

Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

*Tabled up to and including
12 June 2025*

The amendments are listed in accordance with the following Instruction –

Clauses 1 to 40	Schedule 2
Schedule 1	Clauses 54 to 63
Clauses 41 to 53	Title

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Clause 3

LORD ROOKER

Clause 3, page 2, line 28, after “threats,” insert “including the threats posed to the biosecurity of the United Kingdom by illegal meat imports,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Border Security Commander, to have regard to the threats posed to UK biosecurity by illegal meat imports.

LORD ROOKER

Clause 3, page 3, line 2, at end insert “, including biosecurity”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, connected with another in the name of Lord Rooker, clarifies that the UK's biosecurity is an element of its border security.

Clause 14

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS HAMWEE

Clause 14, page 8, line 21, at end insert –

- “(c) their action was –
- (i) solely as part of their own journey, and
 - (ii) they did not gain financially from the action.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the new criminal offence is targeted at people smugglers rather than those seeking asylum by amending the statutory defence.

BARONESS MAY OF MAIDENHEAD

★ Clause 14, page 8, line 21, at end insert –

- “(c) they were acting under the duress of slavery.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment seeks to make provision that under the duress of slavery a person has a reasonable excuse for the purposes of subsection 3 in carrying an article.

BARONESS MAY OF MAIDENHEAD

★ Clause 14, page 8, line 28, at end insert –

- “(7) Where a relevant article is recovered in the course of investigating an offence under this section, the relevant article and the information contained in it must be protected so it can be relied upon as part of any National Referral Mechanism determination.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment seeks to make provisions to protect the belongings of people who have had them confiscated, especially for potential victims of modern slavery who often vitally rely upon their belongings and the information stored on articles as evidence during the determination of their status as a victim.

Clause 16

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS HAMWEE

Clause 16, page 9, line 38, leave out from “journey” to end of line 39 and insert “that they would not benefit from financially.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the new criminal offence is targeted at people smugglers rather than those seeking asylum by amending the statutory defence.

After Clause 19

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 19, insert the following new Clause –

“Duty to meet the Executive Director of Europol

The Commander must meet the Executive Director of Europol, or their delegate, no less than once every six months.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Border Security Commander to meet with the Executive Director of Europol every six months. It is intended to probe how the Commander will foster and maintain international co-operation as part of their duties.

Clause 21

BARONESS MAY OF MAIDENHEAD

★ Clause 21, page 15, line 21, at end insert –

- “(6A) A relevant article seized under subsection (1) or given under subsection (5) must be protected during the period it is retained so it can later be relied on by the owner of that article for evidence –
- (a) in court, or
 - (b) as part of a National Referral Mechanism “Reasonable Grounds” determination.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment seeks to make provisions to protect the belongings of people who have had them confiscated, especially for potential victims of modern slavery who often vitally rely upon their belongings as evidence during the determination of their status as a victim.

Clause 23

BARONESS MAY OF MAIDENHEAD

★ Clause 23, page 18, line 3, at end insert –

- “(1A) An authorised officer or the Secretary of State must, when carrying out duties under subsection (1), protect the relevant article and information contained in it so it can be relied upon as part of a National Referral Mechanism determination.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment seeks to make provisions to protect the belongings of people who have had them confiscated, especially for potential victims of modern slavery who often vitally rely upon their belongings and the information stored on articles as evidence during the determination of their status as a victim.

Clause 34

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

Clause 34, page 29, line 12, at end insert –

“(c) the person is applying for refugee family reunion.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with Baroness Hamwee's amendment to page 29, line 27 aims to reduce the risks families encounter to reach a visa centre during the family reunion process.

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

Clause 34, page 29, line 27, at end insert –

““refugee family reunion” means an application under Appendix Family Reunion (Sponsors with Protection) or Appendix Child Relative (Sponsors with Protection) of the Immigration Rules.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with Baroness Hamwee's amendment to page 29, line 12 aims to reduce the risks families encounter to reach a visa centre (such as paying smugglers to cross dangerous borders to submit biometric information) during the family reunion process.

Clause 35

LORD HOGAN-HOWE

Clause 35, page 30, line 2, leave out paragraph (b)

Member's explanatory statement

The intention of this amendment is to probe whether police forces will have access to the biometric data gathered under section 34.

After Clause 36

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 36, insert the following Clause —

“Requirement to produce an annual report on cooperation with Europol

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within one year of the passage of this Act, lay before Parliament an annual report on cooperation between UK law enforcement agencies and Europol.
- (2) A further report must be published and laid before Parliament at least once per year.
- (3) An annual report under this section must include —
 - (a) actions taken during the previous year to cooperate with Europol,
 - (b) progress in reducing people smuggling and human trafficking, and
 - (c) planned activities for improving future cooperation with Europol.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Government to provide an annual report to Parliament detailing the UK's efforts to cooperate with Europol, its progress in reducing levels of people smuggling and human trafficking, and its plans to improve future cooperation.

