



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2017

### Immigration

[The Times](#) – Chair of the Bar, Andrew Langdon QC, writes in Times Online on the unfair detention of immigrants and calls for the laws allowing thousands of vulnerable people to be held indefinitely must urgently be changed.

He writes: “It is bad enough that this crisis in decision-making is affecting, by definition, the poorest in society, but arguably an even more acute problem concerns those, many vulnerable and on the fringes of society, whom we routinely lock up in immigration detention centres.

“Holding someone in indefinite administrative detention runs counter to basic principles on which the Rule of Law is based. It is, I repeat, a stain on the reputation of our system of justice for fairness and for providing access to justice for all. That is why the Bar Council is calling on the government to review its policy in this area and to change the law. Shortly we will release some independent research whilst highlighting some human stories that are otherwise lost in statistics. This will, I hope, bring some much-needed light to this dark corner. The research, commissioned from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) by the Bar Council, assesses the realities of immigration detention; it includes interviews with barristers and immigration judges: the former who act pro bono on behalf of detained immigrants and the latter who face daily unconscionable difficulties entirely not of their making in dispensing justice.”

### Harassment

[The Brief](#) and [Legal Cheek](#) report that Andrew Langdon, QC, Chair of the Bar, has written to all chambers reminding them of the professional body’s policy of “zero tolerance” urging all barristers and chambers’ staff who are victims of sexual harassment to “speak up”.

“Sexual harassment must not be tolerated at the Bar, or in any other walks of life,” he wrote on his [official blog](#). “At the risk of stating the obvious, an allegation of sexual harassment is a serious matter. It is incumbent on chambers, as a matter of fairness and to uphold the integrity of the profession, to treat the complainant and alleged perpetrator justly.”

He also promoted a confidential help-line and procedures for reporting sexual harassment.

### TOP BAR COUNCIL TWEETS @ <https://twitter.com/thebarcouncil>





**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Nov 14

Chair of the Bar, Andrew Langdon QC: Zero tolerance on sexual harassment in the profession and what help is available [barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/b...](https://barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/b...)



1 41 34



**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Nov 13

Great news for the #EMPBar following #NationalProBonoWeek! Employed Barristers' working for non-authorised bodies are now insured by Bar Mutual to do pro bono work through the @BarProBonoUnit or @FreeRepUnit [barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...](https://barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...)



5 15