

## URGENT | FAO: THE HOME SECRETARY

Saturday 25 February 2017

The Rt. Hon. Amber Rudd MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary,

### RE: URGENT – DEPORTATION OF SHIROMINI SATKUNARAJAH

We are writing urgently to request that you use the power granted to you as Home Secretary to stop the deportation, this coming Tuesday, of Shiromini Satkunarajah.

Shiromini is a student of electronic engineering at Bangor University, and is due to complete her degree in just three months' time. She has been a model student throughout her degree and has contributed to the local community.

Indeed Dr Iestyn Pierce, Head of the School of Electronic Engineering at Bangor University has said: "Over the years I have known her, she has proven to be exceptionally able and diligent. I have no doubt that ... Shiromini would achieve first class honours."

She first arrived in the United Kingdom from Sri Lanka when she was just 12 years old. After her father died in 2011, she and her mother were granted Discretionary Leave to Remain until the end of her GCSEs.

They then applied for further Leave to Remain which would have allowed Shiromini to complete her A Levels. This was initially refused, but granted on appeal, after Shiromini mentioned her desire to attend university. This lasted until December 2014, just before her first set of university examinations. A further Leave to Remain request to allow Shiromini to complete her degree was denied and in August 2016, she and her mother attempted to claim asylum.

It is understood that their claim of asylum has been denied. On the request of the authorities, Shiromini and her mother have been reporting to the local police station. However, a day before being due to travel to London to seek counsel on further asylum or Leave to Remain requests, they have now been transferred to Yarl's Wood Detention Centre and are due to be deported this Tuesday, 28 February 2017.

We remind you, Home Secretary, that Shiromini has lived in and contributed to the United Kingdom since 2011, yet she is still only 20 years old. It is our belief that it would be particularly callous to

remove her to a country where she has no social or cultural ties, at an age where it is generally accepted that if she were a British national, she would still be able to live at home with her mother.

We also remind you of the value that Shiromini can bring to her local community and to the United Kingdom. We know that the United Kingdom is experiencing a concerning skills gap in STEM subjects. As a prospective First Class graduate of engineering, Shiromini clearly has the potential to contribute positively to the United Kingdom. To deprive the United Kingdom of that is unfathomable.

We object to what we believe to be an inhumane decision to deport Shiromini to Sri Lanka. She has no family there, she has no friends there, and she has already contributed so much to the United Kingdom.

We also draw your attention to [this Change.org petition](#) which, at the time of writing, has 5,636 signatures.

As Home Secretary, you have the power to intervene. We request that you act urgently over the weekend to stop the deportation of Shiromini and her mother.

We are copying this letter to MP for Arfon Hywel Williams MP, AM for Arfon Siân Gwenllïan AM, Shadow of Secretary of State for Wales Christina Rees MP, Secretary of State for Wales Rt. Hon. Alun Cairns MP, and First Minister of Wales Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM.

Yours sincerely,



**Carmen Smith**  
Deputy President, NUS Wales



**Helen Marchant**  
Vice President Education and Welfare, Undeb  
Bangor Students' Union