

# NEWSLETTER

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## Welcoming the stranger

We would like to present a speech given to the House of Lords on the 10th of May 2023 by the Rt. Rev. Lord Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. This speech on the second reading of the '[Illegal Migration Bill](#)' is a

### See - Judge - Act

*"While it is quite true that the essential vocation and mission of the lay faithful is to strive that earthly realities and all human activity may be transformed by the Gospel, none of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice"*

~ Pope Francis ~

(*Evangelii Gaudium* 201)

reminder of realities closer to home. As a nation we fall short towards showing empathy with those illegal migrants seeking what is rightfully theirs - a better life.

"My Lords, we need a Bill to reform migration. We need a Bill to stop the boats. We need a Bill to destroy the evil tribe of traffickers. The tragedy is that without such change this is not that Bill.

The existing global conventions and agreements need updating in response to the crises we face today. While now inadequate, what those conventions offer is a baseline from which to build a globally shared understanding of what protection must be given to refugees. They are not inconvenient obstructions to be got around by any legislative means necessary.

Legal compatibility is a question for the learned lawyers among your Lordships, but it does not require a lawyer to see that what is suggested is a dramatic departure from what was ever envisaged in international law since 1951.

Even if this Bill succeeded in temporarily stopping the boats (and I don't think it will) it won't stop conflict or climate migration. The IPCC forecasts that climate change by itself, let alone the conflicts it's already causing, will lead to at least 800 million more refugees a year in total by 2050.

And what if other countries follow suit? The UNHCR has warned the Bill could lead to the collapse of the international system that protects refugees. Is that what we want the United Kingdom's contribution to be in our leadership?

Currently, 80% of refugees are still in the global South, protected by the poorest countries in the world. Of course, we cannot take everyone, nor should we, but this Bill has no sense at all of the long-term and of the global nature of the challenge that the world faces. It ignores the reality that migration must be engaged with at source, as well as in the Channel, as if we as a country were unrelated to the rest of the world.

It is a siloed Bill, not a whole-of-Government Bill. It does not draw in conflict management and prevention, which drives migration. It does not draw in climate impacts, which drive migration and conflict. It is isolationist. It is morally unacceptable and politically impractical to let the poorest countries deal with the crisis alone, and cut our international aid.

Nor is there any measure in this Bill for engaging with the criminal gangs of traffickers directly and offensively, rather than trusting simply to what appears to be the unpredictability of market forces, as if traffickers were rationally trained, economic actors and not appalling criminals. There must be safe legal routes put in place as soon as illegal unsafe routes begin to be attacked. We cannot wait for the years that will take place before that happens.

My Lords, this Bill is an attempt at a short-term fix. It risks great damage to the UK's interests and reputation at home and abroad, let alone the interests of those in need of protection, or the nations who together face this challenge. Our interests as a nation are closely linked to our reputation for justice and the rule of law and to our measured language, calm decision, and careful legislation. None of those are seen here.

Long term, globally co-ordinated solutions must be part of the way forward. This nation should lead internationally, not stand apart. I intend to table amendments at Committee stage which encourage this longer-term thinking and collaborative focus, including a plan for combating traffickers and working with international partners to look at updating the 1951 Convention.

And finally, as one might expect from these benches, in the New Testament, in Matthew Chapter 25, Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger. That call has been part of our history and culture in this country for centuries and part of the drive for the Modern Slavery Act. I urge the Government to reconsider much of the Bill which fails to live up to our history, our moral responsibility and our political and international interests."

Be the change you want to see, be that change today!



## A voice for the environment

ZHN is proud to have endorsed the national protest 'Xebbajtuna' held on Saturday 27th May 2023 in Valletta.

ZHN believes that a healthy society and a productive workforce needs a healthy environment to thrive.

Our environment is a shared resource which must be protected for our sake and that of future generations.

We therefore fully endorse the demands outlined at

[www.xebbajtuna.org](http://www.xebbajtuna.org) demanding immediate action to

- Change policies related to building and construction to eliminate loopholes which allow for wilful destruction of our environment, heritage, culture, and identity.
- Radically reform those institutions responsible for the Environment and Planning so that they can fulfil their responsibility effectively, transparently and independently.
- Bring our economic model into the 21st century by making it sustainable and just for all whereby honest hard work really pays for all. We need an economic model that faces the reality of a tiny island state with limited raw resources – the nations resources have always been its people, we demand an equitable economic model that fully embraces this.



## We are online

We are pleased to announce that we have recently setup a website for the Zghazagh Haddiema Nsara movement - [www.zhnmalta.org](http://www.zhnmalta.org) .

In the website you will find our newsletters and press releases, and other useful information.

Please help spread by forwarding our website link to people in your network.