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BID is a small, independent charity which is funded entirely by voluntary donations.



Annual Report
2023 – 24

BID

www.biduk.org

Bail for Immigration Detainees is an independent charity that exists to challenge immigration detention in the UK. We work with asylum seekers and migrants in removal centres and prisons to secure their release from detention.

**Bail for
Immigration
Detainees**



“Out of sight, out of mind: places of detention are the hidden spaces in our society. Most people will have no experience of being incarcerated and few will have worked in such environments. They are places where communication is restricted, rights and freedoms are curtailed, where isolation from loved ones is a fact of life, and where the toll of detention can have an impact on people’s mental and physical wellbeing. For anyone who has been detained by the State, it is a profoundly life-altering experience. There is no higher role for the State than as a guardian of all those in its care. This is particularly important for non-citizens, whose rights in the UK are more limited. Their precarious status makes them inherently more vulnerable, particularly when factors such as language barriers, poor health or other characteristics intersect with this fundamental vulnerability. Moreover, the potentially lasting impact of detention on individuals means that the State has a moral duty to ensure that those it detains are treated fairly, humanely, and with dignity and respect.”

- Brooke House Enquiry Report 2023, I.1-2.

Bail for Immigration Detainees



What is immigration detention?

Immigration detention is the process of incarcerating individuals subject to immigration control in the UK either pending permission to enter the country or to await removal or deportation. It's an administrative, not a criminal, process, and powers to detain are exercised by officials acting on behalf of the Home Secretary. There are none of the safeguards that there should be when depriving someone of their liberty. First, the decision to detain an individual is neither approved by nor overseen by a court. Second, there is no automatic legal advice or representation. Third, there is no time limit. Given these three factors, people can be detained for weeks, months and even years. People can also be re-detained, but the Home Office treats these as separate periods of detention and does not count cumulative lengths of detention. Many people experience repeated periods of detention.

What does BID do?

BID's vision is of a UK free of immigration detention, where people are not deprived of their liberty or deported from their home for immigration purposes. We aim to challenge immigration detention in the UK through the provision of legal advice, information and representation alongside research, policy advocacy and strategic litigation.

“When we were discouraged, knocked to the ground and without seeing any solution to the problem, you, the whole team stood by us, gave us hope and fought for our case. You have made a great effort and work so that our family remains united!! Thank you so much!!”

Client

Specifically, we:

- Run a telephone helpline four mornings a week to deliver legal advice and information
- Deliver legal advice sessions and workshops in detention centres and prisons
- Prepare, update and disseminate self-help materials on detention and deportation so that detainees have the tools to represent themselves if they don't have a lawyer
- Prepare applications for bail to be heard before the Tribunal through our Do it Yourself Project (DIY)
- Prepare bail applications and instruct pro-bono counsel through our Prisons Project, Separated Families Project & Right to Liberty Project (R2L)
- Represent clients with the assistance of pro bono counsel in their deportation appeals through our Article 8 Deportation & Appeals Project and our Revocation of Deportation Orders Project
- Supervise pro bono lawyers in commercial practice to make applications for legal aid under the Exceptional Case Funding scheme and once granted find legal aid lawyers to represent them.
- Act as a third party intervener, or provide evidence to the higher courts on detention policy and practice
- Carry out research, gather evidence from casework, and prepare reports and briefings for civil servants, parliamentarians and the public about different aspects of immigration detention
- Refer cases to solicitors for unlawful detention actions
- Act as a third-party intervener, or provide evidence to the higher courts on detention policy and practice
- Raise awareness of immigration detention with the wider public

Chair's Report

There have been significant developments and changes in immigration law over the past few years some of which have been abandoned since Labour took office in July 2024. However, there has been no fundamental shift in ideology and Labour have pledged to reintroduce fast track deportations and to continue the expansion of detention which includes the reopening of Haslar (Gosport) and Campsfield (Oxford).

Whilst the new Labour government have done away with the Rwanda plans and there is talk of repealing the Illegal Migration Act, they do so on efficiency & costs grounds rather than because they oppose the underlying ideology. Indeed, this government remains committed to the criminalisation & detention of migrants as a means of 'deterrence'. In 2022 the then Conservative government introduced the Nationality and Border Act 2002 (NABA) which made it a criminal offence to enter the UK without a visa effectively criminalising people entering to claim asylum. At BID, in the last year, we have seen an increasing number of people detained under the Immigration Acts having been sentenced to a term in prison

for illegal entry & who are now facing automatic deportation. This is just one of the many issues that we have been working on this year because of the draconian legislative agenda of the last government

I am proud of the achievements outlined in the report and I want to thank my fellow trustees, our funders, our staff and our volunteers for their support.

**Suhan Rajkumar,
Chair of Trustees**

Director's report

This will be my last Director's report as I will be leaving BID at the end of 2024 after 4 years. I had hoped that at the end of my tenure the ideology behind incarcerating human beings for migrating, often for fleeing persecution & war but also for the very legitimate desire for a better life, would have been abandoned but it seems not and the dehumanising narrative that makes this kind of state violence not just possible but desirable for many remains deeply embedded. It is this dogma that BID seeks to challenge as much as the acts of incarceration themselves and as an organisation we have had a particularly impactful year.

The Illegal Migration Act, passed in June 2023, saw the Rwanda policy introduced by Priti Patel in 2021, codified. This legislation effectively ended the processing of asylum claims in the UK whilst removing the already scant judicial oversight for people incarcerated under the immigration acts. When the Supreme Court found that Rwanda was not a safe third country the then government introduced the Safety of Rwanda Act making it a legal requirement that Judges find Rwanda safe contrary to the facts. As I write these words, I am still absolutely staggered that a British Government could come up with a piece of legislation that would make George Orwell turn in his grave.

“It’s treating people as mere objects rather than vulnerable men, women and children in search of safety who should always be treated with compassion and humanity” – Enver Solomon, Refugee Council on Home Office plans to GPS tag migrants.”

