WHY BORDERS?

In 2018, 24,700 migrants were detained and 24,510 coerced to leave the UK. The UK government has paid £150 million over three years to evict and dismantle refugee camps at Calais and fund police harassment of asylum-seekers and volunteers. The removal of safe routes to Europe kills an average of six people a day in the Mediterranean.

We are a student movement fighting for a world in which everyone has the right to move and the right to access public goods regardless of documentation. The far right is expanding across Europe and the Americas. The pairing of climate crisis and decades of imperial wars in the Global South drive tens of millions from their homes. The defence industry swells with the profits of this devastation. Now more than ever these commitments must be central to any vision of justice.

JOIN THE FIGHT SO WE MAY WIN.
This guide is a brief introduction to the border regime, particularly how it advances into universities. It is also an action guide: a suggested path of action to build an arm of a national movement at your university, along with some strategic resources to campaign effectively.

Although the border regime may seem overwhelmingly complex and too entrenched to fight, what we see in the UK today has built up largely in the last fifty years, and massively intensified in the last twenty. Its expansion is also resisted everyday – both by migrants who find ways to assert their right to move and to organise against the violations of the system, and by groups that fight alongside them in solidarity.

Through this experience, these movements – including students – have produced a great deal of knowledge about the border regime. Drawing on this, we can pick apart its components, understand how they operate and locate where we stand in the system. We can identify their weaknesses and our collective strength, and strategise what we can most effectively contribute to the struggle as university students.

Migration is entangled with the history of colonialism and race. The patterns of migration we see in the world today are conditioned by the vast colonial migrations of the last 500 years – on the one hand of European colonists to the Americas, Australia, Africa and Asia, on the other hand the horrific forced migrations of the Transatlantic slave trade and other systems of indentured labour.

Colonial murder and extraction created the wealth that Europe defends behind borders today, and continues to facilitate the pillaging and ecological devastation of the Global South. The legacy of colonial states has produced extreme forms of political insecurity, and ongoing imperial war-making has destabilised region after region, driving people from their homes. Migrant justice demands that all those who have been forcefully incorporated into the interconnected, unequal world we live in have equal right to collectively transform it, belong and benefit from its wealth.

Borders involve legal, political-economic, and physical measures that enable control of movement and of access to resources based on origin and location. These developed alongside privatisation of land and ways of structuring production that accumulate private wealth by exploiting the working classes – particularly brutally in the case of colonised populations. Borders are partially porous. Capital flows across, labour movement is controlled in a manner that maximises extraction, but the majority of resources and wealth are enclosed for a tiny section of the global population.

However, this operation of race in the creation of borders also interacts with another – the visceral hatred, fear and genocidal imagination that was another aspect of colonial expansion. The UK border regime has been established component by component in a cowardly balancing act between the profit interests of big business and appeasement of the far right and their electoral parties.

A great deal of the far right stoking of anti-immigrant sentiment has occurred in the context of what is called ‘neoliberalism’: the restructuring of the global economy along lines that dismantled social welfare, deregulated corporate profit-making and crushed labour organising – all alongside the expansion of policing and the defence industry.

I FEEL THAT IF WE DON’T TAKE SERIOUSLY THE WAYS IN WHICH RACISM IS EMBEDDED IN STRUCTURES OF INSTITUTIONS, IF WE ASSUME THAT THERE MUST BE AN IDENTIFIABLE RACIST WHO IS THE PERPETRATOR, THEN WE WON’T EVER SUCCEEDED IN ERRADICATING RACISM - ANGELA DAVIS
Borders may evoke the image of fences, but they operate as a whole system of interlinked institutions and processes that aim to control people’s movement, their labour and the conditions of their daily lives.

While people’s living and working conditions grew more and more precarious, centrist parties chose to capitulate to the scapegoating of migrants rather than challenge the fundamental political-economic processes the far right took advantage of – failing to match the courage of communities organised anti-racist action. In conditions of general immiseration, race becomes a way to blame the other, and to give an impression of differential dignity and access even while one’s own life is degraded. Racist hierarchies of citizenship and wealth are brutal to those on the receiving end of violence, but they are also an incredibly fragile assurance of security for those offered (conditional) access to the privileges of whiteness. Racialised populations are also often a testing ground for new forms of policing and deprivation. Hostile environment policies, like PREVENT, co-opt citizens and institutions supposedly dedicated to the well-being into surveillance. It operates through the creation of a pervasive environment of fear and by undermining migrants’ capacity to survive. These are techniques lifted from colonial strategies of counterinsurgency. While they are first tested on migrants, their deployment is part of an overall shift in forms of policing that outsources control to citizens and in the name of security erodes our collective freedoms.

