

Close all Detention Centres! Solidarity with the Hunger Strikers!



**Protest outside UK Border Agency in
Liverpool
Reliance House, Water Street
Wednesday 10th March at 12-2pm
Bring placards and banners!**

Stop deportations, and End all immigration controls.

M.C.A.R.F. contact_merseyadvice@btconnect.com

No One is Illegal: mmcadam@talktalk.net; www.noii.org.uk

Liverpool Anti-Fascists: liverpoolantifascists@riseup.net

Liverpool Students Against Racism and Fascism: lsarf@live.co.uk

For further information **07733 248 530; 07828 670 965**

Raped & tortured, so why are they locked up by the British state? Stop detaining refugees!

- **On Friday 5 February** 84 women at Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre in Bedfordshire began a mass hunger strike. It was sparked by frustration, the humiliation of being locked up and the ill-treatment and abuse of themselves and their children.
- **The women come from a wide range of countries** where human rights abuses and violence are common, including China, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and Eritrea.
- **On the 5th February** as the Serco guards violently tried to break up the strike, over 70 were locked in corridor for 8 hours without access to water or toilet facilities. Many collapsed and 20 who escaped out of a window were beaten and taken to isolation cells.
- **Five women have been imprisoned since that day** at HMP Holloway prison in London as the Serco guards singled them out as 'ringleaders'. They have not been charged or brought before a judge and **we demand their immediate release**. These women remain on hunger-strike as do 20 women in Yarl's Wood.
- **These women and their children** have committed no crimes and have not been convicted in any court but are locked up because they have been made destitute or for travelling on false papers, which is unavoidable when fleeing persecution.

End the locking up of children.

Each year over 1000 children are locked up in immigration detention centres in England. They are often woken in dawn raids. Many children have complained that the immigration officers have acted in a "terrifying" way bashing and kicking at doors", they were "rude" and even watched them as they used the toilet or dressed. Children are often prevented from contacting their friends and are unable to find out what has happened to their pets.

Dr R Proops, child protection officer at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, calls for an end to child detention, "*These children are among the most vulnerable in our communities and detention causes unnecessary harm to their physical and mental health.*"