

NRPSI'S RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE ASYLUM SYSTEM

Professional interpreters are a prerequisite for a "fairer and more compassionate" system

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The announcement made by Home Secretary Priti Patel at the Conservative Party Conference regarding the government's plans to overhaul the UK's "broken" asylum system was widely reported by [The Independent](#), [The Guardian](#), the [BBC](#) and other news outlets at the weekend.

If the government is serious about making the UK's asylum system a more, in Ms Patel's words, "fair and compassionate" system, this would involve using interpreters who are registered and who possess the right level of qualifications and experience to facilitate this aim.

It seems that the need for professional interpreters to help the government with its objectives is obvious. It, therefore, seems a shame that the government still insists there is neither the need nor the appetite across all public services to use Registered Public Service Interpreters. For this is yet another example of yet another area of the public services with that need.

As the UK's voluntary regulator of public service interpreting professionals, the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) exists to maintain interpreting standards and ensure that the public and the public services have access to fully qualified, competent and accountable interpreting professionals whenever they are needed. Our strategic aims are for statutory regulation of the public service interpreting profession; protection of the title of public service interpreter, ensuring only registered interpreters can call themselves this; and for it to be mandatory for public service organisations to use Registered Interpreters.

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