Migrant justice, on the other hand, is justice for all. Migrant organising has always been at the forefront of demands for structural transformation, and has targeted systems of inequality and exclusion at the intersection of all the overlapping institutions and processes that uphold them. The struggle against borders pushes the horizon of political possibility – fight with us.

Image: Grunwick strikers on the picket line. From ‘Striking Women: South Asian workers’ project
**INDEFINITE DETENTION**

The UK’s detention estate is part of the infrastructure of a border regime that operates through rapid, en masse attacks on access to citizenship, and the punishment of irregular migration as a pseudo– or actual criminal offence. It expanded by 16 times between 1993 and 2015: currently, seven Immigration Removal Centres, one pre-departure accommodation facility and 30 holding rooms in reporting centres imprison up to 30,000 people every year.

Detention centres have been at the forefront of prison privatisation, constructed and managed by corporations like G4S, Mitie, Serco and others at profit margins of up to 20%. They maintain these margins by forcing detainees to work at wages of £1/hr (reminiscent of ‘legal slavery’ in the USA) and by cutting costs on their basic services. Revolts by detainees, as well as official reports such as the Shaw Review have highlighted the systematic abuse and humiliation they are subjected to by the private security.

The UK system remains the only one in Europe with no time limit on detention.

**DEPORTATION**

Deportations are a similar new mode of border policing. Although the power to deport was enshrined in the Aliens Registration Act 1914 and 1919, but only majorly deployed after the introduction of deportation targets in 2002. Deportation targets shape an immigration regime that prioritises intensifying racist surveillance and detention, and fast-tracking removals so as to tick statistical boxes.

Deportations are removals by force – often violent, as with the suffocation of Jimmy Mubenga by G4S guards in 2010. They are frequently conducted while an immigration case is ongoing. Around 12,000 people are forcibly removed per year, with another 20,000 coerced into leaving ‘voluntarily’. 2000 of these deportations take place on mass charter flights, which, like, detention centres, are a brutal, privatised means of mass attack on migrants. Deals struck with governments create ‘charter nationalities’ who are targeted to fill planes. They frequently engage in ‘fishing expeditions’, involving racial profiling in areas with large BAME communities. These commonly take the form of raids on Asian restaurants and harassment of their workers, but with recently beefed up powers to stop and search, blatant profiling on the street is likely to increase again. The teams routinely violate their own regulations, fabricating or coercing consent to enter premises, and interrogating or searching with no cause for suspicion.

Employer collaboration is a strong recent focus. ICE encourages business to snitch on their workers, sometimes taking advantage of their desire to crack down on labour organising – as with the high-profile cases of Byron and Deliveroo in 2016.

**ICE RAIDS**

The ICE squads that have gained recent notoriety in the USA also have their counterpart in the UK, integrated into the detention and deportation nexus. They serve to round up people to meet deportation targets, particularly to fill charter flights.

ICE teams have standing orders to target charter nationalities, and usually conduct raids on unverified information. They frequently engage in ‘fishing expeditions’, involving racial profiling in areas with large BAME communities. These commonly take the form of raids on Asian restaurants and harassment of their workers, but with recently beefed up powers to stop and search, blatant profiling on the street is likely to increase again. The teams routinely violate their own regulations, fabricating or coercing consent to enter premises, and interrogating or searching with no cause for suspicion.

Employer collaboration is a strong recent focus. ICE encourages business to snitch on their workers, sometimes taking advantage of their desire to crack down on labour organising – as with the high-profile cases of Byron and Deliveroo in 2016.

**CRIMINALISATION**

The last 15 years have seen an intensification of criminalising immigration and also criminalising others’ failure to report to the Home Office e.g. landlords. This is partly intended to create a spectacle of cracking down on immigration, despite practically no effect on numbers. This spectacle of criminalisation also helps reinforce the narrative about ‘illegal’ immigrants – which is not a formal legal category, more a rhetorical device. This narrative justifies harsher crackdowns and has legitimised giving police-like powers to immigration enforcement.

In effect, immigration enforcement has recourse to a variety of often overlapping administrative and criminal sanctions – thus simultaneously increasing their discretionary powers while tightening noose around irregular migrants’ possibilities of basic survival.
WHAT IS THE BORDER REGIME?