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 36, insert the following Clause —

“Duty to establish a joint taskforce with Europol

- (1) The Secretary of State must seek to establish a joint taskforce with Europol for the purposes of cooperation on the matters set out under subsection (3).
- (2) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passage of this Act, make a report to Parliament on progress made to date on establishing a joint taskforce under subsection (1).
- (3) Any joint taskforce established pursuant to the Secretary of State's activities under subsection (1) has a duty to promote cooperation on —
 - (a) the disruption of trafficking operations,
 - (b) the enhancement of law enforcement capabilities,
 - (c) the provision of specialised training for officials involved in border security and immigration enforcement, and
 - (d) any other matters which the Secretary of State or Director of Europol deem appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to seek a joint taskforce with Europol for the purposes of disrupting trafficking operations, enhancing law enforcement capabilities, and providing specialised training to officials involved in border security and immigration enforcement.

Clause 38

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN

Clause 38, page 31, line 11, leave out “28” and insert “29”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would repeal section 29 of the Illegal Immigration Act 2024, which requires the Secretary of State to remove people who have sought to use modern slavery protections in “bad faith”

After Clause 39

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS HAMWEE

After Clause 39, insert the following new Clause —

“Repeal of certain provisions of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022

The following provisions of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 are repealed —

- (a) sections 12 to 65;
- (b) sections 68 and 69.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would repeal specified provisions of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 39, insert the following new Clause —

“Repeal of certain provisions of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (No. 2)

The following provisions of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 are repealed —

- (a) sections 58 to 65;
- (b) sections 68 and 69.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove all the sections in Nationality and Borders Act 2022 relating to modern slavery victims.

After Clause 40

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS HAMWEE

After Clause 40, insert the following new Clause –

“A three-month service standard for asylum casework

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, implement a three-month service standard for asylum casework.
- (2) The service standard must specify that 98% of initial decisions on all asylum claims should be made before the end of three months after the date of claim.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require UK Visas and Immigration to reintroduce a three-month service standard for decisions on asylum cases.

Clause 41

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS BRINTON

Clause 41, page 36, line 8, leave out subsection (17)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes the retrospective element of the changes made by this clause.

After Clause 41

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

After Clause 41, insert the following new Clause –

“Time limit on immigration detention

- (1) Subject to subsection (6), this section applies to any person (“P”) who is liable to detention under a relevant detention power.
- (2) P may not be detained under a relevant detention power for a period of more than 28 days from the relevant time.
- (3) If P remains detained under a relevant detention power at the expiry of the period of 28 days then –
 - (a) P shall be released forthwith, and
 - (b) P may not be detained under a relevant detention power thereafter, unless the Secretary of State or an immigration officer, as the case may be, is satisfied that there has been a material change of circumstances since P’s

release and that the criteria in section [Initial detention: criteria and duration](1) are met.

- (4) In this section, “relevant detention power” means a power to detain under —
 - (a) paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 (detention of persons liable to examination or removal),
 - (b) paragraph 2(1), (2) or (3) of Schedule 3 to that Act (detention pending deportation),
 - (c) section 62 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (detention of persons liable to examination or removal),
 - (d) section 36(1) of the UK Borders Act 2007 (detention pending deportation), or
 - (e) regulation 32(1) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 as it continues to have effect following its revocation (detention of person subject to removal).
- (5) In this section, “relevant time” means the time at which the detention begins.
- (6) This section does not apply to a person in respect of whom the Secretary of State has certified that the decision to detain is or was taken in the interests of national security.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment proposes a time limit of 28 days detention for persons detained for immigration purposes.

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

After Clause 41, insert the following new Clause —

“Initial detention: criteria and duration

- (1) A person (“P”) to whom section (*Time limit on immigration detention*) applies may not be detained under a relevant detention power other than for the purposes of examination, unless the Secretary of State or an immigration officer, as the case may be, reasonably believes that —
 - (a) P can be shortly removed from the United Kingdom,
 - (b) detention is strictly necessary to effect P’s deportation or removal from the United Kingdom, and
 - (c) the detention of P is in all the circumstances proportionate.
- (2) P may not be detained under a relevant detention power for a period of more than 96 hours from the relevant time, unless —
 - (a) P has been refused bail at an initial bail hearing in accordance with subsection (5)(b) of section (*Bail hearings*), or
 - (b) the Secretary of State has arranged a reference to the Tribunal for consideration of whether to grant immigration bail to P in accordance with section (*Bail hearings*)(2)(c) and that hearing has not yet taken place.

