

OutCry!

END IMMIGRATION DETENTION OF CHILDREN



The campaigning work of Bail for Immigration Detainees and The Children's Society to end the immigration detention of children and families.

Join the campaign at www.outcrycampaign.org.uk



Every year around 1,000 children in the UK are detained for the purposes of immigration control. They are the sons and daughters of asylum seekers or migrants and detained with their families. Or they are detained because the government wrongly believes that they are over 18. They are the only children in this country who can be locked up indefinitely without the oversight of the courts and without having committed any crime. Children detained with their families are held in one of three Immigration Removal Centres: Dungavel House in Lanarkshire, Tinsley House near Gatwick Airport and Yarl's Wood, the largest of the three centres, near Bedford.

What is the OutCry! campaign?

The Children's Society and Bail for Immigration Detainees have joined forces and through OutCry!, we are campaigning to end the immigration detention of children. Detaining children is damaging, expensive and unnecessary and we will be pressing the government to change its policy so that children are no longer locked up in detention centres.

Detention damages children

Taken from their communities, with little understanding of what they have done to deserve being locked up, detention has a devastating impact on children. Scared and anxious, children we work with have experienced insomnia, weight loss, bedwetting, depression and self harm while in detention.

Detention of children is unnecessary

The government believes that families run away from the authorities if they are not detained. There is simply no evidence for this. As anyone with children will know, their education and health needs, friendship ties and the desire to be settled in the UK all prevent families 'disappearing'.

Detention of children is a shameful waste of taxpayers' money

It costs £130 every day to keep a child in immigration detention. We regularly work with children who are detained for over six weeks. To keep a family of four in detention for six weeks costs over £20,000.

Our campaign will expose this disgraceful practice at a national level with candid stories from children and their families depicting the damaging effects of detention. It is clear we need a fairer policy that demonstrates our natural instinct to protect and care for some of the most vulnerable children in the UK today.



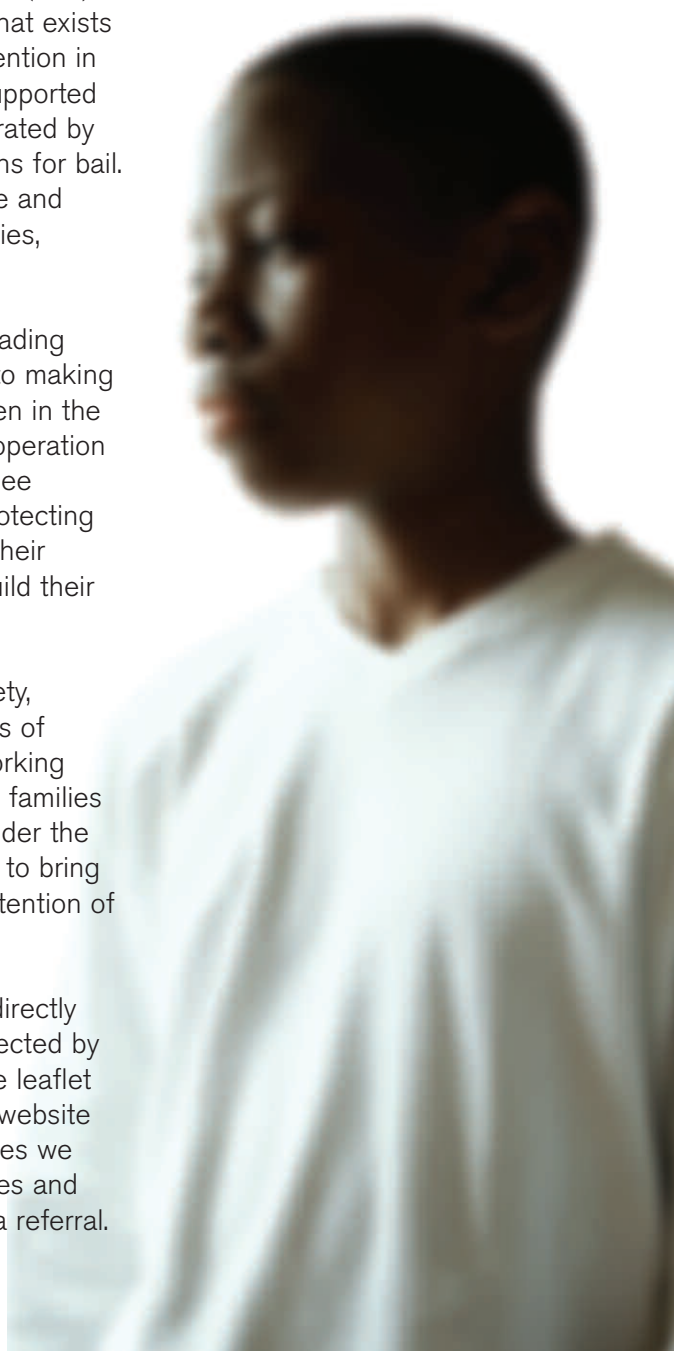
Who are Bail for Immigration Detainees and The Children's Society?

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) is a small independent charity that exists to challenge immigration detention in the UK. Since 2001 it has supported families in detention, or separated by detention, to make applications for bail. BID has provided legal advice and information to over 200 families, resulting in release for many.

The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better for all children in the UK. Key among its areas of operation is the work it does with refugee children and their families, protecting their rights, campaigning on their behalf and helping them rebuild their lives in new communities.

BID and The Children's Society, funded by The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, are working together to support individual families affected by detention and, under the banner OutCry!, campaigning to bring an end to the immigration detention of children and their families.

The two organisations work directly with children and families affected by detention. There is a separate leaflet available from our campaign website that describes the free services we provide to children and families and tells you how you can make a referral.



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How can you be part of the OutCry! campaign?

If, like us, you think detaining children is unacceptable please add your voice to the campaign.

We will keep you updated with campaign news and ideas of how you can take action to give some of the most vulnerable children in the UK their childhood back.

For further information, and to sign up to be a part of the OutCry! campaign, please visit: www.outcrycampaign.org.uk

If you have experiences of the use of immigration detention for children to share with the campaign, please fill out the OutCry! information form on our website so we can add your information to the evidence we are collecting.