SURVEILLANCE
Hostile environment policy has established border checkpoints across public and private service provision. These include data-sharing agreements between different departments of the state (such as local authorities providing child support, or the police, over half of whom have reported victims’ irregular status to the Home Office) and charities (such as those helping to deport rough sleepers). Schools and hospitals were also part of this programme prior to phenomenal resistance by doctors, teachers, parents and migrants’ rights organisations. Private providers, including banks and landlords are also pushed to implement immigration status checks – in some cases the failure to report has been made a criminal offence. 80,000 people are forced to queue up outside reporting centres every day while they are held in limbo, struggling to regularise their status.

As agreements and requirements deliver personal data to the Home Office to enable persecution of those whose status becomes irregular or who work without permission. They also block the provision of basic services. There are two aspects to these dystopian techniques. One is that survival becomes very difficult for many migrants. The other is its place in a broader deployment of highly invasive citizen-on-citizen surveillance in policing, often tied to the creation of huge databases and racially-biased automated processing. These modes of policing erode the fundamental protections of freedom in citizenship and re-define the meaning of public responsibility, so that citizens’ primary duty becomes to spy on each other rather than to protect each other’s rights.

FINANCIAL BARRIERS
Financial barriers combine with criminalisation to create the equivalent of a deadly ocean or desert for migrants: the lack of access to fundamental necessities such as shelter, healthcare and even food, and deprivation of basic rights such as education.

Asylum-seekers are trapped with no right to work, but receiving a minute allowance. The cost of renewing applications for settled status has increased by 238% in the last 5 years, including surcharges for the NHS. Meanwhile, legal aid has been cancelled for almost all immigration cases, and the category of those with ‘no recourse to public funds’ has expanded, meaning that people cannot access basic benefits such as child benefit, universal credit and disability benefits – effectively enforcing destitution.

These barriers operate as part of the aspect of border controls to do with resource enclosure. In the context of the slashing of public spending and increasing accumulation and privatisation of wealth (often referred to as ‘neoliberalism’) borders function to defend stolen wealth. Financial barriers make borders porous: the rich can move with their capital, and the poor are kept out or forced to produce profits as extremely precarious workers. Simultaneously, racialised boundaries are drawn around who can lay claim to public goods (while they are being slashed). Financial barriers deployed against migrants are also often the driving force in privatising service e.g. shifting culture of NHS from healthcare for all to those who can afford. The same is true for universities, as we will explore further in the next section.
WHAT IS THE BORDER REGIME?

EXTERNALISED & JUXTAPOSED BORDER CONTROL
The EU and its member states have also externalised border controls beyond their territory.
The EU negotiates billion-euro aid packages with so-called “priority countries” such as Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia and Mali where it estimates migration towards Europe can be effectively curbed. The Libyan coastguard are trained by EU officials and large sums of money are invested in migration control – including high-tech infrastructure and fence systems at African borders for which leading European tech and arms companies rake in profits. “Readmission agreements” enable rejected asylum seekers to be deported smoothly. The UK will stay in the steering group of the Khartoum Process even after Brexit. This ‘migration partnership’ between the EU and the Horn of Africa has been widely criticised for legitimising atrocities for example in Libya, where migrants are systematically detained and tortured.

In Calais, barbed-wire fences and the French riot police CRS are only the more visible forms of juxtaposed border controls. Under the 2003 Le Touquet Treaty, France has committed to halt immigration to the UK by carrying out immigration control in each other’s territory at the seaports. In 2018 the UK pledged to hand France £44.5 million for ‘extra security measures’ – i.e. the continuous eviction and demolition of makeshift camps and police abuse of migrants and volunteers.

MEDIA
The media manufactures panic and consent within the border regime. Dehumanising narratives circulated in national and local media have assisted each stage of far right mobilisation.

With the increased sensitivity of political parties to media image, the impression the media gives of ‘public opinion’ has direct impact on policy. Meanwhile, although many are staunchly anti-racist, ‘public’ opinion is also shaped by the media. The accumulation of anti-immigration sentiment has made large sections of the public willing to comply with an extremely discriminatory system. Many are also motivated to direct violence.