- (3) Nothing in subsection (1) authorises the Secretary of State to detain P under a relevant detention power if such detention would, apart from this section, be unlawful.
- (4) In this section, “Tribunal” means the First-tier Tribunal.
- (5) In this section, “relevant detention power” and “relevant time” have the meanings given in section (*Time limit on immigration detention*).”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is connected to Lord German’s new clause “Time limit on immigration detention”.

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

After Clause 41, insert the following new Clause –

“Bail hearings

- (1) This section applies to any person (“P”) to whom section (*Time limit on immigration detention*) applies and who is detained under a relevant detention power.
- (2) Before the expiry of a period of 96 hours from the relevant time, the Secretary of State must –
 - (a) release P,
 - (b) grant immigration bail to P under paragraph 1 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016, or
 - (c) arrange a reference to the Tribunal for consideration of whether to grant immigration bail to P.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), when the Secretary of State arranges a reference to the Tribunal under subsection (2)(c), the Tribunal must hold an oral hearing (“an initial bail hearing”) which must commence within 24 hours of the time at which the reference is made.
- (4) If the period of 24 hours in subsection (3) ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank holiday, the Tribunal must hold an initial bail hearing on the next working day.
- (5) At the initial bail hearing, the Tribunal must –
 - (a) grant immigration bail to P under paragraph 1 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016, or
 - (b) refuse to grant immigration bail to P.
- (6) Subject to subsection (7), the Tribunal must grant immigration bail to P at a bail hearing unless it is satisfied that the Secretary of State has established that the criteria in section (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*)(1) are met and that, in addition –
 - (a) directions have been given for P’s removal from the United Kingdom and such removal is to take place within 21 days,

- (b) a travel document is available for the purposes of P's removal or deportation, and
 - (c) there are no outstanding legal barriers to removal.
- (7) Subsection (6) does not apply if the Tribunal is satisfied that the Secretary of State has established that the criteria in section (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*)(1) are met and that there are very exceptional circumstances which justify maintaining detention.
- (8) In subsection (6), "a bail hearing" means –
 - (a) an initial bail hearing under subsection (2), or
 - (b) the hearing of an application for immigration bail under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016 which takes place after the expiry of 96 hours from the relevant time.
- (9) In this section, "Tribunal" means the First-tier Tribunal.
- (10) The Secretary of State shall provide to P or to P's legal representative, not more than 24 hours after the relevant time, copies of all documents in the Secretary of State's possession which are relevant to the decision to detain.
- (11) At the initial bail hearing, the Tribunal shall not consider any documents relied upon by the Secretary of State which were not provided to P or to P's legal representative in accordance with subsection (10), unless –
 - (a) P consents to the documents being considered, or
 - (b) in the opinion of the Tribunal there is a good reason why the documents were not provided to P or to P's legal representative in accordance with subsection (10).
- (12) After sub-paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016 insert –
 - "(5) Sub-paragraph (2) above does not apply if the refusal of bail by the First tier Tribunal took place at an initial bail hearing within the meaning of section (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is connected to Lord German's new clause "Time limit on immigration detention".

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

After Clause 41, insert the following new Clause –

“Detention time limit: consequential amendments

- (1) After paragraph (3)(d) of paragraph 17A of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 insert –
 - “(e) sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (2) After sub-paragraph (5) of that paragraph insert –
 - “(5A) But sub-paragraph (5) is subject to sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (3) For sub-paragraph (3C) of paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 to that Act substitute –
 - “(3C) Sub-paragraphs (3A) and (3B) are subject to –
 - (a) sub-paragraph (4ZA) and section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016 (limitation on detention of pregnant women), and
 - (b) sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (4) After sub-paragraph (3E) of that paragraph insert –
 - “(3F) But sub-paragraph (3E) is subject to sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (5) After paragraph (2P)(c) of section 62 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 insert –
 - “(d) sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (6) After subsection (2R) of that section insert –
 - “(2S) But subsection (2R) is subject to sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (7) For subsection (1C) of section 36 of the UK Borders Act 2007 substitute –
 - “(1C) Subsections (1A) and (1B) are subject to-

- (a) sub-paragraph (2A) and section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016 (limitation on detention of pregnant women), and
 - (b) sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (8) After subsection (1E) of that section insert—
- “(1F) But subsection (1E) is subject to sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”
- (9) After paragraph (5) of regulation 32 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/1052), as it continues to have effect following its revocation, insert—
- “(5A) Regulations (2) to (5) are subject to sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 (time limit on immigration detention etc).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Lord German's new clause “Time limit on immigration detention”

Clause 42

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD OATES

Clause 42, page 36, line 27, leave out paragraph (a) and insert—

- “(a) P was granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom by virtue of residence scheme immigration rules, which has not been cancelled, curtailed or revoked,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that all persons granted residence status in the UK under the EUSS, which has not been cancelled, curtailed, or revoked by the Secretary of State or an Immigration Officer, benefit from this Clause if they are not already a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement.

