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## Press Release

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### **MPs' report shows need to end indefinite detention, says Jesuit Refugee Service**

The Jesuit Refugee Service UK (JRS UK) have renewed their call for the government to end indefinite immigration detention and radically reform its approach to immigration, in response to the today's published inquiry into the Detention of Windrush generation by the Joint Committee on Human Rights. In a stinging report, MPs highlighted a 'systemic failure' in Home Office decisions to detain.

Commenting on the conclusions of the report, JRS UK Director Sarah Teather, said: **"This report provides further damning evidence of the Home Office's excessive use of immigration detention. Far from being a last resort, the use of these punitive and devastating powers has become so automatic that it has been normalised.**

**"The report also lays bare the consequences of the Home Office's hermeneutic of suspicion towards migrants and the way it inevitably to unjust immigration decisions. At JRS UK, we witness first-hand how impossible burdens of proof, disregard for evidence, and the arbitrary use of immigration detention ruin the lives of those seeking asylum, as they have the lives of these Windrush era citizens.**

**"An end to indefinite detention and root and branch reform of the Home Office's approach to immigration are urgently needed".**

The Joint Committee on Human Rights report highlights 'repeated failings' and 'wholly incorrect approach to case-handling' by Home Office officials which led to 'perverse' decisions about whether to detain an individual. Whilst the report focuses on Windrush-era citizens, JRS UK see the same inhumane and dehumanising approach to asylum and immigration casework, and the debilitating effects poor decision making has, every day, corroborating the report's conclusion that the problems in the handling of Windrush cases are illustrative of a wider, systemic failure. Such failure has a devastating impact on human lives.

One of the men JRS UK accompany in Heathrow detention centres (who wishes to remain anonymous) said of his experience in detention: **"In my country, they tortured me physically, but here the Home Office is torturing me mentally. They destroyed my dreams and my life."**

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## Notes to Editor

1. The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation, at work in 51 countries around the world with a shared mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. In the UK, our work currently focuses on those who find themselves destitute as a consequence of government policies and those detained for the administration of immigration procedures.
2. JRS UK has an outreach service to the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centres where it undertakes pastoral and befriending work with all those held in detention, including asylum seekers, and others struggling to regularise their immigration status. JRS UK is joining others in arguing for an end to indefinite detention.
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