

# International Refugee Day



# VIGIL FOR ASYLUM RIGHTS

*— join us!*



**ARC**  
Asylum Rights  
Campaign



**19th June 2003**  
**4.30pm—6pm**

Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate  
Nearest tube St James' Park

Organised by Speak Out Against Racism — Defend Asylum Seekers, ARC and STAR

20th June is International Refugee Day. On the same day, a European Union summit will take place, discussing, among other issues, new proposals on refugee transit camps outside the EU and Regional Protection Zones in areas of conflict.



The summit and this year's International Refugee Day take place in the context of continuing hostility towards asylum seekers in the media and by politicians, creating an atmosphere in which truth is the first casualty. The current popular 'debate' on asylum does very little to acknowledge the international principles of protection and the right to asylum enshrined in the 1951 Geneva Convention.

Come and join us in a vigil to mark International Refugee Day, to support the rights of refugees and to express concern at proposals, which may further limit the rights of asylum seekers to protection within the European Union.

● In particular, we are concerned that these proposals will be damaging to asylum seekers focussing mainly on keeping asylum seekers out rather than helping them to find sanctuary

● Already, the world's poorest countries are faced with terrible refugee crises. As many critics have highlighted, these proposals will further shift the responsibility onto those —

economically poorer — nations in conflict zones, which already shoulder most of the burden of refugee flows

● Transit camps just outside the EU borders also raise serious concern about human rights abuses and adequate protection under the terms of the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees

● These latest plans are an impractical and potentially costly deviation from policies which could help address the reasons why people are forced to seek asylum in the first place

As part of the vigil on 19th June, a letter will be handed in to the Home Secretary, highlighting these concerns.

Join us to add your voice. The vigil will celebrate International Refugee Day and involve musicians from refugee communities and speakers from refugee organisations and asylum rights campaigns.

*The vigil is jointly organised by Speak Out Against Racism — Defend Asylum Seekers campaign, Asylum Rights Campaign, and Student Action for Refugees.*

*It is supported by UNISON, NUS, the Afghan Refugees Support Committee, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, International Federation of Iranian Refugees and many others*

For further information contact **Speak Out Against Racism — Defend Asylum Seekers campaign**  
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