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD OATES

Clause 42, page 36, line 29, leave out paragraph (b) and insert—

- “(b) the leave in paragraph (a) was not granted by virtue of P being a person with a Zambrano right to reside or a family member of a qualifying British citizen as defined by residence scheme immigration rules.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with the amendment to page 37, line 5 in the name of Baroness Ludford, seeks to ensure that any persons granted residence status in the UK, under the Chen or Ibrahim/Teixeira routes of the EUSS, which has not been cancelled, curtailed, or revoked by the Secretary of State or an Immigration Officer, benefit from the provisions in clause 42 if they are not already a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement.

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD OATES

Clause 42, page 36, line 32, leave out paragraph (c)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes a provision that allows a person's EU Settlement Scheme status to be removed without applying procedural safeguards contained in the Withdrawal Agreement.

BARONESS LUDFORD
LORD OATES

Clause 42, page 37, line 5, leave out paragraph (a)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with the amendment to page 36, line 29 in the name of Baroness Ludford, seeks to ensure that any persons granted residence status in the UK, under the Chen or Ibrahim/Teixeira routes of the EUSS, which has not been cancelled, curtailed, or revoked by the Secretary of State or an Immigration Officer, benefit from the provisions in clause 42 if they are not already a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement.

After Clause 45

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS BRINTON

After Clause 45, insert the following Clause —

“Removal of restrictions on asylum seekers engaging in employment

The Secretary of State must, within three months of the date on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a statement of changes in the rules (the “immigration rules”) under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (general provisions for regulation and control) to make provision for asylum applicants to take up employment whilst their application is being determined, if it has been over three months since the application was made, with no decision made.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would remove the restriction on working for asylum seekers, if it has been over three months since they applied.

LORD GERMAN

After Clause 45, insert the following new Clause —

“Granting the right to work to potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery

The Secretary of State must, within three months of the date on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a statement of changes in the rules (the “immigration rules”) under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (general provisions for regulation and control) to make provision for potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery with a positive reasonable grounds decision in the National Referral Mechanism to take up employment if they have waited more than three months for a conclusive grounds decision to be made.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow people in the National Referral Mechanism to work if they have been waiting for more than three months for a Conclusive Grounds decision to be made.

After Clause 48

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Age and safeguarding assessments at the port of entry

- (1) A person who claims to be a child must not be subject to a visual age assessment by Border Force officials solely for immigration control purposes.
- (2) Any such assessment must be conducted as part of a safeguarding determination to identify potential risks and support needs.
- (3) A visual age assessment at the port of entry must not result in the assignment of a specific chronological age to the individual.
- (4) Border Force officials may only determine whether, in their view, the person is a child or an adult.
- (5) Where there is doubt as to whether an individual is a child, the presumption must be that the individual is treated as a child unless and until a comprehensive age assessment is conducted by local authority social workers in accordance with Merton compliant age assessment procedures.
- (6) The Secretary of State must publish guidance on the implementation of this section, including —
 - (a) the training and qualifications required for officials carrying out safeguarding assessments;
 - (b) mechanisms for independent oversight and review of age determination decisions;
 - (c) safeguards to ensure that no child is placed at risk as a result of incorrect age assessments at the port of entry.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that visual age assessments focus on safeguarding rather than immigration enforcement, removes the Home Office's power to assign a specific age at the border, and to strengthen independent oversight and child protection safeguards.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

Revised version of the amendment printed on 3 June 2025

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Age assessments for individuals claiming asylum

- (1) Age assessments for individuals claiming asylum must be conducted by a qualified local authority social worker.
- (2) Age assessments for individuals claiming asylum must be carried out in accordance with the Association of Directors of Children's Services age assessment guidance or equivalent guidance in the devolved jurisdictions.
- (4) Age assessments for individuals claiming asylum must follow a process that ensures an impartial, multi-agency approach, drawing on a range of relevant expertise, including but not limited to professionals from healthcare, education, and child welfare, as necessary to ensure the child's best interests. This must specifically include consultation with—
 - (a) Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs), where appointed, and
 - (b) local authority-appointed advocates.
- (5) Scientific methods for assessing age must not be used unless the Secretary of State obtains written approval from the relevant medical, dental, and scientific professional bodies confirming that the method is both ethical and has a high degree of accuracy in determining age.
- (6) Any body established to oversee or conduct age assessments for individuals claiming asylum must be operationally independent of the Home Office.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause aims to ensure that age assessments for individuals claiming asylum are conducted fairly, accurately, and in the best interests of the child. It mandates that assessments be carried out by qualified local authority social workers following recognised guidance and using a multi-agency approach. It restricts the use of scientific methods unless proven ethical and highly accurate, requires consultation with key child welfare professionals, and ensures that any oversight body remains independent of the Home Office.

