



Political Sketchbook

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Alpesh Patel

Independent? But Where is the Respect?

Over this past decade I have been fortunate enough to visit the home in Delhi where Gandhiji spent his final day, the home in Gujarat where Sardar Patel was born, and thanks to flights delays rewatch Richard Attenborough's film Gandhi on my iPod at the airport.

There is a spirit of the founding fathers (and mothers) of a nation which should be more invoked in a country's politics.

As you visit the homes of Sardar Patel and Gandhiji and witness their words passing through the ages at the birth of their nation, you wonder if ever the politicians in India ever bother to read them. Trite Gandhian phrases roll off easily on airport billboards 'be the change you want to see in the world' – but so many of the politicians don't want to see the change for good in the world. They are the elite in receipt of their brown envelopes – what does it matter to them that their country may be sold down the river for a few rupees more?

No, what Gandhiji should have said is not 'be the change you want to see in the world' but 'see the change we sacrificed for and show some decency and respect for us the founding fathers'.

Gandhiji and Patel were barristers – they had no need to spend years in cockroach infested prisons. Or consider the patriots described in the book 'Remember

Us Sometimes Once in A While' who wrote to their wives and children why they were willing to be hanged for their sedition against the British Crown during the Independence movement. And hanged they were.

It seems appropriate with current British political controversies to remember Cromwell.

And if Cromwell could be considered the founding father of the modern British Parliament then his speech to Parliament could aptly be invoked today targeted at British Parliamentarians where he said, "...It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of every vice; ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government; ye are a pack of mercenary wretches, and would like Esau sell your country for a mess of pottage, and like Judas betray your God for a few pieces of money."

Founding fathers were able to found nations precisely because of their foresight and wisdom and their wisdom should be more often invoked – especially if a mighty America does it to this day 200 years later, India certainly should merely 60 years later. How but in our schools do we invoke this, when all from Gandhiji and Nehru are disrespected widely.

Lord Bilimoria receives honorary degree from University of East Anglia

Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE, DL was one of two Zoroastrian Parsis awarded honorary doctorates from the University of East Anglia last month (July 20).

Lord Bilimoria and Bahram Bekhradnia, pictured, were invited alongside other notable figures from the fields of business, literature, science and charity to attend UEA's week of graduation ceremonies, offering advice to graduating students and sharing their success stories. Each



Lords. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law, the tenth honorary doctorate he has received to date.

Honorary degrees are presented each year by the University to honour those who have made an impact in fields such as the arts, science, and civil society, but this is believed

low graduates. He said: "I have been able to see firsthand why UEA is one of the UK's top universities. It is such an honour and privilege to receive an Honorary Doctorate and I am truly humbled."

Bahram Bekhradnia became the first director of the Higher Education Policy Institute in 2002

following the course of a career devoted to the higher education sector both

Changes to the Immigration Act 2016



Manpreet Matharu

How does this affect you if you are a business owner or manager in a company?

The Home Office has recently made changes to the Immigration Rules on employing migrant workers, resulting in tougher penalties and stricter sanctions on employers who employ illegal workers and people without the Right to work.

The Immigration Act 2016 came into force on 12th July and it is therefore very important to understand what the changes are and how exactly, they will affect you.

As of the 12th July 2016 the sanctions for employing an illegal worker include doubling the maximum civil penalty from a £10,000 fine payable per illegal worker caught working, to £20,000 per worker.

The Immigration Act 2016 now makes illegal working a criminal offence in its own right.

This means that there is a maximum custodial sentence of six months and/or a fine of the statutory maximum (unlimited in England and Wales). In addition all wages earned illegally will be recoverable under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

The new Act clarifies that employing an illegal worker or someone that you believe is an illegal worker now carries a maximum custodial sentence on indictment of 5 years. This will apply to all employers regardless of the field of work (e.g. catering, building, domestic working, taxi drivers and private/professional carers etc.).

In addition, the new Act gives the Home Office the power to close your business for a period of 48 hours if

there is suspected employment of illegal workers. If you as an employer can confirm that you have carried out all appropriate checks this closure notice may be cancelled; to find out more about the checks that need to be conducted, please contact one of our specialist immigration lawyers in our Business/Private Immigration team at Duncan Lewis Solicitors.

The changes to the law mean that obtaining a Licence to operate your specific type of business (for example, sale of alcohol or a minicab licence) will be contingent on not breaching immigration laws.

You may not always be aware that you are employing someone who does not have right to work, so it is important to understand what this means, to ensure you can take any reasonable steps to avoid it. For example you are liable to criminal sanctions if you have employed someone with leave to remain as a Tier 4 Student migrant, to work a minimum of 20 hours doing domestic work in your company/home without carrying out the correct checks to confirm if the Migrant is entitled to work in your organisation.

If you have any doubt as to whether you are illegally employing a migrant worker or employing someone who does not have the right to work, you should seek legal advice immediately. Our specialist Business/Private Immigration team can advise and assist you with ensuring that all employment and right to work checks have been carried out correctly. We can assist you in ensuring that you are complying with the law at all times.

About the author: Manpreet Matharu

Manpreet is experienced in both Commercial and Private Immigration Law matters such as processing sponsorship licences, Tier 2 applications and conducting mock Home Office audits which ensure that clients are on top of their paperwork.



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Brit-Indians honoured

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Rt Hon Keith Vaz, MP (longest serving Indian MP in the UK). Chairman of a

Hamas 'as his friends', to which he said that he 'regretted having used that language', and 'described it as an attempt to be

inated for a peerage before the report was published, and only recommended after its publication.

Chakrabarti was born to Bengali parents in the suburb of