– [Enver Solomon, Refugee Council](#) on Home Office plans to GPS tag migrants.

In July of 2024 we had change of government and on the plus side the Rwanda scheme was scrapped. Hurrah I hear you say but not so fast.... the new government has committed to increasing deportations and to increasing the numbers of people held in detention and is intending to expand the detention estate with the reopening of two internment camps, Haslar and Campsfield.

So sadly, BID’s work continues.

**Annie Campbell Viswanathan,
Director**



Achievements and performance

Bail casework and outreach

“just want to say a massive thank you for everything you did for me. All the support, advice, and guidance you gave to me through this difficult and dark time of my life. The work you BID London do, day in day out is simply extraordinary and everyone in your organisation should be proud of themselves for all the amazing work they do.”

Client

BiD

Achievements

2,093

In the past year BID provided free legal advice to 2093 people and answered 8,204 calls to our advice line. We also responded to a further 312 queries through our enquiries e-mail.

194

We provided free legal advice to 194 parents or carers separated from 403 children and 34% of the people we supported had at least one vulnerability recorded.

1,788

We provided a total of 1,788 people with legal assistance in preparing their bail applications through our DIY scheme.

409

At least 409 of the bail cases we worked on were heard. Of these at least 13 were withdrawn and 329 were granted bail or bail in principle, an astonishing minimum success rate of 80%.

83

We provided deportation legal advice to 83 people and assisted 16 people to apply for exceptional case funding (ECF) for legal aid in deportation cases.

28

We delivered 28 advice workshops in prisons and IRCs where we provided free legal advice on detention and/or deportation to a total of 421 people.

100%

100% of those who returned feedback forms rated our work as either “excellent”/“very helpful” or “helpful.

115

We made 115 referrals for unlawful detention.

Lived Experience Strategy

In 2021 we made the integration of people's lived experience into the development of BID's services, strategy and campaigns one of our strategic priorities.

In 2022, in collaboration with Mishka Pillay, a consultant with personal experience of immigration detention, we further developed a strategy to embed lived experience into all aspects of our organisation and with some funding from the National Lottery we have successfully implemented 35% of this strategy including creating a network of former clients with lived experience of immigration detention, as well as co-producing ethical storytelling guides, remuneration policies, and awareness-raising campaigns.

Facilitating relationships between our clients and stakeholders has been successful, resulting in the amplification of our clients' voices through prominent media channels such as Channel 4 News, The Independent, Coda News, and the Jacobin.

We have strong evidence that the involvement of lived experience consultants elevates our influencing work and empowers the individuals and communities involved.

Michael (pseudonym), a lived experience consultant, said:

"During my time in prison and detention, my skills took a hit. After BID got me bail, I got involved. I had no experience other than appealing my own deportation and wasn't sure what I would be able to do to help.

With support, I quickly adapted. I joined management meetings, inducted volunteers, co-produced policies and provided evidence on preventing deaths in custody which was published by the Ministry of Justice.

Working with BID gave me the confidence and skills to look for a new career despite my past. I became a Peer Support Worker at a charity and was promoted. I would not have been able to accomplish this without the experience I gained while working with BID."

From the original strategy to steering groups and guides and policies, our community are at the centre of the development of this project.

We have one-to-ones with our lived experience consultants and conduct surveys. One such survey found 85% of respondents were interested in joining a network of people with lived experience, expressing desire for mutual support, sharing experiences, campaigning for policy changes, influencing our work and opportunities for learning and training.

We responded by engaging with twelve lived experience consultants on volunteer inductions, events, training, strategy development, steering groups, media interviews and the co-production of reports, exhibitions, campaigns, films and media stories.

"Staff helped me see the potential within my own story, showing me how my past can be a powerful asset. Their belief in me transformed my negative past into a foundation for a positive future. I developed new skills, such as public speaking, making me feel more confident in sharing my experiences and advocating for others. This project has reinforced my belief in the power of collective action."

We still have a way to go to shift power within BID towards experts by experience, but we are committed to doing so.

DIY & Right to Liberty Project

Our DIY scheme provides advice and support to help people make their own applications for bail. We provide tailored advice and depending on capacity and we also assist with preparing bail applications, drafting detailed grounds for bail and supporting people in their evidence gathering.

- We answered 8,204 calls to our advice line and responded to a further 312 queries through our enquiries e-mail.
- We provided free legal advice to 1,788 people through our DIY project. We continue to work on some of these cases.
- We provided free legal advice to support at least 179 bail applications to be lodged of which 178 were heard and 132 were granted.

In addition to developing the DIY project, the Right to Liberty (R2L) project prioritised cases for full representation of vulnerable people and those who have been held in detention for the longest periods:

- 22 people were supported with full representation through our Right to Liberty Project.
- 43 bail applications were lodged with full representation provided
- Of the 30 cases that were heard, 23 were granted bail or bail in principle.

“When we were discouraged, knocked to the ground and without seeing any solution to the problem, you, the whole team stood by us, gave us hope and fought for our case. You have made a great effort and work so that our family remains united!! Thank you so much!!”

Client

“I cannot express enough gratitude for all the support you have provided my son. Without your assistance, he would still be facing challenges behind bars. I am truly thankful.”

Client



Separated families' project

The Home Office has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to consider the child's best interests when making decisions that affect them. At BID we do not believe that separating children from their parents purely for immigration purposes can ever be in a child's best interests. Our project provides legal advice and representation to parents held in immigration detention to enable them to be reunited.

We provided free legal advice to 194 parents separated from their 403 children.

- This project provided full representation to 46 parents.
- 40 bail applications were heard, and 34 were successful.

BACKGROUND

Our client had been in the UK continuously for 18 years and had indefinite leave to remain. When he first contacted BID he was in prison still serving his custodial sentence, but was anxious to be released on his conditional release date because his partner was pregnant and he was eagerly anticipating the birth of their first child.

