

# JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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## Removing asylum seekers to processing centres outside the UK would be unlawful: JUSTICE releases legal opinion

Government proposals to remove asylum seekers to holding and processing camps outside the UK would breach the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention of Human Rights, according to a legal opinion released today by JUSTICE.

The UK government recently backed down from setting up Transit Processing Centres outside the borders of the EU, but has announced its intention to press ahead with Regional Protection Area arrangements. The government has yet to say whether it would seek to remove asylum seekers who have reached the UK back to these Regional Protection Areas.

According to the legal opinion obtained by JUSTICE, "*automatic removal of asylum seekers to a location outside of the European Union before substantive consideration of their application would not conform with internationally recognised human rights and refugee protection standards and is likely to be in breach of the United Kingdom's obligations under the Refugee Convention*" as well as giving rise to "*a serious possibility of a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights*".

Anneliese Baldaccini, JUSTICE's Human Rights and Asylum Officer, said:

"JUSTICE has long advocated that work should be intensified on improving national procedures for deciding asylum claims. Instead, the government seems focusing on removing the right to seek asylum in the UK altogether. The government should continue to uphold its obligations under international human rights and refugee law by allowing refugees who reach the UK to claim asylum here in the UK".

The opinion can be found at: <http://www.justice.org.uk>

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