

BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

Help for people in detention who might be removed to Rwanda (and who have not had any decision in their asylum claim)

Applying for time extensions to obtain legal advice from a lawyer

A basic guide and template

May 2023

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) is a national charity that provides legal advice and representation to individuals held under immigration powers to secure their release from detention. We also provide legal advice and representation to detainees facing deportation. BID works with detainees in all removal centres in the UK, and with immigration detainees held in prison at the end of their sentence.

- We provide free legal advice, information and support to immigration detainees to help them exercise their right to liberty and access to justice, and to help them challenge their deportation.
- We prepare and present (free of charge) applications for release on bail or temporary admission.
- We carry out research and use evidence from our legal casework to influence decision-makers, including civil servants, parliamentarians, and regulatory bodies through policy advocacy.
- Our Rwanda Project aims to support detained individuals facing removal to Rwanda apply for bail. To get free legal advice and assistance email Rwanda@biduk.org or call our advice line on 020 7456 9750 (open Monday - Thursday between 10am and 12pm).

Disclaimer

Although every effort is made to ensure the information in this factsheet is accurate and up to date, it should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. BID cannot be held liable for any inaccuracies and their consequences. The information in this factsheet is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem you should talk to a lawyer or legal adviser before making a decision about what to do.

Please check that this factsheet is up to date before using it. Please also check whether BID has written other factsheets or leaflets that might be relevant to you. All BID factsheets and leaflets can be found at www.biduk.org

How do I know if I am facing removal to Rwanda?

- You will have been issued with a ***Notice of Intent*** which is a decision telling you that the Government is thinking of sending you to another country where your asylum or human rights application can be considered.
- The letter will tell you that you have a **time limit of 7 days if you are in detention** (14 days for those not detained) **to make any submissions** as to why you should not be sent to Rwanda.
- The letter **says you can make an application for an extension of the time limit**
- If you do not request a time extension or if you do not make submissions within the time limit the Home Office may issue you with a decision to remove you.
- If you have missed the time limit, you might be able to challenge the decision to remove you by way of making an application for permission to apply for judicial review. We advise that you obtain the help of a solicitor to do this.
- **You must respond *quickly* in all circumstances.**

Applying to the Home Office for an Extension of Time

- You can use the **template letter included below to write to the Home Office** to ask that you are given an extension of time.
- The letter should be **provided to an Immigration Officer** at the place where you are detained.
- **Keep a copy of your letter and keep records (dates and times)** for when you gave the letter to the Home Office and keep all replies.

Legal Advice

- Responding to a Notice of Intent can be a difficult and complex area. **You are strongly advised to obtain legal advice to make any submissions to the Home Office.**
- You can apply for an extension of the time limit to give you time to obtain legal advice.
- You should **act quickly** and you can obtain the help of organisations that visit or that provide legal representation to people in detention, including those listed below or those that hold legal aid contracts in immigration law or public law. These are listed below.

Organisations that can help

Organisations that can help you find a lawyer

- [Detention Action](#) – 0800 587 2096 (freephone)
- [Association of Visitors in Detention](#) – enquiries@aviddetention.org.uk or 020 7281 0533
- [JRS UK](#) – 07762 387096 – detentionuk@jrs.net
- [Women for Refugee Women](#) – 07832 398 796 – gemma@refugeewomen.co.uk
- [Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group](#) – 0800 389 4367 (freephone) Monday to Friday 9:30am and 5pm - info@gdwg.org.uk – fax 01293 544916.
- [SOAS detainee Support](#) – s.det.sup@gmail.com – 07438 407570
- Local Visitor Groups:
 - [Association of Visitors in Detention](#) – enquiries@aviddetention.org.uk – 020 7281 0533
 - Brook House & Tinsley House IRC – Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group – 01293 657070
 - Derwentside IRC – Durham Visitors Group: 07519546647 / durhamvisitorsgroup@gmail.com
 - Dungavel IRC – Scottish Detainee Visitors – 07926 694 988 – 0141 248 9799
 - Yarls Wood IRC and RSTHF – Beyond Detention – 0800 3101 992 – coordinator@beyonddetention.org

Medical organisation that may be able to provide help

- [Medical Justice](#) – med@medicaljustice.org.uk or 020 4551 1280

Immigration and Asylum Lawyers and legal representatives that may be able to help

- [Asylum Aid](#) – advice@asylumaid.org.uk or 020 7354 9631.
- [Duncan Lewis solicitors](#) – ToufiqueH@duncanlewis.com, 033 3772 0409
- [Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants](#) – 0800 160 1004 (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-1pm)
- [Wilson Solicitors](#) – rwandareferrals@wilsonllp.co.uk or 020 8808 7535
- If you are detained at an Immigration Removal Centre you may be able to see a lawyer on the Duty Detention Advice Scheme. If a lawyer says they can take on your case, you should ask them if they have the capacity to work quickly and

urgently and they will be able to consider any high court action that may need to be taken in your case.

- You may also be able to find an immigration lawyer using the Legal Aid Agency's 'Find a legal aid advisor' page [here](#) or at: <https://shorturl.at/nABLR>
- [Bail for Immigration Detainees \(BID\)](#) - casework@biduk.org or 020 7456 9750 (Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-12pm) – ***BID can only help people with making bail applications if they do not have a lawyer who can do this.***

Template Letter

Please keep a copy and hand a copy to an Immigration Officer or Welfare Officer at the place where you are detained. Please also email it to:

NRPCGlasgowTCU@homeoffice.gov.uk

Date:

Dear Home Office,

I have been detained and I have received a letter from the Home Office that says I may be removed to Rwanda. I do not have a legal representative who can help me and I urgently need expert legal advice so that I can respond to the letter which raises difficult legal issues.

Please therefore give me an extension of time of one month so that I can find a lawyer to help me.

I have also asked a charity to help me to find a lawyer urgently. The organisation is [ENTER NAME OF ORGANISATION] and their contact details are [ENTER CONTACT DETAILS].

Yours faithfully,

Name:

Home Office reference number:

Address/place of detention:

How to contact BID

Advice line:

If you are detained under immigration powers in a prison or removal centre, you can call our advice line for free legal advice.

It is open Monday - Thursday between 10 am and 12 midday and outside of those times you can email us casework@biduk.org.

The number is 020 7456 9750.

By Freepost:

You can write to us using our Freepost address which is free of charge.

If you use our Freepost address no postage stamp is needed, simply write on the envelope:

'Freepost BID London'

Fax:

020 3745 5226

Email:

General enquiries: enquiries@biduk.org

Casework enquiries: casework@biduk.org

BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

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