

# 1000 Voices

2010, 8 minutes

## SYNOPSIS

Asylum seekers in indefinite detention around the UK leave messages in vain on an abandoned answerphone in the basement of a government ministry. They are invisible to the outside world; yet exist under a regime of constant surveillance. Their past traumas return in their dreams and erupt in hallucinations that fill them with panic and fear. With the threat of deportation ever present, they describe their own psychological deterioration as they pass the days in an unlimited confinement that strips their lives of all certainty.

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. Has your understanding of detention changed after watching this film? If so, how?
2. The UK has frequently been criticised for cultivating a 'hostile environment' through the adoption of governmental policies and procedures aimed at identifying, controlling, and reducing the number of individuals seeking in the UK with no right to remain. How does the film portray the government's policy of Indefinite Detention?
3. 'We maintain them in secure, hostile, humane removal centres, so that we can keep an eye on them.' How does the film's visual imagery of this 'humane' removal centre echo Foucault's definition of panopticon?
4. *1000 Voices* powerfully encompasses the multivocality and diversity of personal stories of seeking asylum. What are some of the different identity markers (e.g. gender, age, religion, class) that can affect one's asylum-seeking journey and how?



1000 Voices (2010)