

Soroptimists

December 2017



What is Yarl's Wood and who are
the Befrienders?

We stand for

Human dignity - we listen with empathy and act with compassion

Acceptance - we listen without judgement and act with respect

Impartiality - we listen in confidence and act independently of Centre management and the Home Office

Our mission:

We offer befriending support to people held in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, aiming to reduce their isolation, reinforce their self-esteem, and affirm their human dignity

What we do

1-2-1 befriending

Drop in

Social events

Practical support

Who We Are

Independent local charity - non-religious,
and non political

55 volunteers

3 staff and 6 trustees



How many IRCs are there in the UK?

- 10 - only one for women

When did **Yarl's** Wood open?

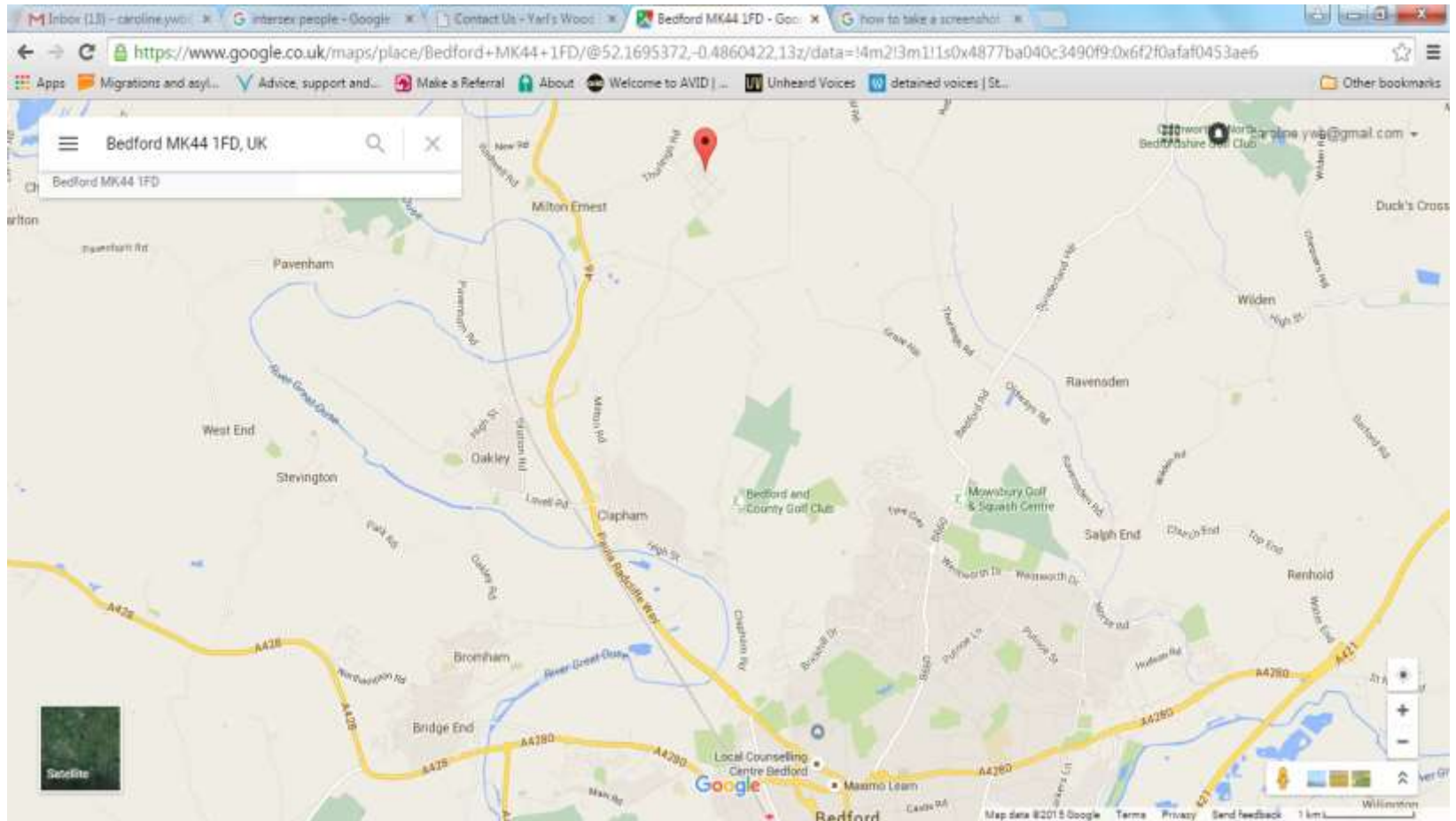
- 2001

How many people entered detention last year?

