

## Poems by Jacqui Lovell

The poem refers to a woman who I knew who was both claiming asylum as a person seeking sanctuary and then was being held against her will in an 'asylum' due to a failed attempt to take your own life. Section 37 should have meant she was released from detention but this didn't take place.

### *They is mad in asylum*

I knock out...can't b'lieve I done that.

I open's my eyes an solicitor over me.

You next me, your face next me, says soft things. Bless-ed.

They is give me water, then more questions.

Why they is ask what I did again, again, again?

Make no sense. I tell them but they no care.

They no hear what I say's.

They's judge man says I's have to answer.

He nice but I no trust him, I knows what they doing.

They nice an tell you, you is lying.

They says 'Why you no run get help?'

Who gonna help? Where I go find *help*?

How I see? Night time is no light.

I tell them but no care just keep asking theys questions.

I know what they is up to, want me make mistake,  
catch me, tell me I is lie.

When I tell they when bad men's come,  
from army compound...and what they do me an my sister when we is small  
child's.

They say, I no 'cred-i-ble'.

This mean they tell's me I lie.

I knows I no lie.

They is wrong but I no tell they is wrong.

I want they give papers. Papers means I is stay in UK.

I gets letter bout they 'Vol-un-tary Re-turn's Sch-eme'.

They pay me go back. Back my family, they no want me.

Back my country where's people like me beat, raped, killed.

They say's I re-lo-ca-te, s-sorry re-locate.

My English not so good.

What this mean *relocate*? I no want money,  
money no solve me problem.

This no right. I no right. Never, no since I girl.

I diff'rent. Sisters stay home I run way with boys.

I like climb trees, play.

I no like do what girls do. I no want be girl.

I no want get water, wash, cook...have babies, I no want this.

I want go school, learn but they is no school fees,

so I stays home.

I like UK. I ok here.

Not all peoples no like me but some they's do.

I join club. This club for peoples like me, l-g-b-t.

We go march, we speak 'truth to power'.

I no know what they is mean but

we sings and shouts and marches

I takes picture, I is happy.

I use picture show Home Office what I do's when I here in UK.

This help me show I is les-bi-an.

Then they's let me stay.

I is hope.

I get letter.

They say I no stay now.

I go come back,

I need leave then *re-ap-ply* come back.

How I go come back? Why I do that?

They is say I no longer live in house, they tell me I leave.

They is give me no money, so I go Church.

They says they's help me. They get me room in house.

They is give me £5 for phone and give food.

They's good peoples.

I no tell them they says I is lying.

I no tell peoples in Church I is lesbian.

Church people they say I 'ap-pe-peal' this mean

I tell Home Office they is wrong, I no lie.

Solicitor say I find 'evi-den-ce'.

How I find 'evi-dence' I lesbian?

Where I get this?

I tell woman. She say it ok we take picture.

We show what we's do. I no like this.

Why we show them what we's do?

I think I no do this.

This no right.

I see person in club, they is say in Africa,

long time, people's like me ok.

They say it the Church fault.

I say's no. Fault in me. I no ok.

I knows how I is but I no bad person's.

I want be free, have free-dom, be me.

No want get beaten.

No want have man no more, want womans.

I love's womans.

I no want hurt no ones.

I no want hurt no more.

I want die.....

They take me hospital.

I no sure what happen.

I pray, fast, hope God take care me.

I wish I no come here.

Maybe I go home.

I sad lots.

I lie bed long time.

Woman she go when they is no give me papers.

She *asylum seeker* like me.

I go back my country, I no care what I do.

I know I diff'rent, happy life no for me...

why they tell me I lie, what I do wrong?

Why they keep me here?

I no want be here anymore...they is mad a' me an

I no do no-ting...I no *mad*...

*they is mad in asylum.*