

**GO GREEN WEEK 2023**

**WHAT  
IS THE  
BORDER  
INDUSTRY?**



*people & planet*



**Although the government creates harmful, racist immigration policies, the implementation of this cruelty is increasingly outsourced to a network of private companies, many of which are household names.**

**These firms provide and develop the technologies and labour required to make the hostile environment a reality, as well as playing a significant role in promoting these policies and the alarmist, racist, xenophobic narratives which feed into them.**

**THIS IS THE  
BORDER INDUSTRY**

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Their activities can be categorised into four sectors, all of which are expanding, increasingly lucrative and inherently violent:

- **BORDER SECURITY**
- **DETENTION**
- **SURVEILLANCE**
- **DEPORTATION**

Check out these profiles of some of the worst offenders to get a better idea of how this industry functions



**COMPANY: ACCENTURE**

**CATEGORY: 'SMART' BORDERS**



**Accenture** is one of the world's largest multinational firms, making \$43.2 billion revenue in 2019 from IT and consultancy services. Within these operations, Accenture has been **instrumental in the creation and maintenance of the EU's 'virtual border walls'** which seek to track and control the movement of migrants across the continent.

The company has played a significant role in **lobbying European governments** for more hawkish immigration policy and more heavily militarised borders. Accenture **propagated the threat that terrorists could be posing as refugees** in order to create demands for their biometric security systems which **harvest, store and share the biometric data of migrants**. As well as a number of rights violations arising from the use of this data, the presence of these systems makes it much more likely that migrants will be detained and deported, and thus **lessens the number of safe migration routes** leading to increased dependence on human traffickers.

Accenture has also been **responsible for the training needs of border agencies across Europe** including in Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, where increasing violence has been observed from militarised border security forces. The company was also involved in the creation of Aadhar in India, the world's largest biometric registration system. This system has been the subject of significant criticism, with concerns that it will create an underclass of undocumented Indians and migrants now **unable to access essential services**.

**COMPANY: AIRBUS**

**CATEGORY: BORDER SECURITY**



**Airbus** is a European company designing and manufacturing civilian and military aerospace products.

Airbus secured a **€50 Million contract to provide The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (aka Frontex) with aerial surveillance drones** for the purpose of tracking the movement of migrants in the Mediterranean. This is another dangerous step in the **militarisation of borders** and opens up many new opportunities for abuses. The use of such drones is increasingly central to bordering strategies, with the company's own annual reports admitting that '**Frontex relies on the maritime aerial surveillance services of Airbus Defence and Space and its long-term partner Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**'.

Airbus have also **earned €2 billion providing border surveillance systems to Saudi Arabia**, as well as selling border patrol helicopters to Libya and other mediterranean states. The company **supplied equipment for Operations Sophia, Poseidon and Triton**, which involved illegal 'push-back' manoeuvres and have been criticised for blocking asylum seekers from claiming protection.

## COMPANY: SERCO

## CATEGORY: DETENTION



**Serco Group PLC** is a UK-based company providing outsourcing services to governments and corporations around the world, with an annual revenue of approximately £3 billion. Recently this has included the delivery of the UK's failed track and trace system, but they have secured several lucrative contracts with the Home Office over the last decade. **Serco runs three out of the seven immigration removal centres (IRCs) in the UK.** In 2007 they took over the management of **Yarl's Wood IRC** in Bedfordshire, and in 2014 were awarded a £70 million renewal through to 2023. Since 2020 they have also been responsible for the operation of **Brook House** and **Tinsley House** IRCs near Gatwick.

To maximise profits from these fixed-sum contracts, Serco pushes down running costs at the expense of the safety and welfare of the people they incarcerate. They have been the subject of a number of investigations into **human rights abuses**, with documented examples of squalid conditions, neglect and alarming rates of self-harm within their facilities. There have also been numerous **allegations of sexual assault** of inmates by guards at Yarl's Wood, and in 2015 a UN rapporteur on violence against women was blocked from entering to investigate.

Serco were also responsible for the **eviction of over 300 asylum seekers** from the accommodation that they were contracted to provide, leaving them in a highly vulnerable position in the middle of winter.

REMOVED

## COMPANY: TUI    CATEGORY: DEPORTATION



**TUI Group** is the largest tourism group in Europe, operating five airlines across the continent with flights to over 150 destinations worldwide. Over the last five years, the British arm, TUI Airways (formerly Thomson Airways), sought to redress pandemic-induced revenue reductions not only by laying off staff, but also by **taking on an increasing number of mass deportation charter flights on behalf of the Home Office.**

This despite the owner's holding company making over €100 million euros in dividends from TUI in 2019, and the CEO pocketing €1.7million as salary in 2020.

To prevent public solidarity with migrants and to keep these activities in the shadows, the **Home Office uses non-commercial, charter flights to undertake its violent immigration removals.** The destinations of these flights are often countries that have been victims of British colonialism and ongoing economic imperialism, including Jamaica, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, as well as Vietnam. The airline was **responsible for the vast majority of such deportation flights** from the UK since August 2020, with **at least 21 flights conducted by TUI in 2021.** In November 2020 alone, TUI conducted nine mass deportations to 19 destinations as part of '**Operation Sillath**', the Home Office's pre-Brexit rush to expel as many refugees as possible under the Dublin Regulation before leaving the EU.

However, following an inspirational '**Stop Tui**' campaign from migrant justice organisers across the country, **Tui has now ceased to operate deportation flights for the Home Office. This demonstrates the impact that our activism can achieve when we apply pressure to the border industry.**

# THE BORDER DIVESTMENT LIST



...identifies the 70 publically traded companies most complicit in violence against migrating people

UK UNIS  
HAVE ALMOST  
**£400**  
MILLION

INVESTED  
IN THESE  
70 COMPANIES

Divest Borders campaigners across the country are demanding that their universities remove ALL investments from any company profiting from the persecution of people who move!





# TODAY WE'VE RELEASED OUR UPDATED BORDER DIVESTMENT LIST BASED ON THE LATEST EVIDENCE AVAILABLE.

Check out the [full list](#), see how many companies' names you recognise, and see if you can find evidence for why we've included them!