



The Chairman
Home Affairs Committee

Committee Office House of Commons 7 Millbank London SW1P 3JA
Tel 020 7219 3276 Email homeaffcom@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/homeaffcom

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DF

URGENT

2 April 2014

Dear Theresa

Yashika Bageerathi

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to request that you urgently reconsider the decision to deport Yashika Bageerathi. I understand that she is due to be deported this evening.

James Brokenshire and Mandie Campbell explained to the Committee that, in their view, the relevant case-law and guidance indicate that Yashika should be deported. However, they were able to offer no compelling reason as to why her deportation was so urgent that it should prevent her from sitting her AS level examinations next month.

It is hardship enough for this young woman to be separated from her family and returned to Mauritius, where she claims she fears persecution. To interrupt her education at this late stage in order to do so seems needlessly cruel. It would be a simple and uncontroversial act of clemency to release her from detention and defer her deportation for a few weeks so that she can complete her education, and her case can be properly reconsidered. If she were then to be deported, it would at least be with the benefit of the qualifications for which she has studied so hard.

It is within your gift as Home Secretary to defer Yashika's deportation, and I strongly urge you to do so. You would have the strong backing of the Home Affairs Committee and, I believe, most colleagues in the House.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, James Brokenshire and David Burrowes.

With best wishes
yours
Keith

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
Committee Chair