- 28,000

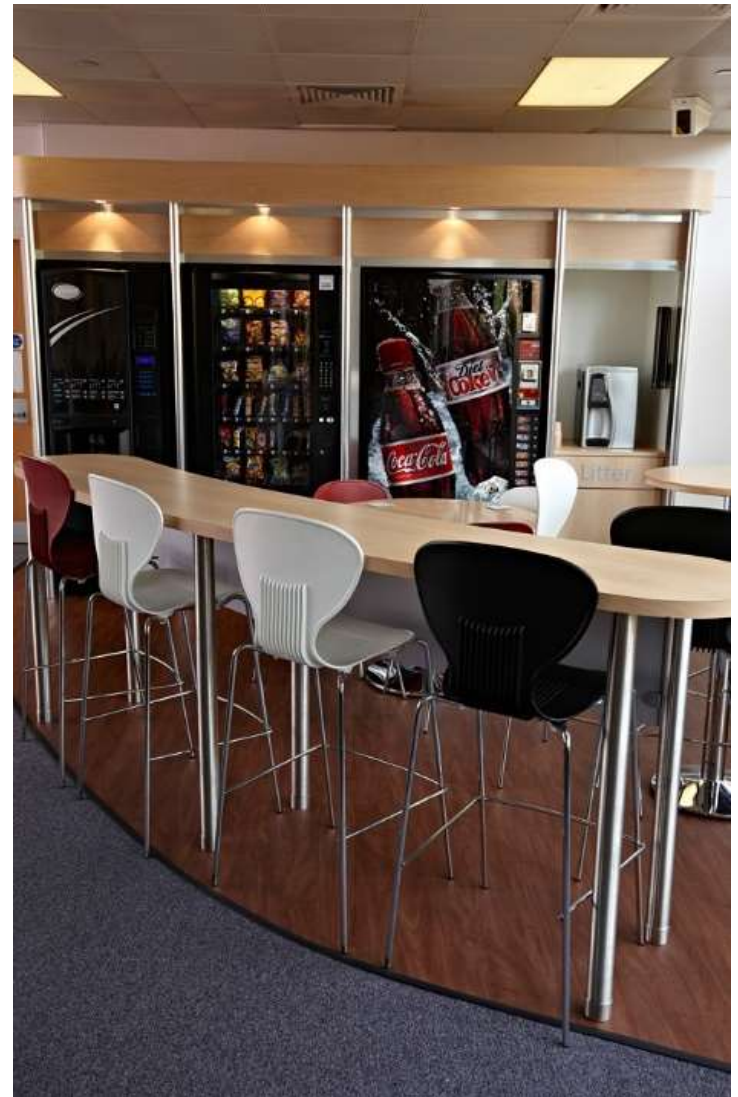
How long can the Home Office legally detain people in an IRC?

- Indefinitely









Who is detained at YW?

- Visa over-stayers
 - Ex-offenders
- People at the end of their asylum process
 - On arrival

How are they detained?

- At home
- Signing on
- From prison
- At port of entry
- From street

What happens after detention?

In 2016 28,661 people left detention.

18,281 less than 28 days detained

208 detained for over 1 year

Nationalities

2015/ 16

Nigeria	32
Jamaica	26
Congo	8
Pakistan	7
India	7
Cameroon	7
Philippines	6
Uganda	5
South Africa	4
Vietnam	4

2016/ 17

Nigeria	48
Lithuania	15
Jamaica	14
Poland	13
China	12
Philippines	10
Ghana	10
Albania	7
Pakistan	6
Nepal	5

In their words...



"Listens, shows love & friendly"

"Caring, really a friend & observant"

"Teacher, caring & family member"

"Loving, caring & listens a lot"

"Nice, caring & lovely"

"Consistent, listening ear & social"

Indefinite detention

Indefinite commitment

LGBT detainees

Feelings of shame

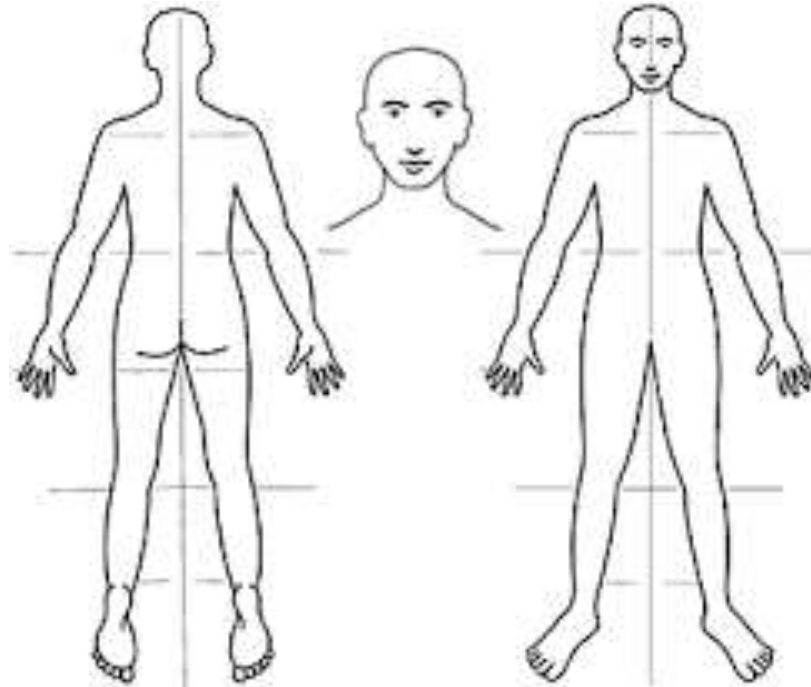
Non acceptance

Delayed 'coming out' to Home Office

Trafficking

- A person has been recruited and moved against their will, by force or deception.
- Promise of better life - reality very different to what they were expecting
 - Forced Labour
 - Sexual exploitation

Victims of torture



The action or practice of inflicting severe pain, both mental and physical, on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.

What are some of the signs?

- Inability to trust others
 - Anxiety disorders
- Recurring nightmares
 - Flashbacks
 - Sleep problems
 - Withdrawal
 - Scars
- Loss of full range of emotions
 - Memory problems
- Suicidal thoughts and feelings
 - Disconnected
 - PTSD

How might you help...

Working Groups

Marketing and PR

People Management

Quality and Impact

Finance and Fundraising

Events

Pub Quiz - October 5th



YW Christmas Party - Dec 16th



Any questions?

