

Freemovement General information:

150 Barristers sign protest letter in support of RMJ

Migrant charity must be paid now
The Guardian, Saturday 19 June 2010
<http://tinyurl.com/38uzano>

We are barristers from different chambers across the UK. We call on the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the money owed by the Legal Services Commission to Refugee and Migrant Justice is paid immediately so that RMJ is able to continue to provide legal advice and representation to immigrants and asylum seekers. We support the early day motion (EDM 191) tabled by Caroline Lucas MP.

RMJ is a major charity and the UK's biggest provider of specialist legal services to immigrants and asylum seekers. It now faces closure, because bureaucratic changes in the legal aid payments system have resulted in very long delays in paying it for work that it has done.

RMJ has a well-deserved reputation for providing good legal advice and representation to some of the most vulnerable members of our society, including torture victims, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children who cannot be returned to their home countries. Its work is, in some cases, life-saving.

We are profoundly concerned about the impact that RMJ's closure would have on their current clients and on the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers in this country. It is also likely to lead to inefficiency and higher costs to the public purse, as thousands of its clients will be forced to seek alternative representation; the delays will be substantial because of the shortage of legal aid providers able to take on new clients; and there will be a duplication of costs and work.

RMJ is not asking for more money - simply to be paid the money it is owed for the work it has already done.

Aidan O'Neill QC, Alex Bailin QC, Tim Owen QC, Raza Husain QC, Cherie Booth QC, Lord Daniel Brennan QC, Matthew Ryder QC, Philippe Sands QC, Thomas Linden QC, Clare Montgomery QC, Hugh Tomlinson QC, Helen Mountfield QC, Antony White QC, Rabinder Singh QC, Sir Ken Macdonald QC, Ben Emmerson QC, Rhodri Thompson QC, Karon Monaghan QC

Matrix Chambers

Robin Jackson, Geoffrey Robertson QC, Edward Fitzgerald QC, Gavin Millar QC, Heather Williams QC, Helena Kennedy QC, Patrick O'Connor QC, Christopher Sallon QC, Christopher Gibson QC, Edward Rees QC, Michael Grieve QC, James Wood QC, Andrew Hall QC, Robin Oppenheim QC, Heather Rogers QC, Timothy Otty QC, Nicholas Bowen QC, Richard Hermer QC, Isabella Forshall QC, Martin Westgate QC, Francis FitzGibbon QC, David Hislop QC, Ian Wise QC

Doughty Street Chambers

Ian Macdonald QC, Ian Peddie QC, Owen Davies QC, David Spens QC, Mark George QC, Henry Blaxland QC, Icah Peart QC, Laurie Fransman QC, Courtenay Griffiths QC, Jan Luba QC, Michael Turner QC, James Scobie QC, Dexter Dias QC, Judy Khan QC, Stephen Knafler QC, Mark Muller QC

Garden Court Chambers

Thomas Beazley QC, Ian Mill QC, Robert Anderson QC, Michael Beloff QC, Stanley Brodie QC, Monica Carss-Frisk QC, Barbara Dohmann QC, David Donaldson QC, James Eadie QC, Sir David Edward QC, Robert Englehart QC, Charles Flint QC, Michael Fordham QC, Paul Goulding QC, Andrew Green QC, Jonathan Harvie QC, Robert Howe QC, John Howell QC, David Hunt QC, Jeffrey Jowell QC, Beverley Lang QC, Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, Adam Lewis QC, Maurice Mendelson QC, Stephen Nathan QC, Hugo Page QC, Lord Pannick QC, Anthony Peto QC, Dinah Rose QC, Colin Ross-Munro QC, Pushpinder Saini QC, Mark Shaw QC, Lord Woolf of Barnes

Blackstones Chambers

Manjit S Gill QC

No 5 Chambers

Hugh Southey QC

Tooks Chambers

Victoria K Quinn

Thomas More Chambers

Tony Muman

43 Temple Row Chambers

Frances Allen, Matthew Fletcher, Colin Yeo, Margaret Phelan, Shivani Jegarajah, Charlotte Bayati, Amina Ahmed, Julia Gasparro, Sarah Pinder

Renaissance Chambers

Richard Drabble QC, Chris Jacobs, Declan O'Callaghan, Mark O'Connor, Philip Nathan, Samantha Broadfoot, Tim Buley, Charles Banner, Louisa Nye

Landmark Chambers

Jared Ficklin

Garden Court North

Zia Nasim

37 Great James Street

Paramjit Ahluwalia, Allan Briddock, Eric Fripp, Sandra Akinbolu, Bojana Asanovic, S Chelvan, Emma Daykin, Justine Fisher, Sanjay Lal, Victoria Laughton, Gordon Lee, David Lemer, Maryam Samimi, Ellis Wilford, Keelin McCarthy, Stephanie Motz, Cecilia Hulse

Mitre House Chambers

Mikhil Karnik

Central Chambers

Olivia Checa-Dover

KBW Chambers

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