A tiny number of media ‘moghuls’ own most of the market. They use their disproportionate influence to further business and political agendas. Individual reporters who take an ethical stance can be bullied out of a job. Migrant voices are sidelined, there is blatant false reporting, and far right rhetoric is consistently mainstreamed. This is a structural...
BORDERS AT UNIVERSITY

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) department of the Home Office holds the threat of withdrawing universities’ visa sponsor licence that allows universities to support international students’ visas if universities do not comply. With cuts to education funding, uncapped international fees are crucial sources of funding to universities, which increasingly operate like businesses. UKVI issues vague ‘guidance’ to universities, which produce their own systems of risk assessment, requirements, monitoring, etc. Universities become responsible for excluding students who may have difficulty meeting financial requirements or finishing a course, and of surveilling and passing on information if there is a change in students’ visa status or if they discern a pattern in attendance that suggests a student may be working without Home Office permission.

Rather than prioritising students’ rights and well-being, universities create policies which give primacy to ‘effective compliance’ with the border regime and reducing what they term as ‘risk’. There is a proliferation of bureaucracies, check-points and training for compliance with no focus on the threat of discrimination. Universities are also overstepping UKVI guidance – for example, by creating the category of ‘high-risk countries’ for which academic and financial admissions requirements are more stringent, by enforcing more points of attendance monitoring than formally required and sub-contracting this monitoring to companies like SEAtS, and by maintaining extra close-links with the Home Office and refusing support to targeted students.

STAFF AS BORDER GUARDS

Universities are part of the system of surveillance under the hostile environment. Universities are required to monitor the immigration status of their students and collaborate closely with the Home Office to report irregularities. This turns staff – including those with teaching and welfare responsibilities – into border guards, and students’ learning environments into policing zones. While those with temporary status feel perpetually watched, those with irregular status are denied access to higher education entirely.

LONDON METROPOLITAN

Thousands of international students had their education endangered when UKVI cancelled this licence. This event is indicative of the Home Office policy of cracking down more harshly on what past Home Secretary Amber Rudd called ‘lower quality’ universities – that is, universities with less resources and more working class and PoC students.

UCL SPOT-CHECKS

In 2018 UCL staff received emails instructing to implement a range of monitoring activities, including spot-checks of students’ ID, alongside the threat of a £20,000 fine of those who failed to report irregularity in a student’s status. Staff expressed public outrage, and UCL finally retracted the instruction and issued an apology.

CONTROLLING DISSENT

As with businesses, border controls often allow universities to crack down on dissent, either with explicit intention, or as a by-product of the regime.

Universities are also employers, and with marketisation, they increasingly manage labour in the same way as profit-hungry corporations. More and more staff work on precarious contracts and large sections of operations are sub-contracted to external agencies (some of which are also involved in managing detention centres). In these work environments, the irregular status of migrants has been used to crush labour organising, and immigration policing requirements have also produced indirect restrictions.

Labour organising is central to any project of building a democratic, just university. As with all other parts of society, the border regime overlaps with other modes of policing and control to block this path to democratisation and justice, and consolidates the reproduction of inequality through the higher education sector.

SOAS

After a successful Justice for Cleaners campaign that won workers the Living Wage and trade union rights, ISS, the cleaning contractor, tricked and trapped staff with a fake ‘emergency’ meeting into a raid. The cleaners were locked in a room and interrogated one-by-one.

UCU STRIKES

During the sector-wide University and College Union (UCU) strikes against pension restructuring in 2018, staff discovered that attendance requirements under hostile environment policy endangered their jobs if they chose to strike. Mobilisation resulted in a change to policy so that strike action is a formal exception from these requirements.
Financial barriers in accessing and enjoying higher education are often unsurmountable borders for many. Money matters – and it matters even more when you have to pay huge amounts for things that should be free and obvious such as the right stay and live in the UK, healthcare and education. Going to university becomes a luxury, when it should be normal.

Many young people in the UK who are on the route to citizenship and have a temporary immigration status or a visa are precluded from accessing affordable higher education.

Exclusion from student finance: Most people with a Limited Leave to Remain have lost their right to a student loan in 2012 when a new education regulation came into effect. Campaigning groups such as Let Us Learn have resisted and secured some changes to the regulation. Still, large numbers of people fall through the gaps – if they have not have lived in the UK for either at least half of their lives, and cannot prove minimum of 3 years lawful status.

International student fees: International students and long-term UK residents with a temporary status are expected to pay up to four times as much as UK students.

Rocketing visa fees: In addition to rocketing visa fees, visa requirements have tightened to the extent that it is impossible especially for working class students to access education in the UK.

These are the bureaucratic equivalent of barbed fences, and their incorporation into university admissions recruits the higher education sector into the implementation of the border regime. As a result, universities become another part of the general struggle to stay afloat within the “hostile environment.”

