

# We're winning support

Since we started campaigning we have won support from thousands of people who have signed the petitions. Other supporters include the Bishop of Croydon, the British Deaf Association who have contacted all their branches, from Croydon Liberal and Labour Parties and Croydon Conservative MPs — including Rashida's own MP, Bernard Weatherill the Speaker and Humfrey Malins who spoke up for Rashida in Parliament.

Unfortunately, the reply of David Waddington, the Home Secretary's Deputy, to Humfrey Malins showed complete disregard for the feelings of all those who thought it was unjust to send Rashida away from her family and friends in Croydon.

We are not defeated. The Home Secretary often says "No" at first. Maybe he hopes that the campaigners will give up and that the person threatened with deportation will pack her bags and go. More pressure from you is the best method of changing his mind.

Please turn the page, write down what you can do and contact us.



The Anti Deportations Working Group of the GLC supports the right of Rashida Abedi to stay in this country.

# Rashida Abedi may be deported

She is a totally deaf woman, living in South Norwood with her brother, sister and other relatives. She's learning English, lip-reading, typing and is determined to become more independent.

She may be sent back to Pakistan, where there is no-one to support her. If enough people protest against the inhumanity of this decision, the Home Secretary may be persuaded to let her stay.

# Let Rashida STAY

RASHIDA HAS NOT LET  
DEAFNESS STOP HER  
LEADING A FULL LIFE.  
LET'S MAKE SURE AN  
IMMIGRATION RULE  
DOESN'T.



# Let them hear your voice!

# We need your help to stop the Home Office deporting Rashida Abedi

She came to Britain in 1981 from Quetta in Pakistan to cure her deafness, which was caused by meningitis ten years ago. Unfortunately the treatment was unsuccessful.

In Quetta there are no facilities for the deaf. Her mother is elderly and no-one else is available to look after her. She is now living in South Norwood with Syed her elder brother, and sister and their family. Syed has supported her financially since her father's death. They all want Rashida to stay.

The Home Office say that sisters are not really part of the family, and cannot be considered 'dependents'. They have to be 'distressed' before they will be allowed to stay. The Home Office say Rashida is not distressed enough. They are making her return to a country where she would find it very difficult to overcome her disability. As Rashida says, here she has the chance to learn "to be able to work and do something for the country and for other people".

Rashida is caught by a particularly complex immigration rule. Like most immigration laws, it affects black people most. They are more likely to be forcibly separated from their families by deportation.

The Home Secretary has often changed his mind to allow someone to stay when enough people have protested.

*People from many organisations have come together to make Rashida's case known. We need your help — Please telephone for more details of how you can support this campaign:*

Friends of Rashida Abedi, c/o 45 Wellesey Rd., Croydon. Phone Liz at 686 8014.

We need your help to persuade the Home Secretary to let Rashida stay. Please:—

- ☐ Write to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1 and ask him/her to sign Early Day Motion No 393. (An Early Day Motion is like a petition for MPs).
- ☐ Write to the Home Secretary, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 and tell him you think his refusal to let Rashida stay is unjust. Quote Reference No 246501.
- ☐ Show this leaflet to your friends. Ask us to send you some more leaflets and some full page petitions. Stick this leaflet up where others can see it.
- ☐ Invite us to your meeting of your church, community group, trade union, political party, or wherever you belong. Most people who hear how unjustly Rashida has been treated will support her.
- ☐ Send a donation to *Friends of Rashida Abedi* to help pay for leaflets and other expenses.
- ☐ Sign the petition below.

PLEASE TEAR OFF THIS SLIP AND SEND IT TO US NOW. WE  
LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

Name. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like you to send me ..... leaflets (state number)

I have written/am about to write to my MP, .....  
(state his/her name) I have written to the Home Secretary.

Can you please send a speaker to a meeting of .....  
at .....  
that will be held on .....  
Please contact .....  
(please supply phone number and address) for more details about  
this meeting.

I enclose a donation of £ ..... to the Friends of Rashida Abedi.

I/We, the undersigned, believe that the decision to deport Rashida Abedi is unjustified and inhumane. We urge the Home Secretary to reconsider her case in view of the unusual circumstances and to allow Rashida Abedi to stay in the UK indefinitely.

Signature

Name

Address

this is how you can HELP