



'Windrush Scandal' Compensation Crossing Coasts

Helpline 0117 3290387 info@myfuturemychoice.co.uk

This project supports people from all transnational communities with compensation claims where their life has been affected by incorrect interpretations of their UK citizenship status. It has resulted in activity in Bristol, Bath, and Birmingham and aims to maintain support until the injustice of this scandal has been corrected.

This project aims to raise awareness through intergenerational projects across schools and community, of the safe help that is available for anyone seeking to make a windrush scandal compensation claim. The helpline links those that need support to advocates who can help claimants access compensation.

Compensation is mostly for people and their children who settled in the United Kingdom from Commonwealth countries, before 1 January 1973. However, the scheme is open to any person who arrived in the United Kingdom before the end of 1988 and are now settled here. If you know someone who has been unable to work, rent or access benefits because they cannot prove their UK citizenship, call the helpline for advice.

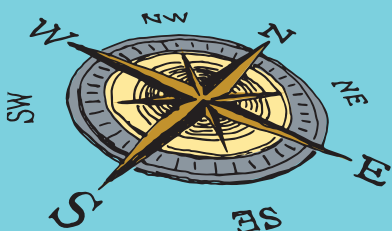
What is the Windrush scandal?

The 'Windrush' generation are those who were invited to the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1973 to take up jobs due to Britain's post-world war II labour shortage. The name 'Windrush' derives from the ship which brought Caribbean people to the UK in 1948. The Caribbean was part of the British Commonwealth and those who arrived were British subjects, who were free to travel, live and work in the UK.

In 2017 it emerged that hundreds of Commonwealth citizens, many of whom were from this so called, 'Windrush' generation, had been wrongly detained, deported and denied legal rights. Many Black Britons lives were devastated by Britain's immigration system and 'Hostile Environment' legislation - a policy announced in 2012 which tasked the NHS, landlords, banks and employers with enforcing immigration controls in order to make the UK unlivable for undocumented migrants and push them to leave.

Many of the Windrush generation arrived as children on their parents' passports. The Home Office destroyed records of their arrival and, as a result, decades later many lacked the evidence that they had lived in the UK before 1973. Despite having done nothing wrong, people's lives were devastated because they could not produce documents from decades ago. Falsely classified as 'illegal immigrants' they lost access to housing, healthcare, bank accounts and driving licenses. Many were placed in immigration detention, prevented from travelling abroad and threatened with forcible removal. Others were deported to countries they had not grown up in.

This harmful and unjust treatment provoked widespread condemnation of the government. Calls were made for reform of the UK's immigration policy. In response to these demands a compensation scheme was set up and a review conducted that set out reforms to the immigration system. This scheme provides pay-outs but many victims of the scandal still need help to navigate the process and build faith in the system to come forward and claim.



Could you support someone
as an advocate?