We Belong

In 2014 a group of young people who were unable to take up their places at universities came together to make a change. They founded Let Us Learn and launched the Young, Gifted and Blocked campaign. The campaigners have since then expanded their organising to address and reclaim their right to citizenship. Read their most recent report “Normality is a Luxury”. It lays out the experiences of 14 young people and how the hostile environment and “limited leave to remain” is blighting their and other young people’s lives – www.letuslearn.study
CAMPAIGN AIMS

We fight for the public university, and for our capacity as students and workers to claim our freedom and collectively re-constitute citizenship from below.

We want to transform universities into democratic spaces of critical knowledge making, oriented towards the well-being of its members and social good. We will dismantle the processes and systems that turn universities into cogs in the production of inequality and exclusion. We refuse to reinforce delimitations on who may move, who may belong and who may live with dignity.

Our organising looks towards this vision of a just university and the university as refuge. In the shorter term, we will leverage our resources as student campaigners to help build power in the national movement for migrants’ rights.

The current border regime extends its claws into every area of our lives. Our campaign aims to crush these claws where we, as students, can reach them.

**OUR CAMPAIGN AIMS TO CRUSH THESE CLAWS WHERE WE, AS STUDENTS, CAN REACH THEM.**

1. **We aim** to reverse the spread of hostile environment mechanisms of surveillance through the university, and to block any further advance.

2. **We aim** to turn the university actively against the scheme of denying access and erecting financial barriers: by designating students with temporary status under ‘home’ fee status, offering full bursaries and providing other financial and administrative support.

3. **We aim** to publicise our campaign as widely as possible, to help delegitimise anti-immigration policies, and to establish the possibility of universities as one of many sites of sanctuary for migrants.

All of these components of the campaign hit at the intersection between the border regimes and other processes blocking the possibility of a public university: marketisation (including the casualisation of labour) and anti-democratic bureaucratisation, as well as the increased policing of dissent and constraints on critical knowledge production. As with all other struggles for migrants’ rights, the fight to dismantle the border regime gets to the heart of what is eating away at our collective freedom.

PLEDGE AGAINST THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

Our strategy to do this is based around a ‘Pledge Against the Hostile Environment’ that we are launching this year. Students will campaign for the Vice-Chancellor and the major unions on campus to publicly sign this pledge.

The pledge is a standard declaration across universities that asserts a condemnation of hostile environment policies and commits to creating a sanctuary from these within the university.

**Concretely, the “Pledge Against the Hostile Environment” commits to:**

1. Prioritising the human rights and data protection of students and staff, and its duty of care towards them, over surveillance for the Home Office, thus reducing compliance to a bare minimum.

2. Classifying students with temporary immigration status as ‘home’ students for fee purposes and offering them financial and administrative support.

Organising for firewalls against data-sharing has worked phenomenally in the NHS and in schools. However, the threat of losing the visa sponsorship licence – to the great detriment of international students – makes it difficult to campaign for total boycott as a first step in universities, particularly without an existing unified movement. A public condemnation is a powerful first move in building this kind of movement, and also provides material for campaigning which challenges the legality and legitimacy of the system as a whole. The assertion of the primacy of duties towards students and staff over duties towards the Home Office can provide grounds to push back against the proliferation of attendance checks, risk assessments, unequal admission requirements, discriminatory training, etc. Staff currently forced into complicity with the border regime may also gain courage to reveal and resist implementation at multiple sites.

Although several universities now provide a few refugee scholarships after powerful student-campaigning, a lot of these provisions have been couched in the language of giving places to single bright individuals. There is also still very little support for migrants with temporary status. This pledge demands financial support for migrants within the frame of refusing the hostile undercutting of migrants’ right to education – that is, in the name of a public university.

See the pledge here: peopleandplanet.org/undoing-borders
STEP 1: BUILD YOUR GROUP

To organise effectively, you will need to start building a group that can share the work and assert collective power.

REACH OUT
Speak to people you know who might be interested. Put out a call on social media for others to join you. Contact groups that do anything related whose members might want to get involved. Ask your SU officers to put you in touch with others.

RECRUIT
Have a presence at freshers’ fairs or any equivalents, and at events where there will be a large attendance. Do shout-outs (e.g. at lectures) and have sign up sheets.

