

43. The Traveller Movement wrote to the Education Secretary calling for targeted resources to enable GRT children to continue their education.³¹ The response failed to address specific concerns of GRT communities, and no targeted guidance is known to be forthcoming.

MIGRANTS

44. Liberty is particularly concerned by the impact of Covid-19 and the Government's response to it on migrants of all statuses. While migrant status is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act, immigration status is an established ground for the purposes of the prohibition on discrimination under Article 14 ECHR. Moreover, given the racialised nature of the UK's immigration laws, a significant proportion of people subject to immigration control in the UK are black and minority ethnic (BAME).

45. Liberty's recommendations to Government as they pertain to migrants' rights are as follows:

- i. Release everyone currently held in immigration detention;
- ii. End the hostile environment. Specifically, this entails:
 - a. Ending charging for NHS care and the Immigration Health Surcharge
 - b. Ending 'No Recourse to Public Funds' so that all migrants can access social housing and mainstream welfare benefits
 - c. Ending employer immigration checks
 - d. Ending landlord immigration checks (also known as 'Right to Rent')
 - e. Implementing a firewall between essential public service data and Home Office immigration enforcement.
- iii. Adequate income and safety protections for all workers.

46. Hundreds of people continue to be held in immigration detention, reportedly without access to adequate sanitation³² or the ability to socially distance.³³ In theory, detention should be solely for the purposes of removal. The World Health Organisation

³¹ Traveller Movement, 2020. Open letter to the Department for Education: Don't further marginalise Gypsy and Irish Traveller school pupils [online]. Available at: <https://travellermovement.org.uk/news-news/125-open-letter-to-the-department-for-education-don-t-further-marginalise-gypsy-and-irish-traveller-school-pupils>

³² Kelly, N., 2020. 'We share everything': coronavirus fears inside a UK detention centre. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/29/inside-the-detention-centre-where-inmates-fear-coronavirus>.

³³ Rose, E., 2020. "I can't sleep": Covid-19 fears inside immigration detention centres. [online] Liberty Investigates. Available at: <https://libertyinvestigates.org.uk/articles/i-cant-sleep-covid-19-fears-inside-immigration-detention-centres/>