

Young refugees

► **We at JCORE**, along with many in our community, are shocked and bewildered that one of the first pieces of proposed legislation of the new government appears to be directed at one of the most vulnerable groups in society: young refugees who are desperate to be reunited with family members appear to be having their rights, proposed in legislation before the election, removed.

It is important that we make the Government aware of the depth of our feeling within our community. We need to ask why the Government has introduced this apparent measure to scrap a scheme designed to enable refugee children and young people the opportunity to be reunited with members of their family here in the UK.

This proposal adds more confusion and uncertainty to an already confusing situation. It will not stop young refugees from trying to come to Britain but is likely to result in them taking increasingly dangerous routes to do so, putting them at the mercy of traffickers and people smugglers. This certainly feels like an extension of the hostile environment that we had hoped was a policy of the past.

We call upon the government to immediately reverse this decision and put into place safe and legal routes for these young people seeking to rebuild their lives in the UK. This surely would be a mark of a compassionate and forward-looking society.

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