BID'S INVOLVEMENT

BID promptly prepared and submitted an immigration bail application to the Home Office on behalf of our client. In the application, we detailed his personal circumstances, including his partner's pregnancy and the availability of suitable accommodation upon release. We requested that he be granted bail at the conclusion of his sentence however no response was received.

On his Conditional Release our client was detained under immigration powers. This caused significant anxiety, as he feared missing the birth of his child. BID immediately applied for First-tier Tribunal bail.

While his bail application was pending, our client received his Stage 2 deportation decision, and we assisted him in filing a protective appeal.

“Protecting refugees requires all countries – not just those neighbouring crisis zone – to uphold their obligations. This arrangement seeks to shift responsibility for refugee protection, undermining international cooperation and setting a worrying global precedent.”

– Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees
[on the UK's Safety of Rwanda Act 2024.](#)

The bail hearing was scheduled for 19 March 2024. However, on 15 March 2024, the Secretary of State transferred our client to a detention centre instead of releasing him into the community. Neither BID nor our client were informed of this transfer in advance; he only learned of it on the day it occurred. Sadly, on the same day, his child was born, and he was unable to be present.

Our client was granted bail by the First-tier Tribunal and released a week after the birth of his child. Although he sadly missed the birth, he has since been able to reunite with his family and is now present during this crucial stage of their lives together.

In this client's case the Judge did not even need to hear our barrister's submissions to grant bail, he did so exclusively based on our written submissions. The same submissions that the Home Office received and ignored.

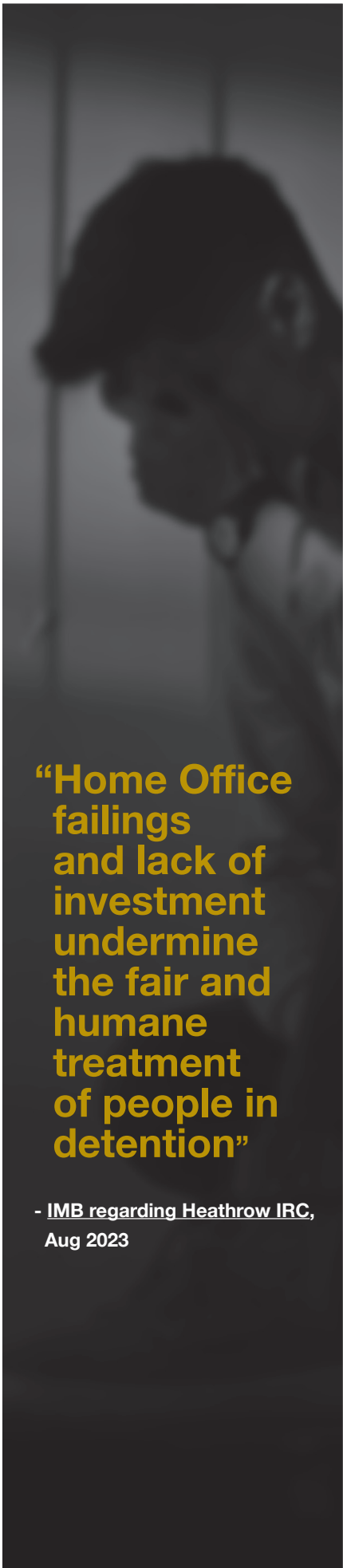
Here is the attendance note from barrister:

The Judge did not need to hear from me after hearing briefly from the Home Office. He granted bail, on the basis that removal was not imminent



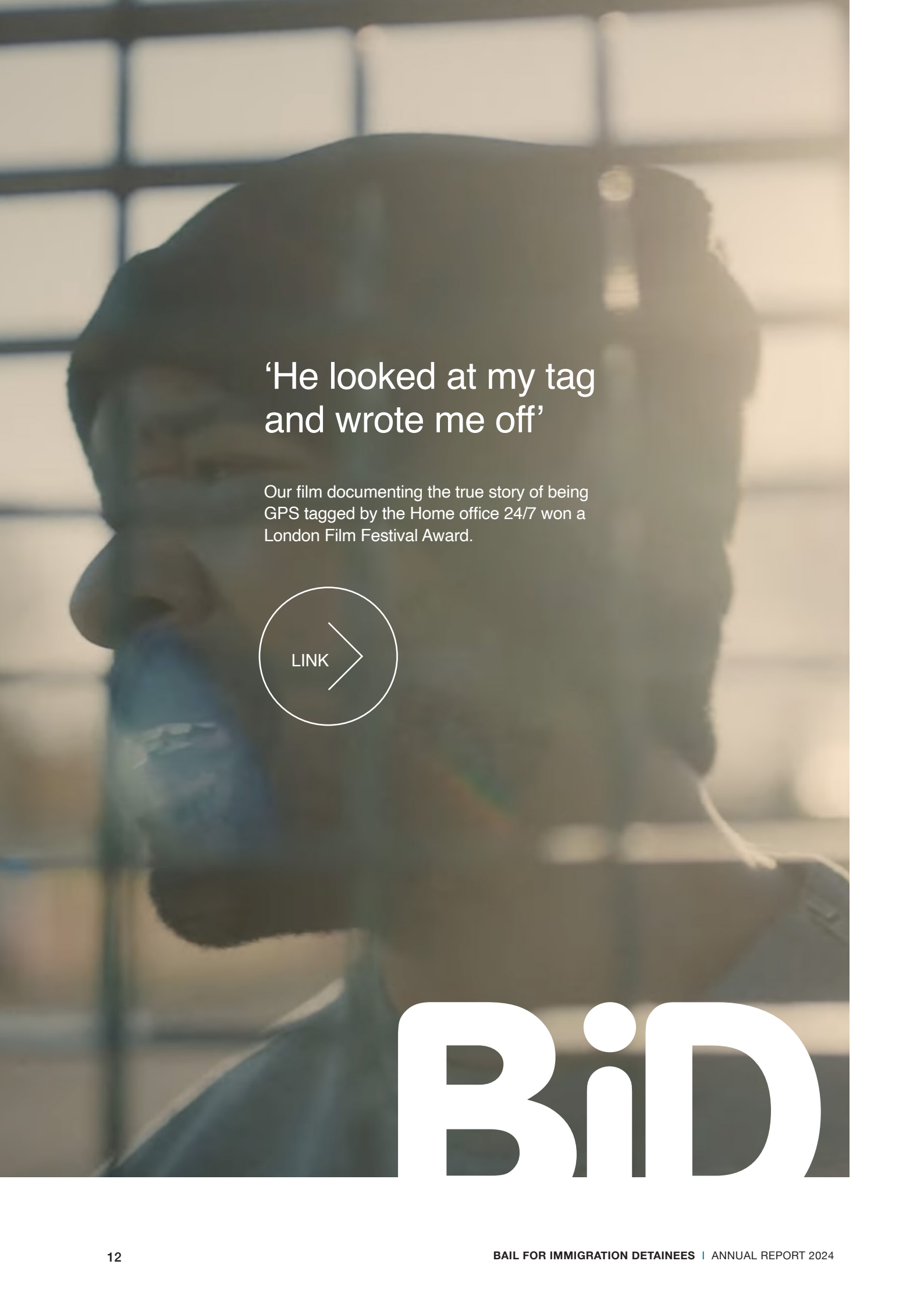
“the kids are absolutely beside themselves with excitement and once again I would like to thank you for changing what seemed to be impossible into a possibility”

