



# Stop Indefinite Detention



## Contents

## Page

Immigration detention – Thousands held indefinitely	2
What is Amnesty calling for?	3
Take Action 1: Petition	3
Take Action 2: Creative action	3
Template Petition	4

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**We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.**

This mailing is also available to download at

[www.amnesty.org.uk/youth](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/youth)

## **YOUTH GROUP ACTION**

### **Immigration detention Thousands held indefinitely**

Tens of thousands of people are held in immigration detention in the UK every year. For almost all, there is no fixed time-limit on their detention. This uncertainty damages their mental and physical health and has harmful knock-on effects for their loved ones left behind, including children.

Figures published in August 2017 from the [Office of National Statistics](#) show that the number of people taken into detention in the year ending June 2017 was 27,817, with a total of 48 children. More than a third (36%) were detained for at least 30 days and 200 people were only released after more than one year in detention. The longest time someone had remained in detention was 1,514 days, more than four years.

The majority of people who were released in the last two years were returned to live in the community from which they were taken, as opposed to having to leave the UK. This could be after weeks or months of distress caused by uncertainty around how long their detention could last. The UK is the only country in the European Union to have no limit on how long people can be detained for immigration purposes. Other EU countries vary in the limit they set, and include 21 days (Ireland), 45 days (France) and 60 days (Spain and Portugal).

Immigration detention is being used to detain large numbers of people without any real effective consideration of suitable alternatives to it. It should only ever be used as a last resort – instead it is used as a matter of routine.

### **What is Amnesty calling for?**

We are urging the UK Government to:

- drastically reduce its use of immigration detention to end the unnecessary suffering it causes to thousands of people every year
- end the practice of *indefinite* immigration detention

## **YOUTH GROUP ACTION**

### **Take Action 1: Petition**

We have attached a template petition which we will deliver to the immigration minister in the New Year.

### **Take Action 2: Creative Action**

Create and decorate paper birds as symbols of freedom with the slogan '**Stop Indefinite Detention**' written on the front. Write your name and age on the back.



**Note:** A similar 'bird' action will feature in this year's Write for Rights Campaign starting in November. You'll be given a chance to write solidarity messages directly to detainees in immigration detention through partner organisations. The target of this month's action (October) is the UK Government. If you take part in both actions it would be helpful if you could separate your birds into two sections (government or detainees) when sending them to us.

#### **Send your birds to:**

Anne Montague – Community Organiser (Youth)  
Human Rights Action Centre  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

**Deadline: End of December 2017**

