Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London

Press Release (Monday 12th August 2013: 10am)

Go Home Campaign Victory for Migrants

RAMFEL is delighted that the Government has finally recognised that it should have consulted and engaged directly with individuals and organisations representing the needs and concerns of immigrants in the UK about the ‘Go Home’ campaign and the use of vans saying ‘Go Home or Face Arrest’ on the streets of London.

The Government’s failure to do so and the subsequent ‘immigration spot checks’ have caused much distress and upset to a cross section of communities locally and nationally. The fact that the campaign has also been commented on extensively in the international media, also suggests that this has tarnished the UK’s long standing reputation as a tolerant and welcoming society.

We welcome the Government’s commitment to engaging more broadly and taking on board the views of those directly affected by their policies. We will be making sure that they are true to their word by scrutinising and advocating for ‘fairness’ across a cross section of government proposals and policies as they impact on migrant communities.

Rita Chadha, CEO of RAMFEL, the organisation supporting two service user migrants to bring the case, said ‘Informed and effective policy is always made when Governments listen to the reactions of communities. Whilst immigration will no doubt remain a hotly contested issue until the next election, we are glad that the Government has finally recognised that fair policy making requires the views of all sections of the community to be heard, including those that it directly impacts upon. We remain vigilant to the possibility of other attacks and policies that increasingly view immigration only as a negative, encourage miscommunication between local communities, and seek to create divisions within British society. Our message to government is ‘we’re watching you’

Notes:

RAMFEL is the Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London, a charity providing legal advice and support services to over 150 individuals a week and campaigning on issues affecting asylum seekers, migrants, refugee and Black and Asian communities. The organisation has via Deighton Peirce Glynn supported two of its service users to bring legal action against the Home Office, which resulted in a letter before claim being set in July 2013.

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