

RAPAR

The Manchester based human rights organisation working with displaced people

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UK BORDER AGENCY TO GO AHEAD WITH EVICTION OF DISABLED WOMAN **Housing provider says she must leave her accommodation today**

The UK Border Agency's housing provider Happy Homes is to go ahead with the eviction of a disabled woman today (Thursday, May 26th).

Housing support has been withdrawn from 32 year old Manjeet Kaur by the UKBA and Happy Homes, which manages the accommodation, has told her she must leave the property in Oaklea, Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester, this morning (Thursday, May 26th). She had originally been told to leave by 5pm on Tuesday of this week but Happy Homes, which is based in Ashton Old Road, Manchester, said she could stay for a further two days - and she assumed this meant by 5pm today. Yesterday, however, the housing manager told her she would have to leave this morning.

Manjeet, who uses a manually operated wheelchair, has been seeking help from Refugee Action but, so far, they have been unable to find her alternative accommodation. She has been living at Oaklea for the last four weeks. Her asylum claim has been rejected but lawyers are looking at the case to see if there are grounds for a judicial review.

Manjeet sought asylum in the UK two months ago following the disappearance in India of her husband Amitt Bhatt, a journalist and human rights activist who has written articles and books about the treatment of the Kashmiri Pandits. Manjeet is from Afghanistan and has relatives in London but she lived in India with her husband who she married five years ago.

Her husband had been threatened and attacked for his journalistic work before his disappearance in February this year. Afterwards, Manjeet continued to receive threats, by post and over the phone. She has also been physically attacked.

A spokesperson for RAPAR said: "Manjeet sought asylum in this country because she was very frightened when her husband disappeared and she was alone in the house and continued to receive threats.

"She has relatives in this country, her grandmother, uncle and cousins. There is no-one she can turn to in India and there is nowhere she can live in Afghanistan after her father, a doctor in Kabul, died some years ago. Manjeet is desperately worried about her husband but is frightened of returning to India where she has been targeted because of her husband's journalism and writings.

"Given Manjeet's medical condition, the UKBA's withdrawal of housing support is particularly heartless and we believe they are contravening the Equalities Act. We urge them to reverse this appalling decision and to restore her housing immediately."

For more information, please contact Kath Grant on 07812471047

