Dear Sir

We have considered the amendments and are gravely concerned that so little time has been allocated for submissions and comments.

We feel that we have not been afforded enough time to consult with communities that are directly impacted so that they can understand and contribute to the discussions.

We respectfully recommend that we be allowed an extension of time for submissions.

Some of our concerns are as follows:

1. The change from 14 days to 5 days for an asylum applicant to a refugee Reception centre is way too short – further as reception centres only see clients from particularly geographical areas 1 time per week- access is further limited.

2. The change in the definition of dependents marginalises in our opinion, children who are not/or could not be formally adopted- and it does not take into account the circumstances under which asylum seekers( forced Migrants) flee from their countries.

3. The need to enter through a port of entry as well as present a passport- also does not consider , in our opinion, circumstance under which people who seek asylum flee.

4. The issue with regards employment rights..i.e. having to present a formal letter of employment- also does not consider informal and casual work to gain income..further we do not understand how charities/organisations will identify those they wish to provide shelter and assistance to.

5. We are also of the opinion that withdrawing an asylum permit if it has not been renewed within a month is unduly draconian...many in our experience struggle to find the means to travel to the relevant offices for renewals.

We hope that an extension of time to discuss these and other issues in the Bill will be considered.

Thank you

Yasmin Rajah

Refugee Social Services