New Plan for Immigration - Individual Main Questionnaire Comments provided by the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN)

Foreword

1	The foreword provides a high level outline of the New Plan for	o Strongly support	QARN strongly opposes the
	Immigration, including reforms to make the system fair, but firm. Overall,	o Tend to support	Plan.
	how far do you support or oppose what is being said here?	o Neither support nor	
	Please refer to the foreword of the New Plan for Immigration to support	oppose	
	your answer to this question.	o Tend to oppose	
		o <mark>Strongly oppose</mark>	
		o Don't know	

Chapter 1: Overview of the Current System This question relates to the Overview of the Current System in the New Plan for Immigration, should you wish to refer to this before answering.

2	The UK Government is committed to building an asylum system that is firm and fair,	o Very effective	QARN believes that
	based on three major objectives:	o Fairly effective	none of these
	• To increase the fairness and efficacy of our system so that we can better protect and	o Not very	suggestions will
	support those in genuine need of asylum.]	effective	work towards a fair
	• To deter illegal entry into the UK, thereby breaking the business model of criminal	<mark>o Not at all</mark>	system.
	trafficking networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger; and	<mark>effective</mark>	
	• To remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here.	o Don't know	
	How effective, if at all, do you think each of the following will be in helping the UK		
	Government achieve this vision? Please select one response for each statement. A.		
	A.Strengthening safe and legal routes for those genuinely seeking protection in the UK.		
	B. Reforming legal processes to ensure improved access to justice.		
	C. Reforming legal processes to ensure speedier outcomes.		
	D. Requiring those who claim asylum and their legal representatives to act in 'good		
	faith' by providing all relevant information in support of their claim at the earliest		

opportunity. E. Enforcing the swift removal of those found to have no right to be in the UK, including Foreign National Offenders.

F. Eliminating the ability for individuals to make repeated protection claims to stop their removal, when those follow-up claims could have been raised earlier in the process.

G. Preventing illegal entry at the border, for example, by making irregular channel crossings unviable for small boats or deterring other activities such as hiding in the back of lorries.

Chapter 2: Protecting those Fleeing Persecution, Oppression and Tyranny

3	The Government is reviewing safe and legal routes for protection claimants to enter the UK. Further details of this can be found in Annex A. The intention of the UK Government is to maintain clear, welldefined routes for refugees in need of protection, ensuring refugees have the freedom to succeed, ability to integrate and contribute fully to society when they arrive in the UK. In your view, how effective, if at all, do you feel each of the following proposals will be in ensuring the Government can provide safe and legal ways for refugees in genuine need of protection? Please select one response for each statement. • Maintaining a long-term commitment to resettle refugees from around the globe to the UK, including ensuring a full range of persecuted minorities are represented. • Granting resettled refugees immediate indefinite leave to remain on their arrival in the UK so that they benefit from full rights and entitlements when they arrive. • Ensuring resettlement programmes are responsive to emerging international crises — so refugees at immediate risk can be resettled more quickly.	. o Very effective o Fairly effective o Not very effective o Not at all effective o Don't know Not very effective Fairly effective Fairly effective	The proposals will benefit a small number of people who need a safe place to live, which is welcomed. They prevent many more from being treated with respect when they claim asylum in UK, arriving in need of a safe place to live and some hope of a settled future.
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Working to ensure more resettled refugees can enter the UK through community	Not very effective	The proposals set
sponsorship, encouraging stronger partnerships between local Government and		numbers of one
community groups		group of people in
• Introducing a new means for the Home Secretary to help people in extreme need of	Not very effective	need against
safety whilst still in their country of origin in life-threatening circumstances.		numbers of people
• Enhancing support provided to refugees to help them integrate into UK society and	Fairly effective	in another group
become self-sufficient more quickly.	,	which is wrong. The
• Reviewing support for refugees to access employment in the UK through our points-	Not at all effective	UK needs to be
based immigration system where they qualify.		responsive to those
• Reviewing the refugee family reunion routes available to refugees who have arrived	Not at all effective	in need, and to
through safe and legal routes.		respect the
		Conventions that
		govern the way that
		Governments
		behave towards
		people seeking
		asylum.

Safe and legal routes including Family reunion for unaccompanied asylum seeking children These questions relate to the separate information sheet (Annex A) on safe and legal routes including family reunion for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Please refer to this sheet for more information.

