

### Part 1: Human rights, immigration & the legal system

*Over the last few years, there has been considerable media attention given to the question of immigration and human rights. A number of politicians have been involved in the debate, with some expressing their opposition to court rulings that have prevented the deportation of foreign criminals, suspected terrorists and migrants who have broken immigration rules, such as overstaying their visas, on grounds of human rights.*

Please start each part of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number, sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply. It is best to use initials instead of real names.

*Part one of this Directive is an appeal for your views on these issues and on the broader topics of human rights, the law and immigration.*

#### Your experiences

Before you start, please describe any experiences you have had with immigrants (or whatever term you feel is most appropriate for people settling in this country for whatever reason). For example, you may live in an area where immigrants have settled, or you may work with people who have recently arrived in Britain.

Perhaps you are (or have been) an immigrant? Or there may be instances of this in your own family history? Please give details.

#### Human rights

How would you define human rights? What are they? Do you think they are important? If so, why?

Are human rights for everybody, or are there some people who don't 'deserve' human rights?

Have you ever had one of your human rights denied? We would be interested to hear your story.

#### The Courts

In recent years, there have been a number of news stories about court cases where judges have stopped immigrants from being removed or deported from the UK on the grounds of their human rights. David Cameron has often criticised these decisions and some media reports have suggested that judges are being 'too soft' on immigrants. Is this something that concerns you? Can you remember any news stories which made you feel strongly about this issue? Please give details.

Do you think that the government is right to criticise the decisions made by judges in courts? Please explain your views as thoroughly as possible.

On the other hand, do you think it's right that judges should be able to challenge decisions made by the Government when it comes to immigration? What do you think about judges challenging government decisions in general?

Have you heard of the European Convention on Human Rights or the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg? What do you think about them?

Some people criticise the Convention and the Court by saying they are foreign and therefore shouldn't influence the UK's legal system. What do you think about this?

## **Immigrants and Human Rights**

In immigration cases, some migrants have requested to stay in the UK because their human rights would be breached if they were removed from the country. What do you think about this?

Should some immigrants be entitled to greater protection for their rights than other immigrants? If so, who and why?

Another issue is whether the Government is ever right to make a migrant leave if there is a risk that they might be subjected to torture in their home country. What are your views about this?

Migrants who have close family in the UK and/or have lived here for many years can in some cases argue that they should be allowed to remain here because of their right to private or family life, even though the Government want to remove them. What do you think about this?

Finally, should UK citizens be entitled to greater protection for their rights than immigrants?

## Part 2: Spiritualism

Please start part 2 of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

*In the second part of the Directive we would like you to write about spiritualism. This is not a topic that is often discussed, so we would value accounts of any experience of the topic which you have had either personally or know about through conversations with people you know or from TV, books and films.*

*We realise that not everyone will have had personal experience of the topics outlined in this Directive and that many people do not believe that such encounters are possible. We would like to archive responses that represent all viewpoints, as well as responses from those who are unsure of how they feel about the subject, so please respond, even if you can only write a few lines on this topic.*

### Before you start...

Quickly jot down five immediate phrases or thoughts that come to mind when you think of spiritualism. We are interested in your immediate reaction to the term.

### Near-death experiences

Have you ever had a near-death experience? If yes, please write about the experience in as much detail as possible. We are interested in:

- When and how this happened?
- Were you alone, who was with you?
- What was the experience like? Did you see, hear, feel or smell anything while this was happening?
- Do you have any thoughts on why/how you came back?
- Has this experience impacted you physically and or emotionally? Has it changed your thoughts or opinions on the possibility of an afterlife?

If you have not had a personal experience but you know someone who has, please describe their experience.

If you have had no personal experience, do you believe it is even possible? What are your thoughts?

### Telepathy

Have you ever had experience of telepathy or of communicating with another person, animal, or a spirit by means other than the known senses? If yes, please describe your experience. You may wish to respond to the following prompts:

- When and how did this happen?
- How did the message come through? Were you the recipient? Or was another person involved? E.g. a medium
- Who was trying to communicate with you? What did they want? Was the messenger known to you? Or did they have any special links to you?

- Please say if your experience was connected to medication, substance use, or the practice of any religious or spiritual acts.
- How did you find the experience?

Have you ever known something was going to happen before it did (i.e. phone ringing, guest arriving unexpectedly)? Please describe.

What about knowing in advance about something distressing, an injury or death of someone loved either nearby or at a distance?

If you have **not had any personal experience** what are your thoughts and opinions on the ability of people to be telepathic?

### **Déjà vu and dreams**

Have you ever experienced déjà vu, or had a strong sensation that you have already experienced something before? What was it like? What are your thoughts on why this happened?

What about dreams? Have you or anyone you know, ever had an experience of a dream coming true? Please give details.

### **For everybody...**

Can you recall any books or films/tv programmes that dealt with near-death experience, telepathy or déjà vu? How was this portrayed?

Do you think that communication between the dead and the living is possible?

Have you ever tried to communicate with any dead love ones? For example, prayer, meditation, or visiting a grave/shrine to talk to dead loved ones. Please tell us about this

Imagine that a close friend had told you that they had communicated with someone or a spirit by means other than the known senses. What do you think your response would be?

## Part 3: The High Street

Please start Part 3 of your Directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

*From time to time, we ask you to record your reactions to current issues in the news. Recently, a number of high profile shops have gone into administration and closed leaving empty premises on the high street. In this part of the Directive, we would like you to reflect on the impact of this on your local high street and record any memories or current observations about shopping and shops.*

### Some prompts for you:

Where do you do your shopping for clothes, food, books, DVDs, gifts etc.? Please record any shopping that you do online as well as in physical shops.

What shops do you have in your local area? You might wish to write about your local high street, shopping centres, local shops/corner shops, and large out of town shops.

What do you think about the shops that have recently gone into administration (e.g. HMV, Blockbuster, Jessops, Comet and further back Woolworths)?

Did the closure of any of these shops affect you or anyone you know? Should more of been done to stop their closure? How should the buildings that have been left empty be used?

Has the way you shop changed over the years?

### Task – Your local high street

Please list (or draw) the shops on your local high street (or other shopping street that you visit). Remember to include information about any empty premises and any details on how these shops have changed over the years. We would also welcome any notes about any special significant (good and bad!) memories that these shops/buildings hold for you.

We would welcome any other thoughts you have about shops, shopping, consumerism and the high street.

---

Please post your response to: **The Mass Observation Archive, FREEPOST BR 2112, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 1ZX** Or by email to: [moa@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:moa@sussex.ac.uk)  
JS/KP Spring Directive/No. 97