

Dear Home Secretary and the United Kingdom Courts,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you regarding Shamima Begum.

My name is Megan Pearson and I was a teacher of Miss Shamima Begum at the Bethnal Green Academy. As an educator of Shamima Begum, I can say with certainty that she was a shining and brilliant student and individual and I beg that Shamima should be permitted back into the United Kingdom.

Shamima Begum was 15 years old when she became radicalized by the Islamic State, fled her home in London to head to Syria, and entered the Islamic State, marrying one of its soldiers. Mrs. Begum, who is now 19 years old and pregnant with her third child, fled to a refugee camp in northern Syria. Upon meeting a British reporter there, she has made one thing clear to the United Kingdom's Government, she wanted to go home.

I have been researching this matter and have discovered that Shamima's actions have mixed opinions among the worldwide populace, this includes outside of Britain. Until the age of 18, the United Kingdom Government should have had an obligation of responsibility to protect Shamima Begum from harm under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This can include measures to get in contact with her and return her home from Syria, as well as providing her psychological assistance and recovery whenever she returns to the United Kingdom. As Shamima Begum was 15 years of age at the time she left to join ISIS, the United Kingdom should have made more of an effort into ensuring her safety as she was still a child!

The Minority Rights Group International and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion are deeply perturbed with the Home Secretary Sajid Javid's conclusion that Shamima Begum is denied of her British citizenship which results in making Shamima stateless. The Official Chief of The Minority Rights Group International, Joshua Castellino has said 'Depriving one's citizenship could be a draconian punishment, especially in response to an action that was taken by Shamima Begum when she was still a child.'

I agree with Joshua Castellino's statement completely as when Shamima left the United Kingdom to travel to Syria she was 15 years of age. Under The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, it defines a child as everyone under 18 unless, "under the law applicable to the child, a majority is attained earlier". In England, a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. Moreover, Joshua Castellino also states that 'these kinds of measures only create further exclusion, instead of bringing Shamima Begum home and holding her accountable for any potential wrong-doing with due process of law, the United Kingdom shuts the door in her face, condemning her to live in legal and factual limbo with no protection of the law and risking further exposure to radicalization for herself and her child.' In addition to this, her mental state could be

massively affected due to her lacking a place of belonging and her wavering identity. This comments on how her mental health has been effected. In an article released by the Telegraph, Shamima Begum said she is struggling with mental health issues after the death of her three children and wants to be able to stand trial in the UK. I believe this is evidence that she should be able to return back to the United Kingdom as she has lost all three of her children and is willing to stand trial in the United Kingdom for her actions.

More justification as to why Shamima Begum must be permitted to return to the United Kingdom is that the British Nationality Act 1981 does not allow British nationals to be prohibited from re-entry if they are rendered stateless and without citizenship, but there are exceptions. Nevertheless, depriving Shamima of nationality and rendering her and her child without any nationality at all and without state may very well be contradictory to Article 3 of the 1998 Human Rights Act on Inhumane and Degrading Treatment, Article 3 specifies that "no one shall be subjected to torture or inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment." It is known to be a "absolute right" without question. Bangladesh verified that Shamima Begum is not a Bangladeshi national, and Abdul Momen, Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, informed the BBC that Shamima Begum will face the death penalty for terrorism if she did come to Bangladesh, and said that Shamima had nothing to do with his country. In addition to this, our Government and the United Kingdom authorities also stated that international humanitarian law validates the intention to deny her of her British nationality on consideration that Shamima has Bangladeshi origin, since her mother holds Bangladeshi nationality , then renders Shamima eligible for citizenship from the South Asian nation of Bangladesh, the British Government proceeds to do so despite the fact that they are aware about what the Government of Bangladesh as well as its Foreign Minister have declared and made our British authorities and the worldwide media conscious of it.

Yours sincerely,
Megan Genevieve Pearson.

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