4	The Government recognises the importance of reuniting those who	o <mark>Very important</mark>	QARN believes that all of these are very
	are in the UK who are in genuine need of protection, with their	o Fairly important	important.
	family members.	o Not very	
	How important, if at all, do you think each of the following	important	
	proposals would be in meeting this objective? Please select one	o Not at all	
	response for each statement.	important	

		a Dan't know	
5	Reuniting an adult with refugee status in the UK with • Their spouse or partner, wherever their spouse/partner may be in the world. • Their own child who is under the age of 18, wherever their child may be in the world. • Their own adult child who is over the age of 18, wherever their child may be in the world. • A close family member (e.g. sister, brother), wherever that family member may be in the world. • Another family member (e.g. uncle, aunt, nephew, niece), wherever that family member may be in the world. Now that the UK has left the European Union (EU), protection claimants who have sought international protection in an EU	o Don't know o Strongly agree o Agree	Strongly disagree. QARN deplores the proposal to ignore the
	member state can no longer join family members in the UK using EU law. This means those seeking international protection in the EU must apply to join family members in the UK under the Immigration Rules like those from the 'rest of the world'. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach to apply the same policy to protection claimants seeking to join family members in the UK, regardless of where they are?	o Neither agree nor disagree o Disagree o Strongly disagree o Don't know	needs of this group. We should not leave any children to face those real risks, and when they have family with whom they could live in UK there should be a quick and efficient system to enable them to come.
6	Are there any other observations or views you would like to share relating to the UK Government's future policy on safe and legal routes for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the EU wanting to reunite with family members in the UK? Please write in your answer and provide as much detail as you can.	Open question	The government has given no indication of what any "safe legal routes" might look like — in Annex A there is only a vague mention that such routes will be considered. In fact, the government has recently voted against such routes (Dubs Amendment).

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7	Are there any other observations or views you would like to share	Open question	Unaccompanied young people who are
	relating to the UK Government's future policy on safe and legal		internally displaced in their own country are
	routes for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the rest of		unlikely to find a way to engage with any
	the world (outside the EU) wanting to reunite with family members		safe routes to UK. The current UNHCR
	in the UK? Please write in your answer and provide as much detail		system is often a question of luck, and is
	as you can.		fraught with delay, risk of harm, and the risk
			of being returned by the receiving country,
			before a person is accepted as having a valid
			claim to be considered as a refugee. Any
			incoming system would need to be much
			faster, and rooted in a culture of belief for it
			to work effectively such that children can
			join their family in UK>.
8	Are there any other observations or views you would like to share	Open question	We need a system that enabled people to
	relating to the UK Government's future policy on safe and legal	open queenen	apply from outside of UK, and accept that
	routes to the UK for protection claimants in the EU? Please write in		there are reasons why people do not choose
	your answer and provide as much detail as you can. When you		to remain in an EU country; and clearly
	answer please indicate if your views relate to protection claimants		those with relatives in UK will wish to join
	who are unaccompanied asylumseeking children, adults and/or		them here.
	families (adults and accompanied children) in the EU.		Other countries in EU have been deemed
			unsafe previously: In 2011, the landmark
			case of MSS v Belgium and
			Greece concluded that conditions in Greece
			were so dire, asylum seekers' human rights
			would be breached if returned, also
			https://www.freemovement.org.uk/returns-
			to-greece/ and in 2020:
			https://reliefweb.int/report/greece/issue-
			brief-blocked-every-pass-how-greece-s-
			policy-exclusion-harms-asylum-seekers-and
		<u> </u>	poncy exclusion number asylum seekers and

9	Are there any other observations or views you would like to share relating to the UK Government's future policy on safe and legal routes for protection claimants who are adults and/or families (adults and accompanied children) wanting to reunite with family members in the UK? Please write in your answer and provide as much detail as you can.	Open question	UK only takes small percentage of asylum-seekers https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01403/ UK has fallen behind other European countries https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/global-refugee-crisis-statistics-and-facts/ We should not be looking for ways to abdicate from our responsibilities and moral duty by making it more difficult for people to find their way to UK.
10	Are there any further observations or views you would like to share about safe and legal routes to the UK for family reunion or other purposes for protection claimants and/or refugees and/or their families that you have not expressed?	Open question	The New Plan for Immigration will in effect attempt to put a stop to people seeking asylum, therefore there will be nobody for families to be reunited with. This is an example of the deceitful nature of these proposals.

