

Genevieve says :

I left Nigeria when I was 13 and went to the USA. In 1999 I came to the UK and married by husband who is British. I went back to Nigeria in 2004 for a visit, and had FGM forced on me. when I came back to the UK I was attacked and raped on the way back from church one night. The police were never able to catch the man who did that. I have not claimed asylum, I have been here under article 8 .

I was 11months in Yarlswood, and was released in June this year. I was brought in in a wheelchair as I have left sided paralysis from a stroke, also enlarged heart, angina, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure. The stroke left me doubly incontinent.

I should not have been in detention at all as I had told them and they knew that I had been tortured – having been subjected to FGM and rape in 2004. But I was still detained.

Care plan done but not carried out. I did not get personal care.

They kept on not getting me Diapers. Sarah Jones from Yarlswood befrienders, had to buy them and bringin for me. I soiled myself a lot of times because I didn't have them. Should have been Serco that gave them to me, but they said it was up to Immigration to provide them, and they did not have the money to provide me with them, and it was not in the Serco contract.

There was no privacy when I needed them, I had to ask for them at the office and it was often a man that was there. For my care I had to depend on other detainees kindness. One woman was very good in helping to provide my personal care, but she was deported and I had to start again.

Assess arrangements were not done for me. There was a bar to help me in the bathroom but it was at the wrong side and they had to move it. Also there were steps into the bathroom and I had to wait for ramp to be put in, and was just able to be wiped down in my room till it was done.

All this badly affected me mentally

The Dining room is upstairs, and breakfast is served at 8 . The only lift is outside. Even if weather bad. Door to lift not open till 9. There are a few others with crutches and sticks. You had to be there for 8.05 or you missed breakfast . I had to wait for an officer who had a key to the door to the outside to come to take me in the lift, if he was late I missed my breakfast. This was bad for my diabetes. Anyone who was late for breakfast for any reason missed it, and some women are not well and not up and ready in time.

You are allowed to bring milk downstairs, so I had bowl with a lid for it. Then one day I was told I could not as it was not in a cup. I was angry about this and the Manager had to be called. they said I had to have the milk. But they gave it to me hot, and would not give me any help to carry it. I only have the right arm I can use, and I need that to move my wheelchair. It spilt on my lap and I was badly scalded. Health care is not open till 9. The nurse on duty stripped me and saw how badly scalded I was. It had badly scalded my private area. She said she had nothing for burns, covered with my lower half with paper. My legs had to be spread eagled out as they could not touch each other and I taken back to my room till 9 when the other health care staff came. But nobody came . I rang my solicitor, and he faxed the centre and so they sent a doctor Dr. the skin had peeled off.

Dr took me to health care, and someone was sent out to a pharmacy and bought dressings. I had to stay in bed for 2 weeks. This was longer than it should have taken as I was incontinent, and did not have the diapers I needed.

The meals were very starchy, and I did not have any different food to the others. I gained 2 or 3 stones. Diabetes is now worse, and my blood sugars have gone wrong, so my doctor is not having to sort this out.

They cannot remove me to Nigeria as I am so ill I need a lot of care and the government there will only accept me if my husband and daughter come with me to look after me. But they are British and do not want to go to such an unsafe country.

Putting me into detention has had no purpose at all, has been extremely distressing for myself and my family. It has made my daughter ill.