

# The JCORE MANIFESTO

For the just treatment of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and BME communities



JCORE calls on our political leaders to pursue ethical, moral and fair policies towards migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and BME communities

# WE BELIEVE IN A BRITAIN<sub>WHERE:</sub>

- There is a fair immigration and asylum system
- Asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are treated with dignity and respect and helped to integrate into British society.
- Politicians and the press do not stereotype or demonise refugees, asylum seekers and migrants
- No asylum-seeking children are placed in detention centres, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Asylum seekers are never forced into destitution
- Asylum seekers have the right to work if they have been waiting more than six months for their case to be resolved
- Migrant workers are protected from exploitation such as slavery, servitude or bonded labour.
- Everyone is represented, and not pitched against each other for short-term, political or personal gain.
- All people are welcomed and valued, diversity is celebrated and there is equality of opportunity for all.

If you are attending a hustings this year, or speak to a candidate please ask them one of the following questions.

**Q:** Will you support the reintroduction of the Dubs Amendment, if you are elected?

- The Dubs Amendment was put in place to relocate vulnerable unaccompanied children at risk of sexual abuse, trafficking and slavery in Europe to safety in the UK.
  - The government announced the end of the scheme in February 2017 with only 350 (recently upped to 480) of the expected 3,000 children saved.
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**Q:** Will you support extending family reunification, so that lone children can apply for their parents to join them here?

- Family reunification is a legal right under the Dublin III regulation.
  - This means that citizens in EU nations have the right to bring over relatives to live with them in their country of residence.
  - This however is a slow process, and at this time only allows adults to apply for children to be reunited, not for lone children to apply for their parents to join them.
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**Q:** Will you take a zero-tolerance approach to racism, anti-semitism and Islamophobia?

- In 2014-2015 just under 43,000 race-hate offences were reported to police in England and Wales - an increase of 15% on the previous year.
  - The Metropolitan Police have also reported a staggering 61% rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish hate crimes in 2015.
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**Q:** Will you speak out against tabloid hate speech if and when it occurs?

- The tabloid press consistently demonises refugees and asylum seekers in their headlines.

- This has contributed to hate crimes such as the tragic Croydon attack in April 2017.
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**Q: Will you campaign to open safe and legal routes to help refugees and migrants?**

- The Calais camp was demolished in October 2016 under the supervision of the Government and French authorities, but not all eligible children were relocated to the UK, and no one over the age of 18 was allowed to come.
  - Refugees are now sleeping in the mud in Calais because they have nowhere to go and there are no safe and legal routes for them to come to the UK.
  - This leaves many at the mercy of dangerous traffickers.
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**Q: Will you introduce legislation to allow asylum seekers to work, so that they are able to train and provide a living for their families?**

- Many asylum seekers are highly qualified - among them accountants and doctors.
  - However asylum seekers are not allowed to work or train to work even after 6 months of being in the UK.
  - Many businesses are looking to fill roles that they can't due to shortages in the labour market.
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**Q: Will you allocate resources to helping refugees and asylum seekers integrate, such as English lessons and employment skills workshops?**

- Refugees who have found safety in the UK want to rebuild their lives and be part of their new communities. Sadly, they have a huge obstacle to restarting their lives, because there aren't enough English classes.
- Three-quarters of people in the UK believe that learning English is important for refugees and for local communities.
- But research shows that refugees can wait up to two years to access English classes.

# WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO



Please let us know:

- What you have done
- What you have planned
- What help you might need.

Share your actions on Twitter  
and Facebook #JCOREManifesto

Actions speak louder than words.

Please commit to two (or more) of the following between now and the general election on June 8th.

## 1 Circulate the manifesto

- Distribute it throughout your network through emails, newsletters, social media and any other platforms you use.

## 2 Preach about it

- Get your rabbi to speak about immigration in their sermons, run pre-election education events, speak about it in panels or discussions.

## 3 Engage young people

- Run briefing events for first-time voters.
- Encourage youth groups to run educational activities for their members.

## 4 Get involved

- Volunteer at a drop-in centre for asylum seekers/refugees near you.
- Organise/contribute to food and clothes collections for drop-in centres.

## 5 Get political

- Write to your prospective parliamentary candidates to find out their views on immigration.
- Ask them to commit to fulfilling the manifesto post-election.
- Attend local pre-election events (such as hustings) and question your parliamentary candidates about these issues.
- Monitor your local and national press for bias or inaccuracies on these issues.