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS HAMWEE

After Clause 48, insert the following Clause —

“Additional safe and legal routes

The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passage of this Act, make regulations to —

- (a) provide an increased multi annual quota for the safe and legal route provided by the UK Resettlement Scheme through which refugees and other individuals requiring international protection can enter the UK lawfully, and
- (b) specify additional safe and legal routes under the UK Resettlement Scheme through which refugees and other individuals requiring international protection can enter the UK lawfully.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to make regulations specifying additional safe and legal routes under the UK Settlement Scheme, under which refugees and others in need of international protection can come to the UK lawfully from abroad.

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 48, insert the following Clause —

“Reuniting unaccompanied child refugees with family members

- (1) Within six months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must by immigration rules make the changes set out in subsections (2) to (6).
- (2) The requirements to be met by a person seeking leave to enter the United Kingdom as a child relative of a person or persons given limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, as a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection, are that the applicant —
 - (a) is the child, grandchild, sister, brother, nephew or niece of a person or persons granted limited leave to enter or remain as a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection granted as such under the immigration rules,
 - (b) is under the age of 18,
 - (c) can, and will, be accommodated adequately by the person or persons the child is seeking to join without recourse to public funds in accommodation which the person or persons the child is seeking to join, own or occupy exclusively,
 - (d) can, and will, be maintained adequately by the person or persons the child is seeking to join, without recourse to public funds, and
 - (e) if seeking leave to enter, holds a valid United Kingdom entry clearance for entry in this capacity.

- (3) The requirements to be met by a person seeking leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as the close relative of a child with limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection are that the applicant is –
 - (a) a parent, grandparent, sister, brother, aunt or uncle of a child with limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection,
 - (b) joining a refugee or beneficiary of humanitarian protection with limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom who is under the age of 18 and not living with a parent or grandparent, and
 - (c) can, and will, be accommodated adequately, together with any dependants, without recourse to public funds.
- (4) Limited leave to enter the United Kingdom as an applicant under subsection (2) or (3) may be granted for five years provided that, on arrival, a valid passport or other identity document is produced to the Immigration Officer and the applicant has entry clearance for entry in this capacity. Limited leave to remain in the United Kingdom as an applicant under subsections (2) or (3) may be granted provided the Secretary of State is satisfied that each of the requirements of subsections (2) or (3) is met.
- (5) Limited leave to enter the United Kingdom as an applicant under subsection (2) or (3) is to be refused if, on arrival, a valid passport or other identity document is not produced to the Immigration Officer and the applicant does not have entry clearance for entry in this capacity. Limited leave to remain in the United Kingdom as an applicant under subsection (2) or (3) is to be refused if the Secretary of State is not satisfied that each of the requirements of subsections (2) or (3) is met.
- (6) Civil legal services are to be provided to an applicant under subsections (2) or (3) in relation to rights to enter, and to remain in, the United Kingdom pursuant to schedule 1, subsection 30(1) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require changes to the immigration rules to extend the family members that could apply to join an unaccompanied child refugee in the UK, to include parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, uncles and aunts, and to allow unaccompanied child refugees to sponsor close adult family members to join them in the UK. It also provides for legal aid to be available in such cases.

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 48, insert the following Clause –

“Refugee family reunion

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 6 months of the date on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a statement of changes in the rules (the “immigration rules”) under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (general provisions for

regulation and control) to make provision for refugee family reunion, in accordance with this section, to come into effect after 21 days.

- (2) Before a statement of changes is laid under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult with persons as the Secretary of State deems appropriate.
- (3) The statement laid under subsection (1) must set out rules providing for leave to enter and remain in the United Kingdom for family members of a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection.
- (4) In this section, “refugee status” and “humanitarian protection” have the same meaning as in the immigration rules.
- (5) In this section, “family members” include –
 - (a) a person's parent, including adoptive parent;
 - (b) a person's spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner;
 - (c) a person's child, including adopted child, who is either –
 - (i) under the age of 18, or
 - (ii) under the age of 25 but was either under the age of 18 or unmarried at the time the person granted asylum left their country of residence to seek asylum;
 - (d) a person's sibling, including adoptive sibling, who is either –
 - (i) under the age of 18, or
 - (ii) under the age of 25, but was either under the age of 18 or unmarried at the time the person granted asylum left their country of residence to seek asylum; and
 - (e) such other persons as the Secretary of State may determine, having regard to –
 - (i) the importance of maintaining family unity,
 - (ii) the best interests of a child,
 - (iii) the physical, emotional, psychological or financial dependency between a person granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and another person,
 - (iv) any risk to the physical, emotional or psychological well being of a person who was granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, including from the circumstances in which the person is living in the United Kingdom, or
 - (v) such other matters as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (6) For the purpose of subsection (5) –
 - (a) “adopted” and “adoptive” refer to a relationship resulting from adoption, including de facto adoption, as set out in the immigration rules, and
 - (b) “best interests” of a child must be read in accordance with Article 3 of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would make provision for leave to enter or remain in the UK to be granted to the family members of refugees and of people granted humanitarian protection.

