

RESPONSE TO THE DEATH OF AMIR SIMAN-TOV AT COLNBROOK DETENTION CENTRE

René Cassin's director Mia Hasenson-Gross

"Our thoughts go out to the man's family and loved ones. This tragic incident once again highlights the lethal policy of indefinite detention. The evidence that detention is harmful is indisputable. Over 400 migrants, mainly men, are held indefinitely at Colnbrook Detention Centre. The fact that this man is Jewish connects to our community, but this is a policy that affects over 30,000 migrants who are held indefinitely every year in the UK.

René Cassin has long been campaigning and lobbying for a time limit. Last year we took a [group of Rabbis](#) to Harmondsworth Detention Centre which is next door to Colnbrook, and this April we will be leading an interfaith delegation to Parliament to raise this issue again.

Report after report has shown that the system is broken, the Minister for Immigration, James Brokenshire has promised "*significant and transformative reform*" but sadly this news shows that this is not happening quickly enough.

Indefinite detention is a destructive, costly and indefensible system that no other country in the EU practices. However, it is the voices of those who have been through the detention system that resonate most loudly on this issue, [Freed Voices](#) (a group of experts by experience on detention) have stated in response to the death yesterday that *'It is maybe a strange thing to say but this is not really surprising to anyone who has experienced indefinite detention first-hand. Detention kills your mind, it kills your soul...and sometimes it just kills. How many more people have to have their lives destroyed before we see real change?'*