Client



“Home Office failings and lack of investment undermine the fair and humane treatment of people in detention”

- [IMB regarding Heathrow IRC](#),
Aug 2023



‘He looked at my tag and wrote me off’

Our film documenting the true story of being
GPS tagged by the Home office 24/7 won a
London Film Festival Award.

LINK

BiD

Prisons' project

Our Prisons' Project focuses on the provision of legal advice and representation to time-served prisoners detained in prisons under immigration powers and facing deportation action.

In prison, where practices of 23-hour detention are common due to understaffing, clients are at heightened risk of mental health deterioration and are forced to contact legal services such as BID largely via post – creating avoidable delays in the provision of legal advice and support. BID's Prison Project exists to ensure that those suffering these conditions have the access to the liberty and freedom to which they are legally entitled.

There is significant crossover and collaboration between this project, BID's Separated Families' Project, and our Article 8 Deportation Advice Project. Evidence from these projects also feeds into our policy work and helps with preparing witness statements for strategic litigation. The project also refers cases to other lawyers to mount unlawful detention challenges. Between 2022-23 the Home Office [spent a record breaking £16.1 million on compensation](#) for those who were wrongfully detained, with 736 cases of wrongful detention being reported. The figures are immense, but the significant rise from the previous year suggests that the Home Office is not learning lessons from past wrongful decisions.

- We provided free legal advice to 525 people detained in prison under immigration powers.
- This project provided full legal representation to 57 individuals.
- 60 cases were heard and of these 7 were withdrawn and 55 were granted bail or bail in principle.

I would like to say i am very grateful for your support [REDACTED]. Just want to say thank you all for your hlep and support that you all gave me. And merry christmas to you and your family. [REDACTED]

Saturday, 23 Dec - 17:28

Hi [REDACTED]! Thank you very much for your message, very kind of you to think of me. I am glad we were part of this and helped you being released. I wish you all the best. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Text message

I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support in helping me come back to my family- your kindness & assistance meant the world to me and I am truly grateful for the role you played in making this possible.

I am so grateful and happy beyond words that all I can say is thank you.

Article 8 & Deportation Advice Project (ADAP)

The project provides advice and representation to people facing deportation from the UK. Under the provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007, any foreign national with a criminal conviction of 12 months or more is subject to automatic deportation, regardless of length of residence in the UK. The introduction of part 13 of the immigration rules on 9th July 2012 introduced the so called 'unduly harsh test' setting out that deportation of a foreign criminal is in the public interest unless there is a genuine & subsisting relationship with a qualifying child or partner and the effects of deportation on that child would be 'unduly harsh'. Until 2013 when legal aid cuts removed deportation from scope of legal aid, it was possible to get legal aid to argue that a private and family life had been established in the UK and that deportation would be disproportionate. However the unduly harsh test coupled with the removal of legal aid, means it is now very difficult to win a deportation appeal, with only 8% of appeals allowed on Human Rights grounds in 2021 (the last year for which figures are available).

The project prioritises long-term UK residents with British families and those with particularly compelling circumstances. It also prepares and disseminates a range of self-help leaflets about deportation. This is a small project which comprises a Legal Manager with occasional volunteer support. This project provided 108 people with advice or representation in the last year.

Appeals

There were three appeals heard before the First-tier Tribunal. Of those, one appeal was successful. There was 1 application to the First-tier Tribunal for permission to appeal to the Upper-tier Tribunal. The , permission to appeal was granted and a hearing date is awaited.

Applications to revoke deportation orders

This year, we focussed more heavily on applications to revoke deportation orders. We found that for many people, who are appeal rights exhausted, but have not been removed from the UK and are living in the community on immigration bail, it can be very hard to find lawyers willing to look afresh at their case. This may be because such cases are time consuming. They require consideration of all prior decisions made in the case, and gathering evidence, including expert evidence, to show a material change of circumstances demonstrating removal would breach their human rights.

There were 18 applications to revoke deportation orders. All are awaiting decisions from the Home Office. In all of these cases, the applicants had lived in the UK for many years and had family life with minor children. All suffered from poor psychological health

All cases required expert evidence, such as Independent Social Worker reports, risk of reoffending reports and mental health assessments, to have a fair chance to make out their case to stay in the UK.

