

[A Better Alternative on Small Boats](#)

We all want to see an end to dangerous crossings on small boats across the Channel, but this legislation will do nothing of the sort.

Instead, Conservative plans would see those fleeing war and persecution detained and deported.

It would cost the taxpayer huge sums of money and, far from cracking down on illegal trafficking gangs, punish those seeking safety in the UK.

It runs roughshod over international law, which confirms that asylum seekers should not be punished for how they arrive in a country.

Liberal Democrats know that the best way to stop these dangerous crossings is to provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for those that need it.

Our new policy, passed by members today at Conference, shows how we can do just that. It calls on the Government to:

- Immediately scrap the Illegal Migration Bill.
- Fix the broken asylum system by taking powers from the Home Office and establishing a new, dedicated unit to make decisions quicker and more fairly.
- Provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for refugees from all countries, including:
 - An expanded, properly funded resettlement scheme.
 - A new scheme for unaccompanied child refugees.
 - Reuniting unaccompanied children in Europe with family in the UK.
 - Humanitarian visas to allow asylum seekers to travel the UK to proceed with their claims.

[Read the motion here](#)

The UK has a proud and long-standing tradition of opening its arms and providing sanctuary to those in need of protection. The Conservative government is trying to trash that legacy. Now, more than ever, we cannot turn our backs on those who need us.

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[Watch: Mike Ross' Speech to Spring Conference](#)

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[Road improvement scheme A2 Shore Road, Strangford](#)

A carriageway resurfacing scheme on Shore Road, Strangford will commence on Monday 2 May 2023.

[Statement from Department for Infrastructure regarding industrial action](#)

Public services delivered by Department for Infrastructure staff may be impacted by industrial action on Wednesday 26 April.

[Transfer of entitlements service closing soon](#)

Farmers are being reminded that they have until midnight on Tuesday, 2 May 2023 to complete their 2023 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) Entitlement Transfers.