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 48, insert the following Clause –

“Victims of slavery or human trafficking: protection from immigration offences

- (1) The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 52 (Duty to notify Secretary of State about suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking), after subsection (2), insert –
 - “(2A) The Secretary of State must make such arrangements as they consider reasonable to ensure that notification under this section does not include the supply of information to relevant persons or authorities that might indicate that –
 - (a) the victim has committed an offence under sections 24 to 26 of the Immigration Act 1971, or
 - (b) the victim might otherwise meet the requirements for removal from the United Kingdom or for investigation pending removal.
 - (2B) For the purposes of subsection (2A), “relevant persons or authorities” include –
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown or a government department;
 - (b) an immigration officer;
 - (c) a customs official;
 - (d) a law enforcement officer;
 - (e) the Director of Border Revenue;
 - (f) the Border Security Commander;
 - (g) a UK authorised person;
 - (h) the government of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would prevent a public authority, when determining whether a person is a victim of slavery or human trafficking, from sharing information with immigration authorities and other public authorities that might result in deportation or prosecution for an immigration offence.

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS HAMWEE

After Clause 48, insert the following Clause –

“Humanitarian travel permit

- (1) On an application by a person (“P”) to the appropriate decision-maker for entry clearance, the appropriate decision-maker must grant P entry clearance if satisfied that P is a relevant person.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), P is a relevant person if –

- (a) P intends to make a protection claim in the United Kingdom;
 - (b) P's protection claim, if made in the United Kingdom, would have a realistic prospect of success; and (c) there are serious and compelling reasons why P's protection claim should be considered in the United Kingdom.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), in deciding whether there are such reasons why P's protection claim should be considered in the United Kingdom, the appropriate decision-maker must take into account –
 - (a) the extent of the risk that P will suffer persecution or serious harm if entry clearance is not granted,
 - (b) the strength of P's family and other ties to the United Kingdom,
 - (c) P's mental and physical health and any particular vulnerabilities that P has, and
 - (d) any other matter that the decision-maker thinks relevant.
- (4) For the purposes of an application under subsection (1), the appropriate decision-maker must waive any of the requirements in subsection (5) if satisfied that P cannot reasonably be expected to comply with them.
- (5) The requirements are –
 - (a) any requirement prescribed (whether by immigration rules or otherwise) under section 50 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, and
 - (b) any requirement prescribed by regulations made under section 5, 6, 7 or 8 of the UK Borders Act 2007 (biometric registration).
- (6) No fee may be charged for the making of an application under subsection (1).
- (7) An entry clearance granted pursuant to subsection (1) has effect as leave to enter for such period, being not less than six months, and on such conditions as the Secretary of State may prescribe by order.
- (8) Upon a person entering the United Kingdom (within the meaning of section 11 of the Immigration Act 1971) pursuant to leave to enter given under subsection (7), that person is deemed to have made a protection claim in the United Kingdom.
- (9) For the purposes of this section –
 - “appropriate decision-maker” means a person authorised by the Secretary of State by rules made under section 3 of the Immigration Act 1971 to grant an entry clearance under paragraph(1);
 - “entry clearance” has the same meaning as in section 33(1) of the Immigration Act 1971;
 - “persecution” is defined in accordance with the Refugee Convention;
 - “protection claim” in relation to a person, means a claim that to remove them from or require them to leave the United Kingdom would be inconsistent with the United Kingdom's obligations –
 - (a) under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28th July 1951 and the Protocol to that Convention (“the Refugee Convention”),

- (b) in relation to persons entitled to a grant of humanitarian protection, or
- (c) under Article 2 or 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms agreed by the Council of Europe at Rome on 4th November 1950 (“the European Convention on Human Rights”);

“serious harm” means treatment that, if it occurred within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, would be contrary to the United Kingdom's obligations under Article 2 or 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (irrespective of where it will actually occur).”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would create a new “humanitarian travel permit”.

BARONESS BRINTON
LORD GERMAN

★ After Clause 48, insert the following Clause —

“Report on impact of carers’ minimum wage on net migration

The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay before Parliament a report on the impact of introducing a minimum wage for carers on levels of net migration.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Government to publish a report on how implementing a carers’ minimum wage would impact on levels of net migration.