Judicial Review referrals

We made 13 referrals for judicial review. These included a refusal of the Home Office to recognize a client's right to Indefinite Leave to Remain, a refusal to grant permission to work and a claim of unlawful detention.



13 REFERRALS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

“This [HMCIP] report paints a bleak picture of the continuing decline of a centre that has concerned inspectors for many years. Many detainees were stuck in detention for far too long, waiting for the Home Office and the courts to make decisions about their cases, with consequences for their physical and mental health. There is a huge amount of work to be done to get Harmondsworth even up to the mediocre standards we found at our 2017 inspection.”

HMCIP Report on an unannounced inspection of Harmondsworth

Advice & Assistance on Electronic Monitoring

Issues for clients released on immigration bail but required to wear an electronic tag was a significant trend this year. Tag malfunction, resulting in Breach of Bail Conditions Warning Letters, was the most common problem. We assisted 7 clients who faced this problem.

Prison workshops

We attended advice workshops at HMP Send, HMP Wandsworth, HMP Wormwood Scrubs and HMP Huntercombe. We provided individual deportation advice to 30 people and provided general information about the deportation process to detainees and time-serving prisoners.

Exceptional Funding Applications (ECF)

Overall BID provided legal advice about Exceptional Case Funding applications to 16 people through our internal project and our partnership project.

19 people were provided with free legal advice from our Exceptional Funding Partnership Project. 6 people were referred for an application for Exceptional Legal aid case funding by volunteer lawyers under BID supervision. 6 of these progressed to a legal aid application and all were granted legal aid.

The ADAP project separately also made 9 applications for ECF, all of which were granted funding. Clients were at all stages of the deportation process, from the initial Liability to Deportation notice to appeal stage or were Appeal Rights Exhausted, requiring a fresh human rights application.

Finding lawyers with capacity to take on cases once legal aid had been granted continued to be a significant challenge due to lack of capacity in the sector. Indeed, we found that some clients at appeal stage required BID's assistance with liaising with the Tribunal and applying for adjournments. This was during the ECF application process and after funding had been granted, as a lawyer could not be found to take on the case.

Strategic Litigation

“Home Office failings and lack of investment undermine the fair and humane treatment of people in detention”

- IMB regarding Heathrow IRC, Aug 2023

BID relies on its casework and research experience to support applications to intervene, legal challenges and witness statements to support claimants. We summarise some of the main cases and developments over the past year.

“The government’s approach fails to address the comprehensive needs of survivors when assessing whether to grant leave, including looking at risks of re-trafficking if returned to their country of origin, safety and protection and all the needs of the survivor.”

- Helen Bamber Foundation, Leave in Limbo 2023, 11.

A.S.K.

BID intervened jointly with Medical Justice before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), with each organisation being given the opportunity to make written submissions focused upon the ECtHR’s question of whether or not detention is used at all times “with a view to deportation”. The case therefore offered the opportunity for BID to make submissions for the ECtHR to Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in the context of the immigration detention regime operated in the UK. This was also in the context of the high number of cases where the First-tier Tribunal has granted bail, but individuals remain in detention, sometimes for many months pending the allocation of accommodation by the Home Office.

This case is increasingly important in view of Section 12 of the Illegal Migration Act which seeks to allow the detention of people for as long as the Secretary of State thinks is necessary in order for her to find appropriate accommodation.

BID wishes to thank its solicitors, Maeve Hannah and Deekshitha Sharma of Allen and Overy Solicitors counsel, and Greg Ó Ceallaigh and Alex Shymyck of Garden Court Chambers for their work on this case.

Unlawful Mass Detention Claim Against the Home Office

BID has lodged a claim against the UK Government’s decision in April 2024 to detain a large number of people for the purpose of removal to Rwanda. BID is claiming the detentions were unnecessary in view of the individuals’ previous compliance with their conditions of bail and the fact that removal was not expected to be possible for a period of up to 3 months. BID has reached a related crowd-funding target of £13k to support this litigation which it views as being important in view of the current Government’s decision to pursue the policy of expanding the use of detention, ostensibly for the purpose of increasing the numbers of people to be deported from the UK.

BID is represented by Toufique Hossain, Lewis Kett, Nicholas Hughes, Krisha Prathepan of Duncan Lewis solicitors, Stephanie Harrison and Grace Capel of Garden Court Chambers, Alex Goodman of Landmark Chambers and Sophie Lucas of The 36 Group. BID has also been assisted by A&O Shearman in relation to this litigation.

“Having access to a person’s 24/7 movements is highly intrusive, as it is likely to reveal a lot of information about them, including the potential to infer sensitive information such as their religion, sexuality, or health status. Lack of clarity on how this information will be used can also inadvertently inhibit people’s movements and freedom to take part in day-to-day activities. If such information were to be mishandled or misinterpreted, it could potentially have harmful consequences to people and their future. The Home Office did not assess those risks sufficiently, which means the pilot scheme was not legally compliant”

HMCIP Report on an unannounced inspection of Harmondsworth IRC, July 2024.

FOI Appeals re Disclosure of Emergency Travel Document (ETD) Data Relating to Somalia and Eritrea

BID’s two appeals against the ICO’s decision to support the Home Office’s refusal to disclose data relating to the numbers of ETDs issued by the Embassies of Somalia and Eritrea was upheld. BID argued that this information was essential to allowing a meaningful assessment of whether or not removal of a person is imminent, and therefore whether their detention is lawful. The Tribunal ruled in BID’s favour and allowed the appeal, giving the Home Office 34 days to deliver the necessary information requested in the FOI, although BID is still chasing this information. The judge agreed with BID, that disclosing such information would not lead to the prejudicing of diplomatic interests, nor the operation of immigration controls and said:

“The public interest in disclosure put forward by BID is compelling. For hundreds of years, the common law has demanded that administrative detention must be justified and be capable of proper challenge. This is in the interests of the wider public as well as the individuals affected: detention that proper scrutiny and transparency would have shown to be unjustified harms the detainee, damages the rule of law, wastes public money, and lowers public confidence in the ability of the government to properly control immigration. The work done by BID, both on behalf of individuals and more broadly, supports that public interest. Disclosure of the requested information would help it to achieve those ends and avoid injustice.”

