

House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
5 May 2016

**RE: Immigration Bill – Amendment 84 – Automatic Judicial Oversight**

Dear

As you will know the Immigration Bill returns to the House of Commons on Monday 9th May. Two weeks ago I was in Parliament with Archbishops, Muftis and over 80 other faith and community leaders listening to Richard Fuller MP tell us that the immigration detention system was a source of national shame. We are heartened by the progress and positive steps taken by the Government to redress this, including the introduction of a 72 hour time limit in detention for pregnant women and new procedures assessing vulnerability.

Yet, Monday gives you an opportunity to do more. Lord Ramsbotham's amendment (Amendment 84) provides automatic judicial oversight into the system after 28 days. The Ramsbotham amendment reflects a cross-party concern at the over-use of detention expressed both by the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention and the Home Office commissioned Shaw Review.

In practice, the alternative Government amendment (oversight after six months) would only benefit a small number of individuals. The vast majority of individuals held in immigration detention do make bail applications within six months of being detained. Those who might benefit are likely to be the ones who are extremely vulnerable, which are exactly the people the Government's new 'adults at risk' policy would attempt to prevent being put in detention at all. It is highly inappropriate for the Government to suggest that anyone could be left in detention for six months without judicial oversight.

Therefore, we urge you to support the Ramsbotham amendment. The Government amendment will do very little to change the UK culture of detention.

Please let us know if we can provide any further information,

Yours sincerely,