



# Our expectations for Greater Manchester politicians in 2024

Our local politicians have committed to make Greater Manchester a place *“where everyone can live a good life, growing up, getting on and growing old in a greener, fairer, more prosperous city region”*.

But our regional ambitions are eroded by national immigration laws that disproportionately affect people based on race, class and gender.

In 2024 we call on our politicians to uphold Greater Manchester's commitments by:

- listening to people with lived experience of immigration control
- speaking out about the importance of **welcome, safety, justice, home and support** for all Greater Manchester's residents, regardless of immigration status
- being accountable in achieving this reality for our city-region, before and after the General Election.

# Welcome

**1** Create a **city-region of welcome** for people in Greater Manchester: celebrating our histories and futures of migration, and rejecting divisive scapegoating and the hostile environment

**2** **Speak out** where national immigration policy harms our residents, and **resource and empower** local and regional government to 'do things differently' here

# Safety

**3 Dismantle laws** criminalising asylum: starting with the Safety of Rwanda Act 2024, the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and the Nationality and Borders Act 2022

**4 Build a people-centred, compassionate** system of sanctuary in the UK for people fleeing war or persecution – offering safe routes to claim asylum and reuniting families

**5 Stop electronic monitoring and regular reporting** requirements with the Home Office, where residents risk being “disappeared” to detention centres

**6 Tackle labour exploitation and abuse** by uncoupling work visas from employee sponsorship (which has forced care workers in our region into destitution)

# Justice

**7** Stop weaponising access to justice as a political football and advocate instead for **long-term investment in legal aid**

**8** Support **reparative justice**, including **effective compensation**, for communities and individuals traumatised by racist immigration controls, past and present

**9** Protect the **right to protest** against injustices affecting our communities and the people in them



# Home

**10** Work for everyone in our communities to have a **safe and secure place to call home**

**11** Ensure people seeking asylum in our region are **housed in communities**, not warehoused in profit-driven institutional accommodation or detention centres

**12** Advocate for **routes to regularisation**, so Greater Manchester residents trapped in destitution can fully settle, proactively participate and flourish

**13** End protracted limbo in immigration control by **capping all routes to settlement** at five years (with immigration fees no more than administrative cost)

# Support

**14** Ensure everyone has **access to the services** we all need – health, housing, welfare benefits, education

**15** **End the use of the No Recourse to Public Funds** (NRPF) condition, which leaves people in our area experiencing the slow violence of destitution

These expectations were written by Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit and signed by the following Greater Manchester organisations. Get in touch with us by emailing [rivka@gmiau.org](mailto:rivka@gmiau.org) if you want to discuss our expectations.



asylum matters



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