

#BordersBill FACT CHECKER

- > **THE GOVERNMENT SAYS** the bill's asylum focus is a new approach, is urgently needed, and will improve the situation.
- > **WE SAY**, most proposals in the bill are not new. The government says we face an emergency - yet very few people claim asylum in the UK. In the last two years, numbers have remained stable. As the government's approach is not new, it won't bring improvements. Here's a summary of our response to the bill.

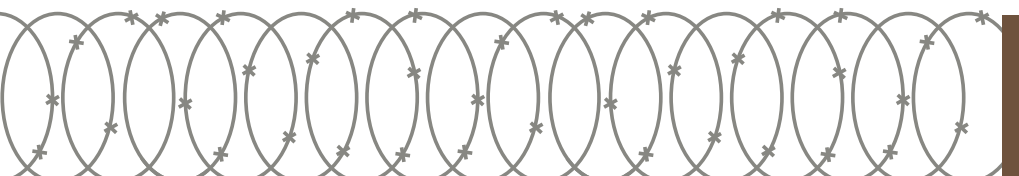
- 1 > *The government claims the bill will break the business model of people smugglers.*

> **The bill is not designed to do this – in fact, the opposite.** It will allow people smugglers to thrive – and increase exploitation of people seeking asylum – even after arrival.
- 2 > *The government claims the bill will save lives.*

> **But the bill sets out to criminalise people for saving lives.** It fails to provide any safe route to claim asylum, so will continue to force people – including those with family and connections here – to resort to smuggling gangs and perilous journeys to reach the UK. .
- 3 > *The government claims the bill will establish and strengthen safe routes to asylum.*

> **Nothing in the bill does this – in fact it does the opposite.** The government has not established any safe routes for people to seek asylum. Worse, it restricts or completely removes safe routes for family members to join a refugee already here.
- 4 > *The government claims the bill will better protect refugees and survivors of modern slavery.*

> **The bill sets out to do the opposite.** It will make it harder for people to establish refugee status or other entitlement to protection. And for people who – despite the increased barriers – establish their entitlement to protection, the bill reduces the protection given.



#BordersBill FACT CHECKER continued

- 5** > *The government claims the bill will reduce delays and backlogs.*

> **But provisions in the bill will – in some cases intentionally – increase delays, workload and backlogs.** Yet the UK has seen no significant increase in asylum claims in recent years – and lags behind eg France, Germany and Italy in number of people received in its asylum system.
- 6** > *The government claims the bill will save public funds.*

> **But it will result in more work, delays, backlogs and dysfunction, all of which are likely to increase public expenditure.** Moreover, it is expressly recognised in the bill that some of its provisions will require more money to be spent.
- 7** > *The government claims the bill is to deter unlawful entry into the UK.*

> **The government's own impact assessment shows little evidence for this.** As the bill continues to provide no safe routes to seek asylum, it is unlikely to deter unlawful entry. But it may deter people who enter the UK from claiming asylum - making them more vulnerable to exploitation and increasing the number of undocumented people in the UK.
- 8** > *The bill should fulfil international obligations including under the 1951 Refugee Convention.*

> **Instead the Bill undermines several international obligations under the Refugee Convention and under international law including duties to protect life at sea and to provide stateless children with citizenship.**
- 9** > *The government claims the bill will correct long and profound injustice in British nationality law*

> **Significant provisions in the bill do this – with Amnesty UK's strong support. But it falls short of ensuring that all British people can access their rights to British nationality.** And the bill penalises many stateless children born in and growing up in the UK, by blocking their right to be registered as British citizens.