BID would like to thank counsel including Laura Dubinsky QC and Beth Grossman (both Doughty Street Chambers) and our solicitors at Allen and Overy solicitors, including Maeve Hannah, Alastair Madeley, Sukriti Jaiswal and Lucia Craft Marquez.

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COVID-19 Inquiry

BID is working with a number of organisations that have been brought together by the Public Interest Law Centre with the aim of informing the Inquiry as to the experiences of people held in immigration detention during the course of the pandemic. This includes evidence relating to the use of prolonged cell and solitary confinement in prisons. BID intends, along with other NGOs to apply for core participant status in relation to Module 10 of the Inquiry which includes a focus upon immigration and detention

BID would like to thank Ellen Fotheringham and Joseph Latimer of Public Interest Lawyers for their representation and advice.



The BID office

Brook House Inquiry

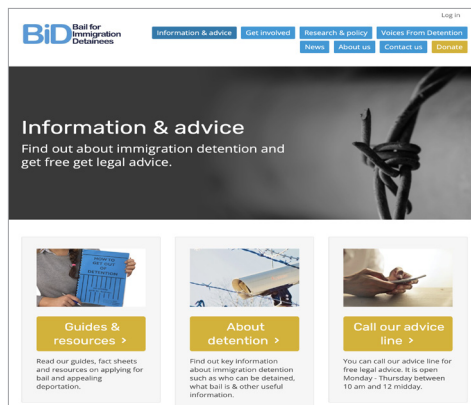
BID provided a witness statement and evidence to the Inquiry that focused upon the experiences of its clients at the time when Panorama aired its programme regarding the abuses suffered by people held at Brook House at the hands of G4S contractors. The final report has made 33 recommendations, including that detention should be time-limited to 28 days. BID continues to work with Medical Justice and other organisations to follow-up with the Home Office on its implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations

BID would like to thank our pro bono solicitors, Zubier Yazdani, Sue Willman, Joanna Thomson, Clare Hayes and Mark Hylands of Deighton Pierce Glyn Solicitors and our counsel, Nick Armstrong KC and Jesse Nichols of Matrix chambers for all their work throughout the Inquiry.

Witness Statements and Support for Litigation

BID has also contributed witness statements and provided advice and support to claimants and lawyers considering claims. This has included witness statements provided to Turpin Miller solicitors in relation to a claim relating to the provision of Home Office accommodation and individuals' bail conditions and Leigh Day solicitors in relation to Schedule 10 accommodation and emergency accommodation.

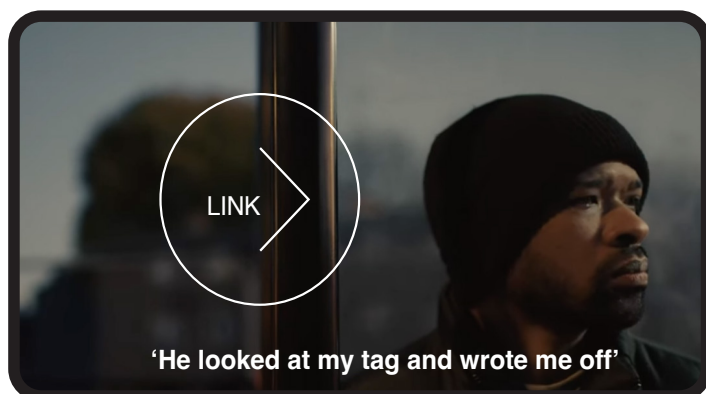
Research and policy and campaigning



Communications and fundraising summary

Over the past year BID has seen audience growth across all its communication channels. While raising the profile of immigration detention as a human rights issue, this is also enabling us to communicate with more people than ever significantly growing our fundraising potential. Our website was visited by over 42,000 people last year and we secured 53 media mentions.

Our film documenting the true story of being GPS tagged by the Home office 24/7 won a London Film Festival Award. [‘He looked at my tag and wrote me off’](#), won an award for best Story Telling at the Earl’s Court International Film Festival. The film depicts the physical and psychological harm caused by the Home Office’s GPS tagging scheme.



“Forcing migrants to wear GPS tags is punitive, intrusive and dehumanising. If you have to wear a tag, you are forfeiting your liberty, and you’re now further entangled, and not just figuratively speaking, with the whims, draconian impulses, and technological incompetence of a perpetually failing government department, and the roll call of outsourcing companies who are just in it for the money.”

– Privacy International, on the practice of GPS tagging migrants.

“It’s treating people as mere objects rather than vulnerable men, women and children in search of safety who should always be treated with compassion and humanity”

– [Enver Solomon, Refugee Council](#) on Home Office plans to GPS tag migrants.

A round up of the year

This year has been largely focused on raising awareness with some asks both financial(donation) and participatory (free events, challenge events, write to your MP) encouraging people to act.

AUGUST

BID supports campaign calling for the end of the Bibby Stockholm barge.

SEPTEMBER

Brooke House Inquiry publishes damning report into the abuse and mistreatment of detained individuals in Brooke House IRC. Findings are in part supported by evidence given by organisations such as BID.

OCTOBER

On World Mental Health Day, BID stands in solidarity with everyone navigating the hostile environment and its significantly detrimental impacts on people's mental health.

NOVEMBER

"Hurdle after Hurdle: The Struggle for Advice and Representation" BID publishes new research into the Legal Aid process, exposing the numerous barriers against Exceptional Case Funding.

BID celebrates the Supreme Court rules the governments Rwanda plan as unlawful, joining 130 other civil society organisations in welcoming the decision.

