation that some asylum seekers would be able to access”. This will increase the demand for immigration processing/detention centres across the UK.
Perfect response from Green councillors in Skipton district

Good response from chief executive of NY County Council

Good response from Ripon MP + forwarding to Priti Patel

Promising response + possible meeting with Rishi Sunak (Richmondshire MP)

OK response from Selby MP
You wouldn’t do it unless you had to.