

Independent Asylum Commission

CONDUCTING A NATIONWIDE REVIEW OF THE UK ASYLUM SYSTEM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE **CITIZEN** ORGANISING FOUNDATION

DIARY NOTICE

09/03/07

INDEPENDENT ASYLUM COMMISSION ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARING ON DETENTION IN LONDON

The Independent Asylum Commission has announced the date and location for the second public hearing to collect evidence for its citizens' enquiry into the UK's asylum system. The Detention Public Hearing and Roadshow will take place in West London on 29th March.

Event: **Independent Asylum Commission Public Hearing and Roadshow**

Date: **29th March 2007 (Public hearing 14:30-17:30; Roadshow 18:45-19:30)**

Location: **Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, 244 Acklam Road, W10 5YG (close to Westbourne Park tube).**

The Commission is coming to London to collect evidence on the detention of asylum seekers for an impartial citizens' enquiry into the UK asylum system. The Commission will produce a report in 2008 that is expected to produce recommendations for reform of the asylum system that are fair as well as forceful, and realistic as well as humane.

The London hearing is the second of seven hearings across the UK. An august team of Commissioners, including peers, a former judge, a bishop, and human rights experts, will hear first hand testimony from a range of local people who are concerned about the impact of asylum on London's communities and about the policy of detention. The Commission held a successful hearing and roadshow in Birmingham on 31st January.

Jonathan Cox, Co-ordinator of the Independent Asylum Commission, said:

"Though asylum is one of the most contentious issues in the UK, everyone can agree on one thing: the system is not working. Our job is to listen to the views from people across the country from a wide range of perspectives, and then make

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recommendations for reform that can be adopted by those who run the asylum system.”

The London Public Hearing begins at 14:30 on 29th March and the Roadshow – a promotional event for the Commission - begins at 18:45 on the same day.

For further details contact Jonathan Cox, Co-ordinator: 07919 484066.

Notes for editors:

- The Independent Asylum Commission is conducting a nationwide review of the UK asylum system.
- The IAC is independent of government and the voluntary sector, and is accountable to citizens.
- Commissioners and the Commission’s Co-ordinator will be available for comment, as will some of those giving evidence. Journalists are welcome to attend either event. Please contact Jonathan Cox 07919 484066 or jonathan.cox@cof.org.uk to book a place in the media gallery or to arrange an interview.
- For information on the Commission’s first Public Hearing and Roadshow in Birmingham on 31st January 2007, see the News and Media section at: www.independentasylumcommission.org.uk.
- For more information about the Commission contact chris@cof.org.uk or see www.independentasylumcommission.org.uk.