BARONESS BRINTON
LORD GERMAN

★ After Clause 48, insert the following Clause —

“Exemption of NHS workers from immigration skills charge

The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, amend the Immigration Skills Charge Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/499) to exempt National Health Service workers from the immigration skills charge for sponsoring a Skilled Worker or a Senior or Specialist worker.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to apply an exception to the NHS as an employer from having to pay the immigration skills charge when sponsoring skilled employees.

LORD DUBS
LORD KERR OF KINLOCHARD

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Family reunion for asylum seeking children outside the United Kingdom

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay before both Houses of Parliament a statement of changes to the immigration rules under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 to make provision for entry clearance or leave to remain for asylum seeking children outside the United Kingdom of persons granted protection status in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of family reunion.
- (2) In this section —
 - “Asylum seeking children” means children outside the United Kingdom who are —
 - (a) under the age of 18, and
 - (b) the sibling, half-sibling, niece, nephew, grandchild, or stepchild of the person granted protection status.
 - “Protection status” means a person granted —
 - (a) refugee leave,
 - (b) refugee permission to stay,
 - (c) humanitarian protection,
 - (d) temporary refugee permission,
 - (e) temporary humanitarian permission to stay,
 - (f) Section 67 leave, or
 - (g) Calais leave.
- (3) The immigration rules made under subsection (1) must provide that an application under those rules:
 - (a) must not be refused solely on the basis of maintenance and accommodation requirements,
 - (b) must not be subject to any application fee, and
 - (c) must not be subject to the immigration health surcharge under section 38 of the Immigration Act 2014.
- (4) A person granted leave to enter or remain under the immigration rules made pursuant to this section must not be subject to a “no recourse to public funds” condition.
- (5) In determining an application under this section, the Secretary of State must have regard to —
 - (a) the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, interpreted in accordance with Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - (b) the importance of maintaining family unity,
 - (c) any emotional, psychological, physical, or financial dependency between the child and the person granted protection status, and

- (d) any risks to the child's safety and well-being if the application is refused.
- (6) The Secretary of State must take reasonable steps to facilitate the safe and lawful travel of a child granted entry under this section, including through cooperation with relevant authorities and agencies in the country in which the child resides."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that children outside the United Kingdom can be reunited with close family members who have been granted protection status in the UK, where it is in the child's best interests. The new Clause removes existing financial barriers to reunion.

BARONESS HAMWEE
LORD GERMAN

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause –

“Refugee family reunion for children

- (1) This section applies to a person who –
 - (a) has been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom, and
 - (b) was under the age of 18 at the time of their asylum application.
- (2) A person to whom this section applies shall have the same right to sponsor family members for entry to the United Kingdom under refugee family reunion provisions as an adult refugee.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the following family members shall be eligible for family reunion –
 - (a) the person's parents or legal guardians,
 - (b) the person's siblings under the age of 18, and
 - (c) any other family member where there are exceptional circumstances, including dependency or humanitarian need.
- (4) An application under this section shall be considered in accordance with the same criteria and procedures applicable to adult refugees applying for family reunion.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall issue guidance to ensure that applications under this provision are processed in a timely and child-sensitive manner, prioritising the best interests of the child.”

Member's explanatory statement

This clause removes the current barrier preventing child refugees from sponsoring family members and ensures they have the same family reunion rights as adult refugees.

BARONESS BRINTON

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Mandatory referral for age assessment in criminal proceedings

Where an individual who claims to be under 18 years of age is charged with an offence of illegal entry or facilitating illegal entry under immigration law, the Home Office must —

- (a) make an immediate mandatory referral to the relevant local authority for a comprehensive Merton-compliant age assessment, and
- (b) ensure that no prosecution proceeds until an assessment has been completed and the individual’s age is confirmed.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that individuals who may be children are required to have a comprehensive age assessment before any criminal proceedings for immigration offences can proceed, ensuring they are properly assessed and safeguarded in line with child protection principles.

BARONESS COUSSINS

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Translation and interpreting services

Immigrants and asylum seekers shall have the right, when needed, to professional, qualified translators and interpreters in relation to all oral and written communications concerning —

- (a) deportation,
- (b) detention,
- (c) control,
- (d) biometric data,
- (e) residency schemes and rules,
- (f) monitoring devices,
- (g) appeals,
- (h) accommodation, and
- (i) any other procedure mentioned in Part 2.”

BARONESS HAMWEE

After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Victims of slavery or human trafficking: leave to remain

- (1) Where a decision has been made by a competent authority that a person is a victim of slavery or human trafficking (a “positive conclusive grounds decision”), that person must be granted —
 - (a) leave to remain lasting for a period of at least 60 months, and

- (b) access to support services and employment.
- (2) A person granted leave as a victim of trafficking and modern slavery will be eligible for settlement after 5 years.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that recognised victims of trafficking (those who have received a positive conclusive grounds decisions) will be able to access meaningful long-term support and recovery.

