**Seasonal Goodwill to all…**



**…except migrants?** http://0.tqn.com/d/webclipart/1/0/f/1/holly1.gif

**Why are we demonstrating today?**

It’s International Migrants’ Day today. We’re protesting against the Immigration Bill. According to the Government it aims to “create a really hostile environment” for migrants, that is people coming to this country to live, work, join their families, study or escape persecution. Not much Christmas spirit there then. One MP called it “the most racist piece of legislation I have ever seen”.

**What’s the Immigration Bill**? It’s being discussed in Parliament now and it proposes:

* That private landlords and banks should check the immigration status of prospective tenants and customers or risk a £3000 fine. But understanding immigration status is complex. This will lead to racial profiling and discrimination.
* To make it more difficult to appeal against bad decisions by the Home Office. But Home Office decision making is poor - 40% of appeals succeed now. Taking away the right to appeal will make the system even more unfair.
* A charge on all migrants, without indefinite leave to remain, for use of the NHS. This idea is based on the myth of health tourism. But migrants are more likely to being working in the NHS than using it: 30-40% of all doctors and nurses were born outside the UK. Any of us could need our passports and ID to get hospital treatment if we “look or sound like a migrant”.

We think this Immigration Bill affects all of us. Healthworkers, landlords, bank workers are being turned into immigration police. We are being encouraged to blame migrants for shortages in social housing and the NHS by people who mostly live in mansions and rely on private health insurance.

**We think that the only people who should find the UK “a hostile environment “ are those who seek to promote racism and division in the pursuit of anti-immigrant votes**

**Stop the Immigration Bill –**

**Migrants are Not to Blame for Austerity**

Organised by the South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group (SYMAAG)

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