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LCRM  
AT  
THE  
BBC  
The BBC's  
claims to  
impartiality in  
the  
referendum  
seemed to fall  
short.

Commentators repeatedly turned the debate back to immigration, radio4 gave little or no time to the Greens or Liberal Democrats and one presenter said the Brexit was about immigration. Some Trade Unions and others supported Brexit for other reasons.

The upsurge in violence against migrants and black and minority ethnic groups communities after the EU referendum has been well documented. And this week on IRR News, we record a number of attacks and other incidents of harassment that have taken place across the UK. This overview is not exhaustive. But it does provide an indication of the 'types' of attacks that have, and are taking place every day. Stickers, leaflets, graffiti frequently demand that people 'go home' or 'go back where you came from'. And if this marks one aspect of what has been termed by some as a 'celebratory racism', it is echoed in the sheer numbers of reports of physical abuse and harassment where people are shouting similar things on the street and in workplaces. The extreme Right has been emboldened, and at one recent demonstration a banner simply stated 'Stop immigration start repatriation'.

Whilst many of the incidents that have taken place have been directed at European migrants, it is clear that the racist climate extends further. In Manchester, for example, elderly people had to be evacuated from an African Caribbean Care Group centre recently after threats were made over the phone. And some attacks are brutal and violent. A Polish man in Yeovil has been left with a 'potentially life changing' eye injury. A man in Rochdale

was stabbed, reportedly in a racist attack, with such force that the knife blade broke off.

## No More Austerity - No To Racism - Tories Must Go

The referendum campaign and its aftermath was dominated by a vicious campaign to blame immigrants and refugees for the declining living standards caused by the financial crisis and austerity economics.

This resulted in the emboldening of violent racism and a serious spike in racist, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic and xenophobic attacks across the country.

Stand Up To Racism joined with the People's Assembly Against Austerity to demonstrate on Saturday 16th July for all those who wish to oppose racism and celebrate the contribution of migrants to come together with the anti-austerity movement to say no to racism and that austerity, not migrants are to blame for the country's problems. Banners on the march from the BBC to parliament square attended by LCRM members, Leicester Stand up to racism and Unite Community members included the People's Assembly, LGBT groups, Social Workers and Users Against Austerity, a banner from Manchester and Trade Union banners.

Chants heard were Asylum seekers are here to stay, Refugees are welcome here and Corbyn in Tories out.

By an

LCRM member.

**March for justice in Leicester, a global response: touch one touch all black lives matter historic peaceful march and protest against the outrageous epidemic of extrajudicial executions in the united states**



**of amerika and to highlight the deaths of black people in the uk in police custody, mental health institutions, prisons and immigration centres.**

Spontaneously and not associated with the "Blacklivesmatter" organisation local black people responded to a global call for action against systematic racism in society. Marching from AFC to the Clock Tower on 16<sup>th</sup> July chanting "Black Lives Matter" "Hands Up Don't Shoot" "No Justice No Peace" they placed masking tape over their mouths at the pedestrian area. An audience of 1000 listened to lyrical speech, poetry, song and music at the Clock Tower. From an article by an organiser. Photo: Leon Rehmen

**Leicester Civil Rights Movement consists of a spectrum of individuals who are concerned with the consequences of racial injustice in Britain. We welcome new members at our meetings which are held at The Racial Equality Centre 3<sup>rd</sup> floor 5-9 Upper Brown Street, Phoenix Yard, Leicester. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th August 2016. Ring Priya 0116 2532053 or Chris 0116 2219459**

### **What is precarious citizenship?**

Significant numbers of young people who are settled in the UK (estimated conservatively at some 120,000 in 2012) do not have British citizenship or any 'lawful' status to remain in the UK. Recent cuts to legal aid and fast-paced changes to immigration laws, including the new [Immigration Act 2016](#) which received Royal Assent on 12 May 2016, fuelled by a hostile anti-immigrant climate, suggest that numbers of undocumented young people are likely to be much higher, with figures rising.