Chapter 3: Ending Anomalies and Delivering Fairness in British Nationality Law These questions relate to chapter 3 of the New Plan for Immigration. Please refer to this chapter for more information.

11	How effective, if at all, do you feel the following changes	o Very effective
	will be in contributing to the objective of correcting	o Fairly effective
	historic anomalies in current British Nationality law?	o Not very
		effective
	Please provide an answer for each statement.	

 Introducing new registration provisions for children of a British Overseas Territories Citizen (BOTC) to acquire citizenship more easily. 	o Not at all effective o Don't know	
• Fixing the injustice which prevents a child from acquiring their father's citizenship if their mother was married to someone else.		
• Introducing a new discretionary adult registration route to give the Home Secretary an ability to grant citizenship in compelling and exceptional circumstances where there has been historical unfairness beyond a person's control.		
Creating further flexibility to waive residence requirements for naturalisation in exceptional cases. (This will mean those impacted by Windrush are not prevented from qualifying for British Citizenship because they were not able to return to the UK to meet the residency requirements through no fault of their own.)		

Chapter 4: Disrupting Criminal Networks and Reforming the Asylum System These questions relate to chapter 4 of the New Plan for Immigration. Please refer to this chapter for more information.

15	To protect life and ensure access to our asylum system	
	is preserved for the most vulnerable, we must break	
	the business model of criminal networks behind illegal	
	immigration and overhaul the UK's decades-old	
	domestic asylum framework.	

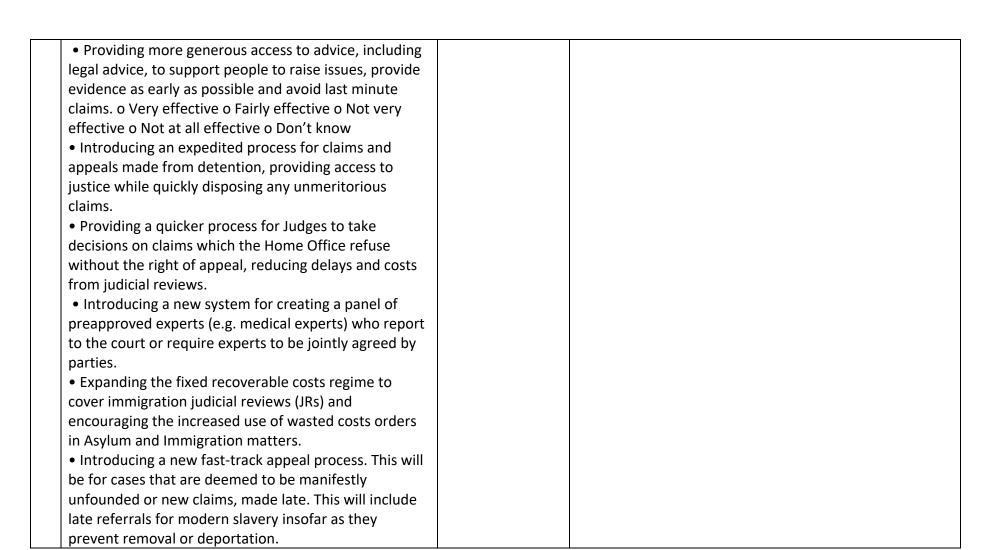
	In your view, how effective, if at all, will the following proposals be in achieving this aim? • Ensuring that those who arrive in the UK, having passed through safe countries, or have a connection to		
;	• Ensuring that those who arrive in the UK, having		
;	·		
;	passed through safe countries, or have a connection to		
,			
	a safe country where they could have claimed asylum		
	will be considered inadmissible to the UK's asylum		
	system.		
16	 Seeking rapid removal of inadmissible cases to the 		
	safe country from which they embarked or to another		
	third country.		
17	 Introducing a new temporary protection status with 		
	less generous entitlements and limited family reunion		
	rights for people who are inadmissible but cannot be		
	returned to their country of origin (as it would breach		
	international obligations) or to another safe country.		
18	 Bringing forward plans to expand the Government's 		
	asylum estate. These plans will include proposals for		
	reception centres to provide basic accommodation		
,	while processing the claims of inadmissible asylum		
	seekers.		
19	Making it possible for asylum claims to be processed		
	outside the UK and in another country.		
20	To protect the asylum system from abuse, the	o Very effective	What is 'illegal immigration' in this context when people
	Government will seek to reduce attempts at illegal	o Fairly effective	have the right to make an asylum claim, and for that to
	immigration and overhaul our domestic asylum	o Not very	be properly heard?
	framework.	effective	
		o Not at all	
	In your view, how effective, if at all, will the following	effective	The parameters of the Refugee Convention must not be
	proposals be in achieving this aim?	o Don't know	tampered with. This is possibly illegal according to
	<u>-</u>		Conventions

