

ID CARDS COME INTO FORCE THIS NOVEMBER



The card will hold the holder's photograph, name, date of birth, nationality, immigration status and an electronic chip with biometric details, including fingerprints and digital facial image. All indefinitely held on the UK Identity and Passport Service database.

Initially the ID cards will be issued to non-EU students and marriage visa holders, then foreign nationals wanting to enter the UK. From next year other foreign nationals living here will be issued with ID cards. These groups will be forced to enroll on the scheme and use the card, rather than their passport, for identification.

In 2009, once migrants have been used to test the scheme, anyone, regardless of nationality, who works in an area the government deems "sensitive" such as airports will be required to have an ID card. In 2010, students will need ID cards to get a student loan and they will be available to the rest of us on a "voluntary" basis, with ID cards being paired with passports in 2011.

It is patently clear that this card is the thin end of the wedge, the first blow in an attack on civil liberties we all enjoy. The government is open about their plans, it wants everyone in the UK tagged, numbered and repressed, using migrants as a testing ground for it's authoritarian desire to increase the size of the surveillance state. The opposition to ID cards must begin now.



On Saturday 4th October, a few days after the ID design was unveiled, over 30 people joined with No Borders South Wales outside Newport Passport Office to protest against the introduction of ID cards for non-EU students and spouses from this November. Thousands of leaflets containing much of the same information as

this were distributed to members of the public. The vast majority of passers by who took the time out to speak with people on the demonstration were very supportive and adamant that they would not accept an ID card themselves.

By resisting the repression of migrants, we defend the freedom of everyone!

Borders are rising around all of us, immigration law already gives the Home Office powers it would like to exert over everybody. We are against repression in all its forms and the many controls which would restrict the lives of everyone. The UK is becoming a mass surveillance society, migrants are at the very sharp end.

*First they forced ID cards on asylum seekers,
and I didn't protest because I wasn't an asylum seeker.
Now they're forcing ID cards on non-EU migrants,
and I didn't protest because I wasn't a non-EU migrant
Next they're forcing ID cards on airport workers,
and then they're going to force one on me...*

ID cards will start to be issued on 25th November at offices in Birmingham, Cardiff, Croydon, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Sheffield. We call for protests outside each office on that day.



No Borders South Wales is a collective of people who organise against migration controls and for the freedom of movement for all. We work on a non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian basis, using consensus decision making. noborderswales.org.uk

We campaign on a number of migration related issues, and are keen to work with other opponents of ID cards to build a grassroots resistance to state control. Contact us at noborderswales@riseup.net