Students must oppose the UK Government’s immigration clampdown

What will we do?
1. Give People & Planet up to £200 for campaign materials including banner making, leaflets, posters and other related expenses to help run the Migrants’ Rights campaign on campus.

What is the background?
1. The asylum process in the UK is complex, bureaucratic and inaccessible. Most applicants are refused when they first attempt to apply for asylum - some 59% refused in 2015. The decision making process is poor as demonstrated by the courts having overturned Home Office decisions in 38% of asylum appeals in 2015.
2. In 2015, 14,832 asylum seekers were incarcerated in detention centres. Shamefully, around half of all asylum seekers are detained while they are in the process of applying for asylum. Despite the Government’s 2010 pledge to end child detention for immigration purposes, 154 children were imprisoned during this time.
3. The Yarl's Wood detention centre is one particularly notorious example which detains women and children. Many detainees have commented on the sexual and physical abuse that happens within Yarl's Wood.
4. Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in Lanarkshire is set to close towards the end of 2017, however, it will be replaced by a new short-term holding facility near Glasgow Airport in order to facilitate the faster removal of asylum seekers.
5. The Students’ Association has a history of supporting campaigns and projects to advance the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants; for example, Amnesty’s Equal Access campaign that achieved scholarships and bursaries for asylum seeker students (see ‘Support the Equal Access Campaign’). It has also recently delivered four van loads of student donations to the refugee camps in Calais.
6. People & Planet, Amnesty and Students for Justice in Palestine are running a joint campaign on migrants’ rights.

What beliefs motivate the actions you propose?
1. That all asylum seekers, refugees and migrants deserve to be treated in a just and humane manner and, accordingly, to have their human rights fully respected.
2. That asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are amongst the most vulnerable groups in UK society and are routinely demonised and dehumanised by the UK government and media.
3. That western and UK colonialism as well as more recent military interventions have had a profound and negative impact on many of the countries from which many asylum seekers, refugees and migrants originate.

4. That the UK Home Office’s border regime is cruel and repressive and that we must stand in solidarity with those asylum seekers, refugees and migrants affected by it.

Submitted with 20 student signatures