

We strongly condemn the attack on the Border Force immigration centre in Dover on 30 October.

Violence does not happen in a vacuum. This attack took place in an atmosphere of toxicity, nurtured by decades of hostile rhetoric against asylum seekers and migrants. The government's narrative on seeking asylum has become more poisonous in language, with their tabloid-style statements against asylum seekers and those who support them, and in action, with the Nationality and Borders Act and the Rwanda plan.

The UK government must uphold its international obligations and ensure asylum seekers are safe while their cases are processed. Right now, the government is failing. With a backlog of 100,000 asylum applications, it is keeping people who came here seeking safety in limbo for months on end, placing entire families in decaying hotel rooms or leaving them in deteriorating processing centres for weeks with no release date.

We want to be absolutely clear that these failings are a political choice, as many of us have said in this joint open letter. The government can choose to tackle its application backlog and let people rebuild their lives. It can choose to change its narrative on migrants and asylum seekers. It can choose to end the hostile environment. It's time to make these changes and it's vital they are made now.

**Nazek Ramadan**  
**Director, Migrant Voice**

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