

The Home Office Scandal – lessons for the next government

A Manifesto for Windrush Justice



**ACTION FOR RACE
EQUALITY**

Citizenship for all Windrush families

Give British citizenship and waive passport fees

Make the process as proactive as possible, relying less on survivors coming forward.

Exclude the Good Character requirement from this process.

Review relevant data to simplify the citizenship process

Implement an amnesty for people from the Commonwealth who have lived in the UK for over 30 years.



A faster and fairer Compensation Scheme

■ Legal support for Windrush compensation claims

- › **Provide legal aid or alternative funding** for legal representation to support claimants through the application process.
- › **Establish a right of appeal to an independent tribunal** to improve decision fairness and transparency.
- › **Include a review option for claimants** who applied without legal support and accepted low offers.
- › **Use the 'benefit of the doubt' test** for Windrush applicants.

■ Fair payouts, reflecting the harm caused

- › **Include defined contribution pension losses** into the Compensation Scheme.
- › **Work with experts such as the Actuarial Sciences Institute** to work out how defined benefit pension losses can be calculated and include them in the Compensation Scheme.
- › **Work with the Royal British Legion** to ensure veterans' defined benefit pensions are compensated accurately.
- › **Look to current employment law** that includes provisions for calculating loss of future earnings at employment tribunals and apply this to the Compensation Scheme.
- › **Look to personal injury claims** and how they calculate losses of bonuses and overtime, loss of promotions and career progression, loss of statutory rights (e.g. unfair dismissal), and wage inflation and use this to inform a renewed Compensation Scheme.
- › **Publish time standards** to ensure claims and Tier One reviews are being dealt with within three months.

■ Rebuild trust

- › **Remove the Windrush Compensation Scheme** from the Home Office and into a more neutral government department or an independent body.
- › **Make clear applications** to the Windrush Schemes will not result in information being passed on to Immigration Enforcement.
- › **Pause deportations** to the most affected countries and pause immigration raids in key demographic areas across the UK.
- › **Deliver larger scale advertising campaigns** on TV, radio and billboards in key areas including outside the UK and in culturally specific media outlets.
- › **Engage more effectively with High Commissions** and embassies in affected countries to ensure they have a clearer understanding of the Scandal and are ready to assist and review applications.
- › **Fund NGOs in Commonwealth countries** to promote the Schemes and connect applicants with UK-based support services.
- › **Fund community groups and advocates in the UK** that support Windrush claimants when beginning the claims process.
- › **Share case studies of successful claims** so people get a better sense of who is eligible and to encourage more eligible claims.
- › **End the hostile environment** and create a fair and lawful migration system underpinned by human rights principles.

■ Repair the harm

- › **Implement all the Windrush Lessons Learned recommendations** including the three dropped by the Secretary of State in January 2023.
- › **Give the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration the power to publish their findings** and require Ministers to explain and account for any deviation from their recommendations.

■ A Statutory Inquiry into the Home Office Scandal

- › **Have a Statutory Inquiry with the power of subpoena** that gives people the space to tell their story and be heard by those responsible for the harms caused by the Scandal.
- › **Investigate the causes and impact** of early and premature deaths of Windrush victims as part of the inquiry.
- › **Work with Windrush survivors** to design a reconciliation programme.

■ A Windrush covenant

- › **Implement a Windrush covenant** modelled on the Armed Forces Covenant.
- › **Provide funding** for specialist, culturally sensitive mental health services.

To read the Windrush Manifesto in full, visit: actionforraceequality.org.uk/windrush-manifesto

■ Our funders

