

SEMINAR SHORT READINGS:

PLEASE READ

- **CANNING V (2016) : Immigration detention: what's the problem with privatisation?** Available: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/people-politics-law/immigration-detention-whats-the-problem-privatisation>
- **DETENTION ACTION (2017) Indefinite detention after Shaw:** <https://detentionaction.org.uk/publications/indefinite-detention-after-shaw/>

FILM 1 & SET READINGS: ANSWERS

1. What factors cause mass migration?

The usual ones – wars, civil wars, dictatorships & political oppression, economic instability, corrupt government, extreme poverty, poor human rights records, CJS discrimination against a culture or group.

2. Which political party widened the use of detention centres in Britain?

Prime Minister Tony Blair & New Labour

3. How many bed spaces are there & where?

Bed space capacity to detain around 3,500 persons daily. Most are in IRCs, but some are in holding centres close to airports & some prison beds are allocated for detainees too. There are currently 8 IRCs in the UK:

Brook House, Gatwick

Colnbrook, Middlesex

Dungavel House, South Lanarkshire

Harmondsworth, Middlesex

Larne House short term holding facility, Antrim

Morton Hall, Lincolnshire

Tinsley House, Gatwick

Yarl's Wood, Bedfordshire

4. What is the big difference between UK immigration Removal Centres and those in Europe?

The UK has not signed the European Union Returns Directive (even pre-Brexit) which means there is no upper statutory time limit to how long someone can be detained in an IRC. In practice, detention is for relatively short periods (2-3 months) but in theory, people can be locked up forever!

FILM 2 & SET READINGS: ANSWERS

1. Describe conditions in Yarls Wood IRC which aggravate well-being?

No privacy. Language barriers. Cultural insensitivity. Survivors of violence & assault find guards intimidating. No rehabilitative programmes on offer as they're there to be deported. No upper statutory time limit on detention – wait to be released. Very little control over what happens to you (awaiting a claims resolution).

2. According to Mary Bosworth, which 2 characteristics need to change?

Need to impose an upper statutory time limit on detention. Need to open the doors to researchers, academics, more charity groups & befrienders.

3. According to Victoria Canning, why does the UK support privatisation?

Private companies pay the State for contracts to run IRCs. Lucrative!

4. State run or privatised IRCs – which is better and say why?

Little between them. However, State-run institutions are more accountable for deaths in custody, damage to building infrastructure, suicide rates etc. E.G. G4S ran Brook House when it was secretly filmed for Panorama in 2017 – now taken off air! They re-won won the contract to run for another 4 years despite the scandal!!

DISCUSSION: What do you think?

BREAK OUT ROOM ACTIVITY:

Having watched the films, and done the readings, answer the following question:

Imagine you are appearing before the Parliamentary Set Committee, what is your main argument for closing down IRCs? It may be a political, moral, economic, or social one or all of the above.