Changing the rules so that people who have been	¹ https://www.freemovement.org.uk/why-sticking-to-the-
convicted and sentenced to at least one-year	refugee-convention-still-matters/
imprisonment and constitute a danger to the	
community in the UK can have their refugee status	
revoked and can be considered for removal from the	
UK.	
Supporting decision-making by setting a clearer and	
higher standard for testing whether an individual has a	
well-founded fear of persecution, consistent with the	
Refugee Convention.	
Creating a robust approach to age assessment to	
ensure the Government acts as swiftly as possible to	
safeguard against adults claiming to be children and	
can use new scientific methods to improve the	
Government's abilities to accurately assess age.	

Chapter 5: Streamlining Asylum Claims and Appeals These questions relate to chapter 5 of the New Plan for Immigration. Please refer to this chapter for more information.

21	The Government wants to ensure the asylum and appeals system is faster, fairer and concludes cases more effectively. The Government's end-to-end reforms will aim to reduce the extent to which people can frustrate removals through sequential or unmeritorious claims, appeals or legal action, while maintaining fairness, ensuring access to justice and upholding the rule of law. I	 Very effective Fairly effective Not very effective Not at all effective Don't know 	Traumatised people are not able to give all their evidence first time round to a lawyer they don't know. They need proper legal support with legal aid – this is included in the Conventions the UK has signed up to. A speedy process would return people to a place where they are at risk – these are people's lives at risk.
	n your view, how effective, if at all, will each of the following intended reforms be in achieving these aims?		The Home Office should embrace a culture of belief not disbelief.

	Developing a "Good Faith" requirement setting out		
	principles for people and their representatives when		
	dealing with public authorities and the courts, such as		
	not providing misleading information or bringing		
	evidence late where it was reasonable to do so earlier.		
22	Introducing an expanded 'one-stop' process to		
	ensure that asylum claims, human rights claims,		
	referrals as a potential victim of modern slavery and		
	any other protection matters are made and considered		
	together, ahead of any appeal hearing. This would		
	require people and their representatives to present		
	their case honestly and comprehensively – setting out		
	full details and evidence to the Home Office and not		
	adding more claims later which could have been made		
	at the start.		
23	 Considering introducing a ground of appeal to the 		
	First Tier Tribunal for certain Modern Slavery cases		
	within the 'one-stop' process.		
24	The Government wants to ensure the asylum and	 Very effective 	This will only happen in a fair and just way once the
	appeals system is faster, fairer and concludes cases	 Fairly effective 	hostile environment and climate of disbelief have been
	more effectively. The Government's end-to-end	Not very	deconstructed. The whole tenure of this plan
	reforms will aim to reduce the extent to which people	effective	demonstrates an intention to further the hostile
	can frustrate removals through sequential or	• Not at all	environment. None of the proposed reforms here will
	unmeritorious claims, appeals or legal action, while	effective 	take the system to a better place.
	maintaining fairness, ensuring access to justice and	• Don't know	
	upholding the rule of law.		
	In consider, heavy affective if at all will as the first		
	In your view, how effective, if at all, will each of the		
	following intended reforms be in achieving these aims:		



Chapter 6: Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery These questions relate to chapter 6 of the New Plan for Immigration. Please refer to this chapter for more information.

- The Government believes there is a need to act now to build a resilient system which identifies victims of modern slavery as quickly as possible, and ensures that support is provided to those who need it, distinguishing effectively between genuine and vexatious accounts of modern slavery.
 - In your view, how effective, if at all, will each of the following intended reforms be in achieving these aims?
 - Improving First Responders' understanding of when to make a referral into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and when alternative support services may be more appropriate.
 - Clarifying the Reasonable Grounds threshold.
 - Clarifying the definition of "public order" to enable the UK to withhold protections afforded by the NRM where there is a link to serious criminality or risk to UK national security. o Very effective o Fairly effective o Not very effective o Not at all effective o Don't know
 - Legislating to clarify the basis on which confirmed victims of modern slavery may be eligible for a grant of temporary, modern slavery specific, leave to remain.
 - Bringing forward other future legislation to clarify international obligations to victims in UK law.
 - Continuing to strengthen the criminal justice system response to modern slavery, providing additional funding to increase prosecutions and build policing capability to investigate and respond to organised crime.
 - Introducing new initiatives (as set out in Chapter 6 of the New Plan for Immigration) to provide additional