Many of these young people are born in the UK or have spent most of their formative years here, and consider themselves to be British. Most do not identify as 'immigrant' or 'migrant' or any other label imposed on them by virtue of immigration laws. Indeed, they may not be aware of their precarious citizenship until they leave school and try to apply for bank accounts, jobs, benefits, college placements or university, or when they are leaving care or following a family breakdown.

### **Why does precarious citizenship matter?**

The discriminatory character of immigration law means for many of these young people, despite being settled in the UK for many years, once they reach adulthood their very identity may be brought into question and many will be unable to secure their citizenship.

Instead, without citizenship or lawful status young people will face barriers in accessing vital support such as healthcare, social care, food and shelter. The impact of such measures means that many will be vulnerable to exploitation and destitution, unable to seek protection from harm, and may even face forced removal from the UK to countries they have never seen or that they have little knowledge about.

### **The challenge of precarious citizenship in care**

Children are placed into the care of the state for varying reasons: for their own protection, having suffered a history of abuse or because of other child protection concerns, death or disappearance of parent or because the whereabouts of their family is unknown.

Because of their particular vulnerabilities, the government, as these children's corporate parent, recognises the need for special measures to provide them with optimum life chances. Recent examples include an increase in support for young care leavers aged 18 and above so that they can stay on with their foster families if continuing on into further education, known as the 'staying put arrangements', and a commitment, announced in the Queen's speech on 18 May 2016, to ensure that young people get the best start in life through a new 'Care Leavers Covenant' which will increase support provision, collective responsibility and

local authority accountability.

However, the tightening grip of hostile immigration law now seeks to target categories of these young people based on their immigration status. The Immigration Act 2016 explicitly excludes young undocumented care leavers from the full range of support offered under the care leaver provisions of the Children Acts, purposefully creating a separate, lesser standard of care for undocumented children based on their migration status, in contravention of the principle that the government's duties run to all children in the UK, equally and without discrimination.

The total number of such children in the UK care system is unknown. Although local authorities are required to keep tally of the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and trafficked children in their care, these requirements do not necessarily exist for the broader population of children who enter the care system and whose immigration status may not be secure.

At the same time, many undocumented children and young people are forced to navigate complex immigration and legal systems alone, because despite their heightened vulnerability, legal aid necessary to obtain advice on how to regularise their status and access protection and support has been taken out of scope for these young people. This is the case even though they are in the care of the local authority, and without any family support.

Written by [Baljeet Sandhu and Jennifer Ang](#).

### **Close Down Detention Centres**

Over 150 pregnant women had been detained in Immigration Centres over the past two years, nearly a third of whom were held between one and two months. This is despite Home Office Guidance that stated that pregnant women should only be detained in exceptional circumstances. Both the Cross-Party Inquiry and Stephen Shaw, advisor to the Home Office and author of a report, called for an absolute exclusion of pregnant women and Lords Amendment 85 to the Immigration Act 2016 reflected this. Detaining women during pregnancy can cause serious emotional and psychological distress, as well as physical discomfort. As Stephen Shaw noted it is extremely rare pregnant women who are detained to be removed from the country, making their detention even more pointless.

There have been minor concessions on the detention of pregnant women by the Government. Pregnant women can be detained up to 72 hours and up to a maximum of a week on ministerial order where they are in the process of being removed or there are exceptional circumstances. It will be important see if the new rules are adhered to this time.

By an LCRM member.

LCRM is an entirely self-funding organisation. Membership is waged £3, unwaged £1, asylum seekers 20p and groups £25. We all supporters to join. Tel Priya 0116 2531053 or Chris 0116 2219459 Please send diary dates, notices and articles to [chriscgoodwin29@yahoo.com](mailto:chriscgoodwin29@yahoo.com) Please also use this address for more copies of Insaf