BARONESS MAY OF MAIDENHEAD

- ★ After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause –

“Modern slavery protections

- (1) Section 29 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 (Disapplication of modern slavery provisions) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (4)(a), after “offence” in inserted sub-paragraph (ii), insert –
 - “(ia) that offence was not committed under the duress of slavery,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that individuals who have committed an offence under duress of their slavery are not automatically disqualified from protections or considerations provided under the Bill. The amendment aims to introduce a safeguard that recognises the unique circumstances of those acting under coercion or threat, ensuring fairness and compliance with principles of justice.

BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

- ★ After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause –

“Primacy of the Refugee Convention

- (1) The Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 is amended as follows.
- (2) For section 2 (Primacy of Convention) substitute –

“2 Primacy of Convention

- (1) So far as it is possible to do so, primary legislation, subordinate legislation, immigration rules within the meaning of the 1971 Act, and guidance issued by the Secretary of State must be read and given effect in a way which is compatible with the Convention.
- (2) This section –
 - (a) applies to primary legislation and subordinate legislation whenever enacted, immigration rules whenever laid, and guidance whenever issued,
 - (b) does not affect the validity, continuing operation or enforcement of any incompatible primary legislation, and

- (c) does not affect the validity, continuing operation or enforcement of any incompatible subordinate legislation if (disregarding any possibility of revocation) primary legislation prevents removal of the incompatibility.”

(3) After section 2 insert —

“2A Declaration of Incompatibility

- (1) Subsection (2) applies in any proceedings in which a court determines whether a provision of primary legislation is compatible with the Convention.
- (2) If the court is satisfied that the provision is incompatible, it may make a declaration of that incompatibility.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies in any proceedings in which a court determines whether a provision of subordinate legislation, made in the exercise of a power conferred by primary legislation, is compatible with the Convention.
- (4) If the court is satisfied —
 - (a) that the provision is incompatible with the Convention, and
 - (b) that (disregarding any possibility of revocation) the primary legislation concerned prevents removal of the incompatibility,
 it may make a declaration of that incompatibility.
- (5) In this section “court” means —
 - (a) the Supreme Court,
 - (b) in Scotland, the High Court of Justiciary sitting otherwise than as a trial court or the Court of Session, or
 - (c) in England and Wales or Northern Ireland, the High Court or the Court of Appeal.
- (6) A declaration under this section (“a declaration of incompatibility”) —
 - (a) does not affect the validity, continuing operation or enforcement of the provision in respect of which it is given;
 - (b) is not binding on the parties to the proceedings in which it is made.””

Member's explanatory statement

These two new clauses follow the model of the Human Rights Act in attempting to ensure harmony between international convention and domestic law. Primary and secondary legislation, immigration rules, and guidance are to be interpreted in compliance with the Refugee Convention so far as possible. Where it is not possible to interpret primary legislation in compliance, the higher courts may make a declaration to that effect.

BARONESS CHAKRABARTI

★ After Clause 48, insert the following new Clause —

“Amendment of section 31 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- (1) Section 31 of the of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (defences based on Article 31(1) of the Refugee Convention) is amended as follows.
- (2) For subsection (1) substitute —
“No one shall be found guilty of a criminal offence in contravention of Article 31 of the Refugee Convention.”
- (3) Omit subsections (2) to (11).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to alter the defence for refugees to ensure compliance with Article 31 of the Refugee Convention which prevents penalisation for irregular entry.

After Clause 56

BARONESS HAMWEE

After Clause 56, insert the following Clause —

“Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

The Secretary of State must —

- (a) within six months of the passing of this Act, introduce legislation to ensure the United Kingdom's full compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and
- (b) within 18 months of the passing of this Act, lay before Parliament a report on how the Government is ensuring full compliance with the Convention under this section.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to introduce legislation which incorporates the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings into UK law and report on compliance with the Convention.

BARONESS HAMWEE
BARONESS LUDFORD

After Clause 56, insert the following Clause —

“Participation in Europol's anti-trafficking operations

- (1) The Secretary of State must provide adequate resources to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of enhancing their participation in Europol's anti-trafficking operations.

- (2) The resources provided under subsection (1) must include technology for conducting improved surveillance on, and detection of, smuggling networks.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), “law enforcement agencies” include—
 - (a) the National Crime Agency,
 - (b) police forces in England and Wales, and
 - (c) the British Transport Police.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Government to allocate adequate resources to law enforcement agencies to enhance their participation in Europol’s anti-trafficking operations, including through technological tools for better surveillance and detection of smuggling networks.

After Clause 62

LORD GERMAN
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 62, insert the following Clause—

“Commencement of detention provisions

Sections (*Time limit on immigration detention*), (*Initial detention: criteria and duration*) and (*Bail hearings*) come into force at the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on the amendments in the name of Lord German introducing the three new clauses mentioned.

Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

12 June 2025

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