- Very effective
- Fairly effective
- Not very effective
- Not at all effective
- Don't know

The National Referral Mechanism fails people who have been subjected to modern slavery and human trafficking, and being set in the hostile environment and culture of disbelief compounds any problems the NRM is experiencing.

support to victims, improve the Government's ability to	
prevent modern slavery in the first place, and increase	
prosecutions of perpetrators.	

Chapter 7: Disrupting Criminal Networks Behind People Smuggling These questions relate to chapter 7 of the New Plan for Immigration. Please refer to this chapter for more information.

26	Illegal immigration can cause significant harm and can endanger the lives of those undertaking dangerous journeys. It can also endanger those emergency service workers and Border Force officers who respond to illegal journeys such as those made by small boat. The Government is determined to introduce tough new measures to deter illegal migration by strengthening the protection of the UK's borders In your view, how effective, if at all, will each of the following intended reforms be in helping to meet this	 Very effective Fairly effective Not very effective Not at all effective Don't know 	Genuine safe legal routes to claim asylum in UK would vastly diminish the attraction of paying a lot of money to face the dangers of being smuggled here in the back of a lorry or in a small boat.
27	 Introducing tougher criminal offences for those attempting to illegally enter the UK, (including raising the penalty for illegal entry from 6 months to 2 - 5 years). Widening existing powers to tackle those promoting or facilitating illegal migration, including raising the maximum sentence for facilitation to life imprisonment. 		

28	additional powers to Border Force including searching		
20	freight containers for immigration purposes, seize and		
	dispose of any vessels and the ability to stop and		
	redirect vessels from the UK where persons being		
	conveyed are suspected of seeking to enter the UK		
	illegally.		
29	• Increasing the penalty to a maximum of 5 years in		
	prison for Foreign National Offenders who return to		
	the UK in breach of a deportation order.		
30	Overhauling the Clandestine Civil Penalty Regime.		
31	 Implementing an Electronic Travel Authorisation 		
	(ETA) scheme to identify and block the entry of those		
	who present a threat to the UK.		
32	The Government proposes to legislate for and enforce	o Mostly positive	
	an electronic travel authorisation (ETAs) scheme i.e., an	o Equally positive	
	application for permission to travel to the UK similar to	and negative	
	the current process for countries like United States,	o Mostly negative	
	Canada, Australia and New Zealand.	o Not sure / don't	
		know	
33	If you have experience of applying for or engaging with	o I Have not had	
	travel authorisation schemes operated by other	experience of	
	countries, what are your experiences of those	applying	
	schemes?	, .	
	1. Mostly positive	Open question	
	2. Equally positive and negative	' '	
	3. Mostly negative		
	4. Not sure / don't know 5		
	. I have not had experience of applying Please give		
	details to support your answer		
	actaile to capport your ariotter	<u> </u>	

Chapter 8: Enforcing Removals including Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) These questions relate to chapter 8 of the New Plan for Immigration. Please refer to this chapter for more information.

34	It is an essential responsibility of any Government to enforce and promote compliance with immigration laws, ensuring the swift return of those not entitled to be in the UK. The Home Secretary is also under a duty to remove any foreign national offender who has been served a sentence for an offence in the UK of 12 months or more. In your view, how effective, if at all, will each of the following reforms be in helping us to build on these principles? • Consulting with Local Authority partners and stakeholders on implementing the provisions of the 2016 Act to remove support from failed asylum-seeking families who have no right to remain in the UK.	o Very effective o Fairly effective o Not very effective o Not at all effective o Don't know	Given the prevailing hostile environment and culture of disbelief: Section 9 in 2009 sought to remove support from families whose asylum claims had been refused and to then take starving children into the care system as a means to force people to accept a return. In fact, most families disappeared and very few were persuaded to go back, social workers' organisations deplored the idea of taking children from the families due to poverty and the scheme was abandoned. It is immoral and no such scheme should ever be considered.
35	Considering whether to more carefully control visa availability where a country does not co-operate with receiving their own nationals who have no right to be in the UK.		

