

An Asylum Alphabet

A is for asylum, appeal, accommodation centre, accident of birth

B is for bureaucracy, borders, bail

C is for Calais, Croydon, Colnbrook, Campsfield House, 'climate of disbelief'

D is detention, destitution, deportation,

depression

E is for electronic monitoring

F is for food banks and five pounds a day,

and the hope, one day, of family reunion

G is for G4S

H is for Home Office, 'hostile environment', for Harmondsworth and homelessness,

I is indefinite detention and Immigration Bill

oh, and human being

L is for lawyers and 'leave to remain'

J is for justice and **K** for kindness

M is for the media and what they say about you

N is for 'no recourse to public funds'

P is for 'pull factor' (or is it 'push factor?'),

for persecution, protection, poverty, privatisation, passport and paperwork

R is for racism, refusal and removal

S is for stateless, status, statistics, sexual orientation, Serco, 'safe countries'

and sanctuary

T is for the twenty-eight days you get to find somewhere to live

when you're granted refugee status

U is for UASC, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children,

like those boys in Calais they said looked 'too old'

V is for voluntary work, the only kind you can do

W is for waiting

and **Y** for Yarl's Wood.

'Evils which have struck their roots deep in the fabric of human society are often accepted, even by the best minds, as part of the providential ordering of life. They lurk unsuspected in the system of things...'

William Charles Braithwaite, 1919

Quaker Faith and Practice 23.05

Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network

www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/