

SUPPORT WITH QUALIFICATION

The CEC is supporting this motion with a qualification.

Much of this motion is existing GMB policy carried by a number of motions to previous Congresses including Motion 178 from this branch carried at Congress 2023. GMB policy supports the repealing of measures that criminalise migration or living in the UK as a migrant and this policy was carried by Congress 2023 in response to the immigration laws enacted by successive Tory governments which this motion lists (Motion 178). GMB has also long welcomed solidarity with refugees and demands that asylum seekers must not be treated as criminals or unlawfully held in detention centres.

Their fundamental human rights need to be defended, and GMB policy is to support all asylum seekers and refugees to have the right to work in the UK as the motion calls for (Composite 19, Congress 2018). Last year, Congress also reaffirmed our commitment to humane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers to the UK (Motion 184, Congress 2024). Congress also reaffirmed its call on GMB to oppose the 'hostile environment', to call for the repealing of the Nationality and Borders Act and believe in an immigration policy that enables legal routes for those seeking asylum to enter and stay in the country, that recognises their right to work, right of family reunification as part of an uncompromising support for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. This is also what this motion calls for and is existing GMB policy to support. The CEC Special Report on a New Deal with Europe carried by Congress 2024 also committed to this motion's call to "pursue agreements with other countries giving reciprocal rights to travel, live, work and study without a visa."

The CEC's qualification is that the call in the motion to "ending immigration raids, detention and deportations" should not be read as a call for the UK to have no immigration controls, system or legal process at all. This is important to ensure that GMB continues to advocate for a progressive immigration policy that establishes fairness, humanity and dignity for all migrants and challenges Reform UK's manipulation of immigration debates to divide the working-class, without overruling our existing Congress 2018 policy (Motion 175) that '[As part of a humanitarian system] controls are essential to prevent those that would cause harm from entering the UK and to maintain broad support for a fair migration system across the electorate.'