36	National Offenders who leave the UK from 9 months to 12 months to encourage departure and also add a new
	'stop the clock' provision so that they must complete their sentence if they return. This would be in addition
	to any sentence for returning in breach of a deportation order.
37	Amending the list of factors for consideration of granting immigration bail and the conditions of immigration bail.
38	• Placing in statute a single, standardised minimum notice period for migrants to access justice prior to enforced removal, and confirm in statute that notice need not be re-issued following a previous failed removal, for example where the person has physically disrupted their removal.

39	The Government intends on amending the list of		
	factors for consideration of Immigration Bail in		
	paragraph 3 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act		
	2016 (legislation.gov.uk), to include an individual's		
	compliance with proper immigration process. To what		
	extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with this		
	proposal?		

o Strongly agree
o Agree
o Neither agree
nor disagree
o Disagree
o Strongly
disagree
o Don't know

An individual's "compliance" with the "proper immigration process" can be negatively affected through errors in the Home Office itself. There is no redress against such errors, even when they are acknowledged.

Public Sector Equality Duty (and other general questions)

	<u> </u>		_
	elow is a list of protected characteristics under the	Multiple Choice	
	qualities Act:		
	Age	Open Question	
•	Disability		
•	Gender reassignment		
•	Marriage and civil partnership		
•	Pregnancy and maternity		
•	Race		
•	Religion or belief		
•	Sex		
•	Sexual orientation		
Fr	rom the list of areas below, please select any areas		
w	here you feel intended reforms present		
di	isproportionate impacts on individuals protected by		
th	ne Equalities Act. Please expand on your answer for		
aı	ny areas you have selected, providing data (where		
a	pplicable), further information and detailed reasons.		
•	Protecting those Fleeing Persecution, Oppression		
aı	nd Tyranny (Chapter 2)		
•	Ending Anomalies and Delivering Fairness in British		
N	lationality Law (Chapter 3)		
•	Disrupting Criminal Networks and Reforming the		
A	sylum System (Chapter 4)		
•	Streamlining Asylum Claims and Appeals (Chapter 5)		
	Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery (Chapter 6)		
	Disrupting Criminal Networks Behind People		
Sr	muggling (Chapter 7)		

	Enforcing Removals including Foreign National		
	Offenders (FNOs) (Chapter 8)		
	None of these		
41	Please expand on your answer for any areas you have		
	selected, providing data (where applicable), further		
	information and detailed reasons.		
42	And in which areas, if any, of the intended reforms do	Multiple Choice	
	you feel there are likely to be the greatest potential		
	equalities considerations against the listed protected	Open Question	
	characteristics? (tick all that apply)		
	Protecting those Fleeing Persecution, Oppression		
	and Tyranny (Chapter 2)		
	 Ending Anomalies and Delivering Fairness in British 		
	Nationality Law (Chapter 3)		
	Disrupting Criminal Networks and Reforming the		
	Asylum System (Chapter 4)		
	• Streamlining Asylum Claims and Appeals (Chapter 5)		
	• Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery (Chapter 6)		
	Disrupting Criminal Networks Behind People		
	Smuggling (Chapter 7)		
	Enforcing Removals including Foreign National (5No.) (6)		
	Offenders (FNOs) (Chapter 8)		
	None of these		
	Please expand on your answer, providing data (where		
	applicable) and further information		
43	Please expand on your answer, providing data (where		
	applicable) and further information.		

44	Thinking about any potential equality considerations for the intended reforms in each of the areas, are there any mitigations you feel the Government should consider? Please Open give data (where applicable) and detailed reasons.	Open Question	
45	Is there any other feedback on the New Plan for Immigration content that you would like to submit as part of this consultation?	Open Question	The overwhelming conclusion that we draw from this New Plan for Immigration is that the current Government has no inclination to create a system that is 'fair' to all, and every intention to continue and even increase the level of hostility in the political and social environment towards those seeking asylum or who are otherwise undocumented in UK. In order to create a fair and just system, the hostile environment would need to be completely deconstructed, and replaced by a compassionate approach to those who need a place of sanctuary. This needs to be sincerely held within a culture of belief and support, so that we as a society do not abandon those who come in need. We need to work wherever we can, alongside others, to create a balance between those who have what they need, and those who have not, and so build a more secure, and equal world where geo- politics and humanity combine to address many of the problems currently driving people to leave their home. This includes circumstances created by politics, war, greed,

	unequal sharing of the world's resources, and the effects of climate change.