



WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE  
EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
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PUBLIC MEETING, TUE 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY:

# STOP SERCO.

6.30PM, MAIN HALL, FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE,  
6 MOUNT STREET, MANCHESTER, M2 5NS



SPEAKERS INCLUDE: /GLASGOW WELCOMES REFUGEES/  
/NO TO G4S/ /TRADE UNIONISTS INCLUDING UNITE MEMBERS/

- Asylum Seeker services are **now** being privatised throughout the UK. SERCO were awarded the North West contract **without accurate and up to date information** about their service user group in the North West.
- SERCO is also taking over the management of an increasing number of public services in the UK – health centres and welfare programmes – where it is accused of **prioritising profit over quality of service**.
- In the last fortnight SERCO has been **found in breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights** – prohibiting torture and "inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" – for shackling a man for 8 days.
- At the **national launch of STOP SERCO in Glasgow on 16<sup>th</sup> June**, a group sponsored by Manchester based Trades Unions carried the RAPAR banner and placards exposing SERCO's foul track record on human rights.
- Since Autumn 2010 RAPAR has **placed itself firmly in the fight against the cuts**. We are committed to protecting people and services. Please come, send delegations, speak and organise together at this vital launch to STOP SERCO.
- Please circulate this leaflet wherever you can and announce this launch during meetings this week. Thank you.

# 10 UGLY FACTS ABOUT SERCO

- 1) SERCO runs detainee escort services and **electronically tags** people seeking asylum.
- 2) SERCO runs Yarlswood Detention Centre in Bedfordshire and the Colnbrook Detention Centre near Heathrow Airport.
- 3) SERCO has been the subject of many claims of abuse and assault by people seeking asylum being held in their detention centres.
- 4) Testimonies by detainees, many of whom have fled torture, rape and destitution, have revealed that **racial, psychological and physical abuse** has been inflicted on them by SERCO staff.
- 5) Women detained at Yarlswood detention centre are reportedly being paid 50 pence an hour to do menial tasks; **exploitation of a captive labour force**.
- 6) SERCO dismissed **the death of two people** in their detention centres in Australia, accusing detainees of “creating a self-harm culture” to use as a “bargaining tool”.
- 7) SERCO is also taking over the management of an increasing number of public services in the UK, such as welfare programmes and health centres (it runs Manchester Aquatics Centre). However, SERCO is frequently accused of **prioritising profit over quality of service**.
- 8) SERCO is setting ridiculous timescales for the transition phase of their new housing contract: 10 days for single people and 14 days for families.
- 9) SERCO claim to have a non-eviction policy but mobilisation of their contract in Scotland has already led to the proposed **eviction – into destitution – of 83 people**.
- 10) In the last fortnight SERCO has been **found in breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights** – prohibiting torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – for **shackling a man for 8 days**. The man spent 9 days in hospital, and was at all times restrained by either ratchet cuffs or closet chains (handcuffs at the end of a chain which is then attached to a security officer). This included while showering and using the toilet, as well as during medical consultations and treatment, and while asleep.