



27 August 2004

Dear Colleague

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BiD) and the Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP) at Asylum Aid invite you to attend **Women in immigration detention in the UK: A public meeting** on **Tuesday 19 October 2004** from **5 – 7 p.m.**, in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House*

BiD and RWRP have conducted research into women asylum seekers' experiences of immigration detention in the United Kingdom. The report of our study focuses on in-depth interviews with 13 women affected by detention. Women were detained for periods ranging from seven days to 20 months. Many of the women are still in the UK having obtained their release from detention.

'It is something I can't describe, it is awful. Freedom is important'

Woman detained for more than one year

'I just felt like it's better to die than to live. I never thought I could take it. The problem is "for how long?"'

Woman detained for more than three months

Our report aims to present women's views of their experiences, in their own words. The report then compares their experiences with the stated policy and rules and makes recommendations for action.

The report will be published in late September 2004. The purpose of the meeting on the 19 October is to discuss the findings and to hear from women themselves about their views and experiences. The meeting will be chaired by Baroness Shirley Williams.

Immigration detention is used without sanction by a court, is without time limit and has serious implications for the physical and mental health of those detained. Many thousands of asylum seekers and migrants are affected by detention each year. **We encourage anyone interested in civil liberties, human rights, and the rights of women to attend.**

To confirm attendance you just need to email info@biduk.org and bring a copy of this letter to the meeting. For further information, please contact Debora Singer or Sophia Ceneda at Asylum Aid on 020 7377 5123

Yours sincerely

Debora Singer, RWRP

www.asylumaid.org.uk

Asylum Aid, 28 Commercial St, London E1 6LS

Sarah Cutler, BiD

www.biduk.org

* *Portcullis House is at the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment. Nearest tube Westminster. Wheelchair access. Local travel costs available for the unwaged- please email info@biduk.org for details.*