OPEN MEETING
It’s good to have a next step for anyone you’re trying to recruit. Meet face to face and discuss some initial plans to consolidate the group. Create a Facebook event and publicise in advance for maximum reach. At the end of the meeting, work out some way of keeping in touch and when you will next meet.

RESOURCES
Check out the Movement building Guide on the People & Planet website for more detailed advice.

STEP 2: RESEARCH & PLAN

The nature of border policing at universities means there is no single policy across all universities, so it will be necessary to research specifics – and helpful if you feed that back into People & Planet! However, it is good practice in all campaigns to do some research and plan your strategy before beginning.

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY POLICY
The purpose of this initial research is to get an overall sense of what you are up against before you begin. Don’t get too bogged down in the details; you will find out more along the way.

Start forming links with unions – your SU officers may have or be able to obtain information, but particularly staff unions e.g. UCU will provide access to networks of staff who are forced to implement/are on the receiving end of these policies so can offer detailed knowledge. Contact the Justice for Workers group if there is one on campus.

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY
In a group, create an outline of your strategy for the year. Think about who are the decision-makers you need to target, and what are the various ways of putting pressure on them, and who might be your allies in the process.

Think up a rough timeline for when and how to use these tactics. Timelines should seek to build up support for the group and pressure on university management over time.

RESEARCH WHAT HAS BEEN DONE
Because of the high rate of turnover at universities, research and organising work that has already been done often gets lost, and different groups may not realise they are running related campaigns. Reach out to those who may know – e.g. SU Officers, other groups, often PhD students or staff who have been around longer. You can also contact People & Planet to put you in touch with campaigns at other universities.

RESOURCES
Check out www.whatdotheyknow.com for guidance on filing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, and to see past FOIs filed. Or you can ask People & Planet to conduct a strategy workshop at your uni.
STEP 3: GRAB ATTENTION & EDUCATE

This stage is a crucial part of building your group and broad-based support for it, and also imprinting a commitment to migrants’ rights on students and staff as they pass through the university. Make sure that you’re getting out a clear message about your demand – for the VC to publicly sign the pledge.

**LEAFLETING, POSTERS & STALLS**
Put up posters everywhere spreading your campaign message and calling people to join. Set up stalls on lecture sites and hand out leaflet and chat to people. Leaflet in halls, or in places where students and staff gather.

**TALKS, WORKSHOPS & FILM SCREENINGS**
Invite speakers for panel discussions or workshops. Screen a film like … to get people invested in the issue. Co-host with existing groups.

**CREATIVE ACTIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS**
Do some actions that are eye-catching, either aesthetically or because of the numbers involved. Do a banner drop, a protest with props, or leave a strong visual message somewhere symbolically significant in the university. For ideas, look up groups that have used aesthetics effectively, like Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants or Sisters Uncut.

**PETITIONS & OPEN LETTERS**
It’s useful to have an easy-access way for people to be involved, and also to have a tangible record of widespread support you can refer to while campaigning. Think about ways to keep your petition or open letter circulating – do coordinated shares on social media, ask people to sign it at stalls while leafleting, email it out to mailing lists you’ve compiled from events, and try to get news of it into the student press.

**MEDIA**

A focus on media is necessary to grab and maintain attention, and therefore to building supporting and putting pressure on university management. But also, it’s useful to keep in mind the ‘media’ component of the border regime – intervening in all levels of media is vital to cut off the circulation of racist narratives of immigration and break widespread consent for border policing.

**TAKE STOCK OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE**
Do you have a student press? Are there other student media outlets – e.g. magazines, radio, podcasts? What about local media? Which national outlets seem to have sympathetic journalists? While considering how to use media, think about whom you’re targeting, and what the reach of the outlet it.

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH JOURNALISTS**
Getting coverage and getting your message into coverage if easier if you have relationships with journalists. Try to build relationships over time with student and local journalists wherever possible – or if available, with national.

**HAVE A MEDIA TEAM**
This can be a rotating role, but it also ensures that the media work happens, and allows people to gain the necessary skills.

**PLANNING ACTIONS**
Think about what sorts of actions are likely to get media attention and reach on social media. Ensure that you inform a media outlet(s) prior to an action. Arrange for someone to take photos/videos, and always do a social media post afterwards and coordinate shares to get reach.

**RESOURCES**
Check out the media guide on the People and Planet website, or ask People & Planet for a media training workshop.
**STEP 4: APPROACH THE UNIONS**

One of the campaign goals is to have all major unions at your university sign the pledge. Borders on campus affect both students and staff—and affect precarious workers particularly harshly in universities where large proportions of cleaning, catering and security staff are migrant workers. Resistance to the advance of the border regime must be fought by students and staff in solidarity.

