

B5 Language around Migration

Proposer: Matthew Hull (Camden Green Party)
Agenda item: B Motions

Synopsis

This motion identifies and resists a specific genre of speech and argument around migration, calling on all persons and parties to resist its usage.

People defending net-inwards migration often resort to arguing from migrants' importance in various sectors of the economy, such as food supply chains, NHS staffing, care work, and many more. While generally meaning to defend migration, these arguments can often characterise migrants as an economic resource to be exploited for the comfort of domestic consumers; at other times, these arguments can speak to a fear that, without net-inward migration, British-born workers will be required to do work that is characterised as degrading, precarious, and badly-compensated. These arguments do not speak to migrants' rights to safety and security in work, nor their inalienable right to exist in this country; they do not build solidarity with migrants as fellow human beings and workers; instead, they reinforce the Right's framing of immigration as merely an economic metric to be optimised for our comfort, rather than a right of people to move across national borders.

This motion therefore calls on all in the public sphere to resist this framing of immigration, to speak for migrants' rights, and to dignify migrants, migration and the work they do as equal to that of British-born workers.

1 The Young Greens believes that language around migration should unstintingly
2 dignify migration, migrants, and the work they do; notes that certain ostensibly
3 pro-immigration commentators regularly characterise migrants as a resource to be
4 exploited, especially in strategic and undersupplied areas of the labour market
5 such as health and care work, as a tactic to support net-inward migration; notes
6 that this tactic characterises migration as an economic metric to be optimised
7 for the comfort of British-born individuals rather than an inalienable right to
8 traverse national borders; notes that this reinforces a rightwing framing of the
9 immigration debate, which depresses solidarity between workers and dehumanises
10 migrants; calls on all in the public sphere to resist such framings of migration
11 and to reinforce instead the equal rights of migrants to live and work in the
12 United Kingdom.