

# EVICT SERCO: THE RACE-PRISON EMPIRE IN YOUR MIDST.

TELL THEIR C.E.O. TO STOP TORMENTING FOREIGN WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES, OR GET OUT OF CULHAM.

Serco Assurance (F5, First Floor) is part of the giant outsourcing company (“raising standards, reducing costs”) that incarcerates hundreds of black, asian and other minority women (many of them rape and torture survivors), together with their small children and even babies, at Europe’s most notorious immigrant prison, Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Bedfordshire. It is now the scene of a bitter and protracted hunger strike, triggered by well-documented accounts of grave and endemic abuse.



**Serco’s prisoners are not there for harming anyone.** Yet they do not even have the modest security normal prisoners enjoy, of knowing roughly what will happen to them next, or when they might be released. **They are there because the government hopes that making examples of particular kinds of migrants will deter them from coming to this country, and appease xenophobic agitation from powerful sections of the media and the violent far-right.**

**We call on everyone who works at Culham to demand, in person and/or via employers, trade unions or professional associations and learned societies, that Serco should either cease its involvement in Yarl’s wood, or leave Culham forthwith.** Their presence would be an insult to any self-respecting community but it is a particular insult to the scientific community, which has had to fight racial intolerance too often in the past.

- Tell Culham Science Centre management that you object to this company’s presence.
- Ask your MP to sign John McDonnell’s Early Day Motion (EDM 919) <http://tinyurl.com/EDM-919> for an inquiry into the abuse at Yarl’s Wood.
- Write (c/o Serco Assurance, F5) to Serco’s CEO, Christopher Hyams\*, requesting him either to end his company’s involvement in immigration detention, or leave Culham.
- Write, condemning Britain’s shameful anti-immigrant laws, to: Rt. Hon Phil Woolas MP, Minister Of State Borders And Immigration, 3rd Floor, Peel Buildings, 2 Marsham St, London SW1 4DF, Telephone: 020 7035 0195. FAX: 0870 336 9034 Emails: privateoffice.external@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk; ukbapublicenquiries@ukba.gsi.gov.uk; citto@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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*This leaflet was produced by the Campaign to Close Campsfield:*  
<http://www.closecampsfield.org.uk> Tel: 01865 726804; 01865 558145; email: [info@closecampsfield.org.uk](mailto:info@closecampsfield.org.uk)

## **Further information:**

For background on the hunger strike see:

<http://www.barbedwirebritain.org> and

<http://www.womenagainstrape.net/inthedia>

From John McDonnell MP:

“That these women have been driven to make the only form of protest left available to them - to risk their own lives in the pursuit of justice and dignity - is a testament to the inhumanity and barbarism of immigration detention.

“We urgently need an investigation into the alarming reports and allegations of mistreatment and clarification at all the women’s well being.

“Hidden away and out of sight thousands of migrants are being imprisoned and degraded - many of whom are victims of torture and abuse. This Government’s appalling treatment of people who have simply moved from one country to another is a disgraceful mark of shame on UK’s human rights record. The true measure of a civilised society is how it treats some of its most vulnerable members.”

From a detainee, this week:

“I left my eight children behind in St Lucia when I fled here in fear of my life. I’ve been on hunger strike in Yarl’s Wood since 5 February. I won the right to stay in the UK but the Home Office appealed against the judgement and I have been kept in detention. My first born has turned 18 and my last baby doesn’t even know me. She is six years old now and I haven’t seen her for almost that long. No kids should have to be away from their mum for so long. The Mothers’ Campaign <http://www.petitiononline.com/MumsKids/petition.html> petition shows to everybody what we go through - lots of mothers in Yarl’s Wood are like me. People need to hear us moms and help get us out - justice needs to be done.

Recent report by Frances Laing in *The Friend* (The Quaker Magazine)

<http://tinyurl.com/yjch3r6>

\*Profile of Serco c.e.o. Christopher Hyams:

<http://www.managementtoday.co.uk/search/article/771019/the-mt-interview-chris-hyman/>

**The Campaign to Close Campsfield** fights against the detention and state abuse of migrants. Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre, near Oxford, was the first of 12 such centres - a “gulag archipelago” that has spread all over Britain since 1993, imprisoning more than 2,000 people at any one time, including victims of torture, family breadwinners, mothers and their babies, all without trial or time limit, and very often without access to any legal assistance. To learn more please visit our website and join our email list at <http://www.closecampsfield.org.uk>

Wednesday, 10 March 2010