As we have seen earlier in the guide, managing labour and controlling workers’ organised dissent is central to the ways that the border regime operates. A campaign against borders that centres workers’ justice attacks the lynchpins of the regime and commits itself to a genuine vision of democratisation, which has to challenge the relationships of finance and labour that structure the universities-as-corporations we see today.

Submit a motion to your Student Union. You may have already formed relationships with staff unions in the process of researching and building support. Some unions will already be heavily involved in migrants’ justice organising—such as IWGB and UVW. Some branches of UCU may have passed the Unis Resist Border Controls motion already. Find a few contacts in each union and find out the formal process for passing policy. Suggest that they follow this process to pass the pledge as policy. Keep following up.

Remember that you want to be gaining unions’ formal public support for the pledge (both as a goal in itself and to provide further strength to the campaign), but you also want to be building relationships and organising together in the future. Also reciprocate the support: stand in solidarity with workers’ struggles when your support is needed!

**STEP 5: NEGOTIATE / ESCALATE**

Management may have agreed to meet with you.

**BE COOL**

- **Take on the group dynamics:** Go in a group, or at least as pairs, and make a detailed record of what is said. Try to research before into the people who will be present: what their inclinations may be and their level of influence in the decision-making process—e.g. at some universities, the Chief Financial Officer has disproportionate influence.

- **Be prepared:** with your arguments and supporting evidence, and also a strategy of exactly what you are trying to get out of a meeting and the best way to do so.

- **HOLD THEM TO ACCOUNT!**

  - Don’t allow them to water down the pledge either in its public condemnation of the hostile environment or in its concrete commitments to minimising compliance and providing financial support to those with temporary status. See pg 28 on following through.

- **USE PRINT AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

  - Keep people updated—make regular public statements on the process. Exercise some caution about when and what to release, but remember that your accountability is to the movement and not to university management. It is important to keep these processes in the public eye to balance the power dynamics stunting the negotiations heavily to their side.

- **DON’T BE DISHEARTENED!**

  - It is very possible that you may not get what you wanted out of these. This is just a stage in the process. Stick to your fight and regroup and escalate if necessary.
**STEP 5: NEGOTIATE / ESCALATE**

If management are refusing to agree to demands, or even refusing to meet in the first place, it’s time to turn up the heat. Mass movements, including student campaigns, have always won by being disruptive and asserting their collective power. You are the university! Reclaim it!

**REGROUP**
Get together to reassert your commitment and strategise a plan for escalation. As with all strategy plans, you should have targets and reasons for your actions.

**SCALE UP DRAMATIC ACTIONS**
- e.g., chalk-spray a symbolic location

**ATTACK PR**
Universities are increasingly focused on their public image in order to attract students, research funding and investors. Appropriate one of their ongoing PR campaigns, organise a twitter storm, or target open days.

**OBSTRUCT**
Physically disrupt administrative processes by organising blockades (physical or even of their phone lines) and maybe an occupation. Attack financial interests, e.g. by running a campaign to stop alumni donations until the pledge is signed.

**RESOURCES**
Check out the media guide on the People and Planet website, or ask People & Planet for a media training workshop.

**STEP 6: WIN**

There may be a cycle back and forth between negotiating and escalating, but at some point, you will win! The VC will sign the pledge. But don’t just leave it at that – the win needs to be public across the university, locally and ideally even nationally in order to take fully effect.

**CELEBRATE**
You just won. Have a party. We have to celebrate when mass democratic power gains victory for justice.

**MEDIA**
It’s absolutely vital that this victory gets as wide coverage as possible. Contact People & Planet for further support in this process.

**BUILD NETWORKS**
We need to share our skills and tactics when they are successful. Get in touch with other student organisers for Undoing Borders campaigns, or those involved with other migrants’ rights organisations. Apply to be a regional organiser in the People & Planet network.

**FOLLOW THROUGH**
The pledge is part of the win, but management has to come through on their commitments in order to concretely block the advance of the hostile environment in the university. See the next page for more.
STEP 7: FOLLOW THROUGH

Remember, even if your demands have been met, the campaign isn’t over! You will need to follow up to make sure the institution does what it said it will. Don’t be shy – you won’t lose your gains you’ve made by keeping the campaign going; keeping up the pressure means your university is more likely to stick to its word and take your demands seriously.

