

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA191225-0609

Date: 30 June 2026

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting (4 December 2025) – Motions

Thank you for the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 4 December 2025. My reply to Motions 3.5 and 3.7 is set out below. I am sorry for the delay.

Motion 3.5 – The Home Secretary's asylum reforms

Reforms to the asylum system have been announced alongside changes to settlement. I am concerned about the Government's approach, which could negatively impact London's economy, services, and communities. Longer routes to settlement – without access to public funds – will increase precarity, exacerbate inequalities, and make it harder for people to secure stable long-term employment.

I am also concerned that this shift, alongside other measures in the Restoring Order and Control policy statement, could push some people seeking asylum who require support into precarity and destitution. If this occurs, it will likely increase unfunded pressures on local services such as housing, health, homelessness, and social care. The result would be a shift of costs from central to local government, as well as to civil society organisations.

I have long held the view that those who come to our city and country fleeing war and persecution should be allowed to settle and rebuild their lives without fear of being deported or having unnecessary restrictions placed on their lives. This approach enables them to contribute to London economically and culturally.

My team submitted evidence to the Earned Settlement consultation, in which aspects of the asylum reforms are outlined. We will continue to use other avenues to make the case for an efficient, effective and supportive asylum system and to respond to the proposed changes. This will include continuing to make the case that an assessment under the New Burdens Doctrine of additional costs to local authorities is carried out and published.

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Motion 3.7 – Reform the Overseas Domestic Worker Visa to Prevent Exploitation of London’s Domestic Workers

Migrant domestic workers are recognised as being at high risk of abuse, ranging from wage theft and excessive working hours to offences under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Their vulnerability to exploitation is exacerbated by their work taking place behind closed doors, restrictions attached to their visas as domestic workers, and a lack of agency in knowing where to get trusted advice and support about what their rights and entitlements are in the UK.

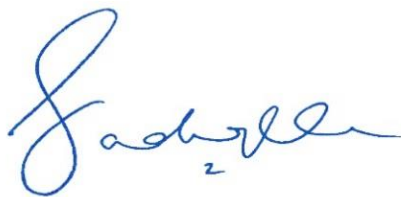
No worker should experience abuse at work, regardless of immigration status. I continue to call for an approach that prioritises dignity and fairness, and for an end to policies that create a hostile environment for migrants.

The most effective route to escalate concerns about immigration policy is through government consultations, where available, as well as in bilateral conversations with Ministers. I will continue to represent the voices and concerns of vulnerable migrants in discussions with the Government, and I have commissioned work through the London Strategic Migration Partnership to examine modern slavery and exploitation in London.

The Employment Rights Act introduces the Fair Work Agency, which must deliver robust protections in practice for all London workers. The Fair Work Agency must have the powers, resources and focus to address the specific challenges in London’s economy. We will work with the Fair Work Agency to ensure that it meets the needs of all Londoners, in line with my commitments to make London a better place for fair pay and good work.

I encourage workers to make use of our Employment Rights Hub and Migrant Londoners Hub to familiarise themselves with their rights at work. I continue to invest in the Employment Rights Training Programme, which supports organisations to deliver advice across the complex intersection of employment law and immigration to ensure that no one falls through the gaps, and we are working with a range of partners across London to develop a blueprint for secure reporting so that migrants can safely report abuse and exploitation.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London