DECEMBER

BID takes part in the Big Give, doubling donations for the week. Raising £13, 426 for our advice line giving free legal advice in over 25 languages.

JANUARY

"Access to Justice – or Just an Illusion?" BID hosts event exposing the legal aid illusion, calling for the reinstatement of Legal Aid for all immigration cases. Featuring testimony from an ex-client and speakers from BID, Migrants Organise and, Public Law Project.

FEBRUARY

On Valentine's Day, BID launches campaign "Does the Home Office have a heart?" calling for the end to the UK's heartless automatic deportation regime.

MARCH

Complaint lodged by Privacy International, supported by testimonies from BID clients results in the ICO finds the Home Office's GPS monitoring pilot unlawful over breaking data protection laws.

APRIL

BID re-opens our Rwanda Project and begins supporting those inhumanely detained during the government's attempts to mass detain individuals for removals to Rwanda.

MAY

BID's Hackney Half Heroes raise over £10,000 for our advice line.

JUNE

BID continues to support and advocate for our clients detained under the government's unworkable and performatively cruel Rwanda Plan.

JULY

BID calls on the new government to take a fairer and more compassionate approach to migration, calling for an explicit commitment to the abolition of immigration detention.

“Detainees lacked mental capacity and were assessed as unfit for detention but were still in detention for long periods. Report on an unannounced inspection of Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre [and] Many Rule 35 reports were of poor quality and did not provide adequate assessment of the impact of continuing detention on detainees’ health.”

– HM Chief Inspector of Prisons 2023 Report on the unannounced inspection of Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre, 5.



“Persistently high rates of self-harm [in detention] requiring medical intervention of vulnerable people, against the backdrop of the authoritative Brook House inquiry report, are yet another reminder to the Home Office to not only start consistently and fully to uphold their adults at risk policy in detention, but, more fundamentally, to step back from the threatened ramping up of mandatory detention in the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and its fear-inducing Rwanda emergency law. To not step back will mean needlessly endangering lives.”

- Graham O’Neil, Scottish Refugee Council, on the revelation [there is a self-harm incident nearly every day in the UK detention estate.](#)

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(Fundraising & Communications Manager)
Nasrin Warsame
(Policy & Research Coordinator (left March 2024))

VOLUNTEERS

Abeeda Ruhul, Acelya Begonya Yildirim, Aisha Hussain, Alanna Sophia Philgence, Alice Allfrey Ambareen Huq, Amber Lavinia Rhodes, Ana Ulamoleka, Anaam Mohamed Abdullahi, Ananya Kumar-Banerjee, Anjelica Smerin, Anna Lee, Anna Frances Sandt, Avi Lederman, Barry McTaggart, Belen Mateos Gutierrez, Bella Lever, Brenda Efurhievwe, Bruno Mackie, Celia Grace Storrie, Cicely Fraser, Clara Colombet, Crispin Pownall, Cristina Howick, Daisy Brown, Dmitri Chong, Elizabeth Galliver, Emily Holmes, Emman Kaur, Esmee Rogerson, Fabio Santos, Fatima Ali, Fatima Mansoor Pal, Freya Morgan, Freya Wainstein, Georgia Galvin, Grace Storrie, Hannah Kidane, Harinee Shanmugam, Isabel Morris, Islay Moran, Janvier Benoit, Javier Cobo, Jennifer Olley, John Stavers, Jefferson Gonzalez Flores, Johnley Videñ, Jolly Hoang, Joshua Blows, Joshua Dennis Sawyerr, Joy (Giovanna) Musumeci, Joy Liu, Kamol Yunusov, Katharine Higgs, Kevin Sangu, Kiruba Nirmaladevi Kandaswamy Kitty Levenson, Kourosh Fallah, Kyron Skerritt, Lara Bird-Leakey, Leila Monteiro, Lydia Leung, Lucia Tremonti, Maëlle Jacqmarcq, Mahfuza Mustofa, Malika Malkiel, Marco Medellin, Matt Jolliffe, Maryam Hekim, Meghana Kalagana, Melike Idil Çelik, Michelle De Wit, Muhammad Saad Ali Syed, Moona Haque, Natalia Catechis, Nauman Nadeem, Nevena Martinovic, Niall Ackroyd, Nishat Saiyara Aurin, Oluchi Emenike, Ornelia Kulici, Patrick Liu, Phoebe Owor, Portia Gyebe, Prune Recoules, Qaisar Khan, Raj Umayavan Yadhunanthanan, Rohey Sanyang, Rosie Coban, Rufus Redding, Samira Grewal Samuel Moss, Sanaa Tariq Carrimjee, Shair Khan, Shaizah Baig, Sheeza Malik Shivangi Chandrasekhar, Siddhi Jain, Simona-Anamaria Constantin, Sneha Bhardwaj, Syed Moin Ul Hasan, Syeda Ahmed, Tanja Begum, Ubayd Syed, Valentina Granata, Valerie Tao, Wael Alanizi, Yasmin Qarout, Yogesh Shrestha, Zaya Nasheed, Zebya Atho, Zoe Darling





We'd like to extend a huge 'thank-you' to all our staff, trustees and volunteers as well as the barristers, solicitors and funders who have supported our work over the year.