Follow through on the Undoing Borders campaign aims and hold your university to account on the commitments in the Pledge Against the Hostile Environment:

- Get your university to reverse the infiltration of hostile environment into campus by reviewing their monitoring and surveillance mechanisms in line with putting student and staff rights first. Campaign to block any further advance on the discriminatory surveillance of students and staff.
- Remind your university of their duties under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (including the right of everyone to education), the EU General Data Protection Regulation (including its principles of data minimisation, purpose limitation and storage limitation), the UK Human Rights Act (including Article 8: right to privacy and Article 14 against discrimination), and the UK Equality Act (including the universities’ Public Sector Equality Duty).
- Get your university to provide full bursaries and other financial and administrative support for students with a temporary status. We will not allow our peers with limited leave to remain or any other type of temporary status to be denied their right to public education.
- Publicise your campaign as widely as possible! If your VC or one of the major unions on campus have signed or are about to sign the pledge – go big and make a fuss about it. This is a powerful tool for deligitimising anti-immigration policies and the Hostile Environment as a whole.

PRACTICAL SOLIDARITY & GROUPS

DETAINEE SUPPORT GROUPS

When you think of the thousands of people in immigration detention across the UK, you might find yourself overwhelmed and struggling to come up with practical ways to support those behind bars, let alone to end detention. There are, however, different ways to do solidarity work and to support people in detention here and now. Groups such as SOAS Detainee Support in London or the Unity Centre in Glasgow give practical support and organise solidarity actions to break the isolation of immigration detention. This support can go from speaking to people in detention on the phone or visiting them to organising direct actions in front of detention centres. Contact us if you need support, email: undoingborders@peopleandplanet.org

DEPORTATION ACTION

There are different forms of exercising practical solidarity to resist deportations. Knowing the law and powers of immigration officers and police can help protect you and other people: if you or someone else you know could benefit from advice on their case, you can turn to organisations such as Right to Remain and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). Different tactics are used to delay deportations such as phone blockades when someone’s deportation time is known and people call up and tweet at airlines asking them not to assist in deporting someone. Check out End Deportations – a collective campaign calling for the abolition of deportations and detention centres.

RESISTANCE ON CAMPUS

When our peers, fellow students and staff on campus are under risk of detention and deportation it is for all of us to stand up and resist. Unis Resist Border Controls (URBC) have led on campaigning and casework support to international students & staff across the UK. URBC is a national campaign made up of British, EU, non-EU, migrant students, lecturers, & university workers opposed to Home Office surveillance, the Hostile Environment, and border controls on UK campuses: unisresistbordercontrol.org.uk

RESISTING IMMIGRATION RAIDS

Every day, people are resisting immigration raids in our communities. There are many different ways of standing in solidarity and supporting their struggles – from giving out information on their legal rights in different languages to gathering groups of people to challenge raid squads. Find out more: antiraids.net
A WALL IS JUST A WALL AND NOTHING MORE AT ALL. IT CAN BE BROKEN DOWN

- ASSATA SHAKUR

USEFUL RESOURCES

GET EDUCATED!

Here is a list of some of the useful resources and organisations out there:

BORDERS & WALLS

- The UK Border Regime – a critical guide, Corporate Watch (can be downloaded for free on the Corporate Watch homepage), corporatewatch.org
- Migration Control – who gets paid to stops the worlds refugees?, migration-control.taz.de
- Refugee Rights Europe, refugeerights.org.uk
- Anti-Raids Network, antiraids.net
- Detained Voices, detainedvoices.com

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

- A Guide to the Hostile Environment, Liberty, libertyhumanright.org.uk
- Unis Resist Border Control, unisresistbordercontrols.org.uk
- Patients Not Passports Toolkit, Docs Not Cops, patientsnotpassports.co.uk

IMMIGRATION RULES & CITIZENSHIP

- Normality is a Luxury, Let Us Learn, letuslearn.study
- Right to Remain Toolkit, righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit
- Free Movement, freemovement.org.uk

There are lots more resources available for you to use in your campaign on our website. Contact us if you want us to run a training on campus, including Undoing Borders campaign training, media spokesperson training or campaign strategy training.

Logos, fonts and graphics can all be downloaded from the People & Planet website.
THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read the Undoing Borders Action Guide! We hope it will be useful in planning and running your campaign. Remember to contact People & Planet for support with all the different aspects of this as well as letting us know how you’re doing so we can publicise your progress to the wider movement!

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