

**Church and Society Consultant  
World Church Consultant**

To: All Ministers via the internet - All Church Secretaries

March 2010

Dear Friends

This mailing focuses on the totally unacceptable, inhumane practice of holding Children in Detention. Their health especially mental health is severely impaired.

**OutCry!** The pamphlet produced for the campaign by The Children's Society is enclosed to church secretaries.

**The Revd John Marsh** – Moderator of General Assembly was a signatory to a letter published in the Telegraph – copy enclosed to church secretaries

**London Churches Refugee Network** – please see and display the flier for the next meeting on Thursday 29 April which will focus on detention

**The Arrest and Detention of Children Subject to Immigration Control** – the report is published by the Children's Commissioner, Sir Al Aynsley – Green. Please google the website.

**The Royal Colleges of ...  
Paediatrics and Child Health;  
General Practitioners;  
Psychiatrists;  
Faculty of Public Health**

have published an Intercollegiate Briefing Paper:

**Significant Harm – the effects of administrative detention on the health of children, young people and their families.**

The paper 'argues that such detention is unacceptable and should cease without delay'. Please google the website for Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

I meet with Lord Ramsbotham on Monday 15 March to discuss the setting-up of a cross party group of peers and MPs who will challenge government on the appalling practice of incarcerating children in detention and often parted from their mothers. Please ignore propaganda type letters which are issued by the Home Office/UK Border Agency Detention Services Policy, Strategy and Projects Team

Prayers or intercession combined with positive action are a vital part of our lives

Peace

Geoff Duncan