Thanks to the those who provided us with pro bono representation in bail hearings and appeals and those who acted pro bono in interventions and potential claims, and those who provided other pro bono services on behalf of BID:

Abigail Smith, Adam Riley, Adrian Berry, Agata Patyna, Ahmed Osman, Alex Grigg, Alex Schymyck, Alexander Maunders, Althea Radford, Amanda Walker, Amiee Riese, Amy Childs, Amy Riese, Angela Shepherd, Annahita Moradi-Balf, Antonia Benfield, Aqsa Hussain, Araniya Kogulathas, Ben Haseldine, Ben Seifert, Beth Grossman, Bronwen Jones, Camila Zapata Besso, Caragh Nimmo, Catherine Jaquiss, Charles Bishop, Cian Murphy, Ciara Bartlam, Ciara Moran, Colin Yeo, Craig Holmes, David Barr, David Jones, David Sellwood, Deborah Revill, Donnchadh Greene, Duran Seddon, Ella Gunn, Emma Fitzsimons, Eva Doerr, Evin Atas, Fatima Jichi, Franck Magennis, Freddie Powell, Georgie Rea, Georgina Fenton, Gillian Sedley, Gordon Lee, Grace Capel, Greg Ó Ceallaigh, Hannah Lynes, Hannah Thornely, Harriet Massie, Harry Peto, Imogen Mellor, Imogen Sadler, Issac Ricca-Richardson, Jenny Lanigan, Josh Jackson, Joshua Jackson, Joyti Wood, Karen Staunton, Kate Jones, Krishnendu Mukherjee, Laura Dubinsky KC, Laurene Veale, Luke Tattersall, Margo Munro Kerr, Marie Paris, Matthew Ahluwalia, Matthew Moriarty, Michelle Peters, Mike Spencer, Miranda Butler, Mohsin Aslam, Nadia O'Mara, Nic Sadeghi, Olivia Beach, Patrick Lewis, Paul Erdunast, Pierre Georget, Pippa Woodrow, Redmond Traynor, Rehab Jaffer, Rosa Polaschek, Ruby Shrimpton, Sarah Dobbie, Shanthi Sivakumaran, Shereener Browne, Shu Shin Luh, Simon Cox, Sophie Bird, Stephanie Harrison KC, Stephen Clark, Steven Galliver Andrews, Theo Lester, Tublu Mukherjee, Ubah Dirie, Val Easty, Victor Mensah, Zehrah Hasan, Zoe Harper.

And thanks to the clerks and the following chambers:

12 Old Square, 18 Red Lion Chambers, 2 Hare Court, 3 Hare Court, 3 Raymond Buildings, 33 Bedford Row, 36 Group, 4 King's Bench Walk, 5 Essex Court, Brick Court Chambers, Cloisters Chambers, Doughty Street Chambers, Essex Court Chambers, Garden Court Chambers, Goldsmith Chambers, Grays Inn Square, Justicia Chambers, Kenworthy, Landmark Chambers, Legis Chambers, Number 5, One Pump Court, Red Lion Chambers, South Square Chambers, Temple Garden Chambers, The 36 Group.



A huge "thank-you" to BID's funders and supporters, without whom none of this would have been possible:

AB Charitable Trust, Allen & Overy Foundation, Ashurst solicitors, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, The Bromley Trust, City Bridge Trust, Comic Relief, Debevoise and Plimpton LLP, Dechert LLP, Disrupt Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Garden Court Chambers, Golden Bottle Trust, Griffsome Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, London Legal Support Trust, Oak Foundation, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Reed Smith LLP, Schroder Charity Trust, The Step Up Fund, Trust For London, Tudor Trust.

Financial Information

For the year ended 31 July 2024



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	574,782	-	574,782	547,430
Charitable activities	-	157,300	157,300	126,711
Investments	14,801	-	14,801	6,461
Total income	589,583	157,300	746,883	680,602
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	54,460	-	54,460	71,402
Charitable activities	535,570	157,300	692,870	561,443
Total expenditure	590,030	157,300	747,330	632,845
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds	(447)	-	(447)	47,757
Fund balances at 1 August 2023	441,122	-	441,122	393,365
Fund balances at 31 July 2024	440,675	-	440,675	441,122

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	3,598	6,500
Current assets		
Debtors	16,028	14,418
Cash at bank and in hand	539,961	618,463
	555,989	632,881
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(118,912)	(198,259)
Net current assets	437,077	434,622
Total assets less current liabilities	440,675	441,122
Income funds		
Unrestricted funds	440,675	441,122
	440,675	441,122

The trustees have prepared accounts in accordance with section 398 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 138 of the Charities Act 2011. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.



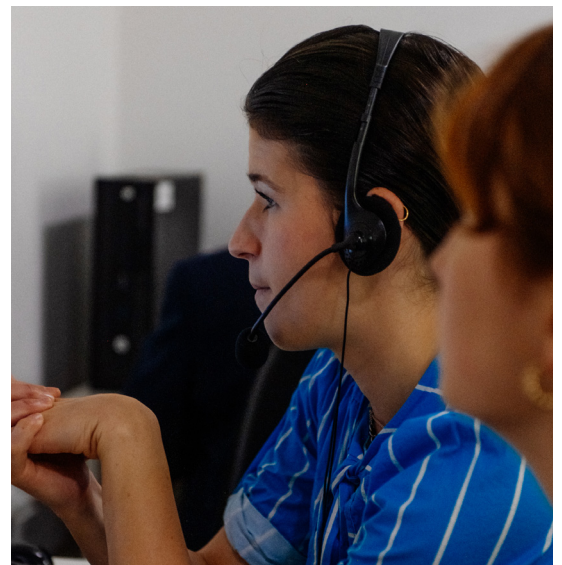
“A trans woman remained in detention for 22 days even though a Home Office assessment at the outset of her detention had confirmed that she was at risk of harm. She was eventually transferred to hospital. The Board questioned the decision by the Detention Gatekeeper to allow her detention her in the first place.”

– IMB 2023 National Annual Report, 27.



“IMBs found that the Rule 35 process was largely ineffective, as vulnerable people weren’t being identified quickly enough, and waited too long for an assessment once they had been identified. In mid-2023, two IMBs reported that there was a two- to three-week wait for an assessment. By the end of the year, three IMBs found that wait times had increased to a month. Gatwick IMB, monitoring at Brook House and Tinsley House IRCs, reported that the healthcare contractor had not taken appropriate action to improve wait times.”

– IMB 2023 National Annual Report





BiD Bail for Immigration Detainees

A LEGAL
VOICE FOR PEOPLE
IN DETENTION

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