



## **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF DETENTION**

Parliament is launching an inquiry into detention in the UK. The inquiry is taking testimony from people who have gone through detention. Tell us your thoughts on detention to help René Cassin change the immigration detention system.

**NAME:** Indiana Amedu

**ARE YOU OVER 18:** YES/NO

**DATES IN DETENTION:** 3 years ago for almost 3 weeks

**WHERE YOU UNDER 18 AT ANY POINT DURING THE TIME YOU WERE DETAINED:**  
YES/NO

**NAME OF DETENTION FACILITY:** YARL'S WOOD

**1. What were your experiences of living in immigration detention, including the context and duration of your stay?**

It's very terrible, you can't go and move when and where you want, eat what you want, you can't sleep, and there is a lot of noise. I was just taken there suddenly, they put me on vehicle and took me there, I don't even know where is it. I just know that it was outside London, it was far, very far and terrible, so terrible.

**2. What were the conditions in immigration detention like, including your ability to access services such as legal advice, healthcare, pastoral support?**

In the centre, there is information, people there helped me to contact a lawyer, I managed to see him after 2 weeks and he helped me. But access to healthcare was a problem, once I had an appointment in a hospital because I need to take a treatment but they did not let me go, also I had to ask and ask again. I finally managed to get another appointment but I had to wait hours there, and they didn't give me the treatment.

**3. Were there any longer-term impacts of detention on you, your family and/or your wider community?**



Those 3 weeks have been the worse of my life, my daughter just managed to visit me once because it was too far and it was really a terrible experience. I can't wish to anybody to experience this. It was 3 years ago and I don't want to talk about it more, I don't like to remember it because it was really tough, it's too painful just to talk about it, I don't want to have to remember this time because it was really hard for me.

**4. Is there any other information about detention that you would like to share?**

Despite the fact I don't want to talk anymore about this, I still want to help because no one should live this like me. But I can't speak about it now, it's too painful but maybe next week, I can add information.