

MAYOR OF LONDON

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

Deputy Chair of the London Assembly

Assemblychair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA130923-6377

Date: 14 November 2023

Dear Onkar,

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 September. Please see my response to Motion 3.5 – Lift the Ban Coalition below.

Motion 3.5 – Lift the Ban Coalition

Most people seeking asylum are unable to legally work. This single policy not only limits people's incomes and prevents them from participating fully in London life, but leads to gaps in employment that put newly recognised refugees at a disadvantage when they gain the right to work.

I have long urged the Government to make policy changes to remove the barriers people seeking asylum face in to participating fully in London life and being part of the communities in which they live, and wholeheartedly support the Lift the Ban campaign.

- I first called on the Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work after six months in 2018, when the Government was developing its 'Integrated Communities' strategy.
- Last year I briefed Parliamentarians on the Nationality and Borders Bill, which included supporting amendments tabled that would enable people seeking asylum to work.
- Following the invasion of Ukraine the I wrote to the Home Secretary outlining a need for a sustainable asylum and refugee resettlement system in the UK, specifically calling for people seeking asylum to be granted the right to work
- I continue to work to embed principles of social integration and inclusion into our approach to asylum and refugees in London, including on issues around access to good quality work.

As such, I am pleased to say that I will be joining the lift the ban coalition. Officers at the GLA are in touch with Refugee Action to enable this work.

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I would be happy to write jointly with the Chair of the Assembly to the government, urging them to amend the law to allow asylum seekers the right to work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London