

## **Detention of children**

SIR – We are writing to express our grave concern at the findings of Sir Al Aynsley-Green, the Children’s Commissioner, on children detained at Yarl’s Wood (report, February 17). We call on the Government to bring an immediate end to the unnecessary and inhumane practice of imprisoning children, babies and young people in immigration removal centres.

We note that the Children’s Commissioner, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the Children’s Society and many other bodies concerned with the wellbeing of children all support an end to child detention because of the appalling effects on children. These include insomnia, bed wetting, weight loss, speech regression, depression and self-harm.

Our faith calls us to look particularly to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We therefore urge the Prime Minister to bring Britain in line with other Commonwealth and EU countries, which provide less harmful community-based facilities for families awaiting a decision about their future.

### **The Most Rev Barry Morgan**

Archbishop of Wales

### **The Rt Rev John Packer**

Bishop of Ripon and Leeds

### **Rev David Gamble**

President of the Methodist Conference

### **The Rt Rev Bill Hewitt |**

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

### **The Rt Rev Patrick Lynch**

Chairman, Office for Migration Policy, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales

### **Rev Inderjit S. Bhogal**

Former President of the Methodist Conference

### **Steve Clifford**

General Director, Evangelical Alliance

### **Lt-Col Marion Drew**

Secretary for Communications, The Salvation Army

### **Rev Jonathan Edwards**

General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

### **Rev Peter Macdonald**

Leader, The Iona Community

### **Rev John Marsh**

Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

### **Susan Seymour**

Clerk, Meeting for Sufferings, The Religious Society of Friends

### **Bishop Doyé Agama**

Deputy Moderator, Churches Together in England (CTE)

### **Margaret Swinson**

Moderator, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland