

PRESS STATEMENT

Windrush Generation take legal action against the Home Secretary for her continued failure to right a historic injustice

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A Windrush Generation group and their supporters are applying for a Judicial Review against the Home Secretary Priti Patel for refusing to amend the laws which deprived many of their British citizenship, despite them having lived most of their lives in the UK. They are also calling for a minimum £10,000 reparation. People have often been left in limbo while they wait to have their cases considered.

The Judicial Review application follows the failure of the Home Secretary to respond to a letter sent by Anthony Brown, chair of Preston Windrush Generation and Descendants UK and co-founder of the Windrush Defenders Legal C.I.C.

A Pre Action Protocol letter, sent to Priti Patel on 23 December, requested the following actions to be taken:

- 1) All people who were born as either British Subjects prior to 1948 or as Citizens of the UK and Colonies post-1948 and who had been settled in the UK for a period of 5 years by 1 January 1983, should, for the purposes of the Immigration Act 1971 and the British Nationality Act 1981, be treated as having continued to be Citizens of the UK and Colonies throughout this period irrespective of the impact of any independence legislation passed in relation to their countries of origin.**

- 2) An additional payment should be made on top of any compensation to everyone that successfully applies to the Windrush Scheme from the Caribbean who came before 1 January 1973 of £10,000 automatically as a symbolic payment of reparation for the harm cited in recommendation (1) of the Wendy Williams Windrush Lessons Learned Review.**

The letter asked for a response from the Home Secretary by 6 January, but none has been received and so the Group has now applied to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service for a Judicial Review.

'You can imagine what a bitter blow it is to us that all our long struggle to end the 'hostile environment' against the Windrush Generation has failed,' said Brown, who

has been in repeated contact with the Home Secretary and Home Office, in an effort to get action.

'People lost their Citizenship by operation of law back in the 60s and 70s. This made them subject to Immigration law. It was the immigration Act 1971, that impacted me, which has a clause that you will lose your right to reside in the UK if you have lived abroad for more than two years. The Immigration Act 2014 says unless you have documents to prove you have the right to live in the UK you will lose your job, access to the NHS, be unable to rent a house, you can be deported and put in detention, etc.

'The Home Office is still enforcing the law because the laws have not changed. People are still losing their jobs or are unable to take up work or rent a house, etc., if they don't have legal documents, which many from the Windrush Generation don't.

'The Home Office is meant to be restoring people's citizenship through the Windrush Scheme and compensating them but there are great delays and not many are coming forward. Each year the Home Office charts a plane to deport Jamaicans. This deters people from coming forward. My request would restore citizenship to thousands at a stroke and end them being in limbo.

'Up to the very last it would have been quite possible to have arranged Alternative Dispute Resolution and an honourable settlement between the Home Office and the Windrush Generation. But the Home Secretary would not have it. The Windrush Generation came to Britain to fight against an ideology that had no regard for human rights. Eighty years later we find our human rights being ignored by the Home Secretary and the Home Office.'

The Group is currently [raising funds to support its legal action](https://www.gofundme.com/f/windrushcitizenship) via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/windrushcitizenship>.

For more information contact: (Anthony Brown 07392399040, or Glenda Andrew 07588456484 / info@prestonwindrush.co.uk)

Preston Windrush Generation and Descendants UK provides a voice for the descendants of the Windrush Generation, campaigning and providing support and advocacy nationally for those who are victims of the ongoing Windrush Scandal.

Windrush Defenders Legal C.I.C. supports applicants to the Windrush Scheme to confirm their legal status, claim on Windrush compensation and campaign for law reform.

Anthony Brown came to the UK in 1967 from Jamaica aged 6 with his mother and 4 siblings to join his father, who was working as a civil engineer after studying here. Both Anthony and his father lost their Citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies in 1962 when parliament passed the Jamaica Independence Act 1962. Anthony was subsequently threatened with deportation in 1983 when he fell foul of the Immigration Act 1971 for living outside the UK for more than two years.

Supporters of this statement.

Cllr Keith Martin	Preston
Alberga Wright	Windrush victim
Tracey Wright	Windrush victim close family member
Jennafer Holt	Preston constituent
Libby Ruffle	Woodbridge
Yann Steunou-Murray	
Diana Neslen	
Cllr Carol Henshaw	Preston City Council
David Landau	
Jessica Doidge,	Toby Tink, North Newington
Olivia Gerrard	Liverpool
Anna Hindle	Member of Preston Windrush
Nigel Clark	Chair of Social Sustainability, Lancaster University

Raj Gill	Branch Secretary, Unite Community – West London
Blue Mathews Mason	Manchester
Debbie Allen, CEO	The Black Experience/ Stand Up To Racism West London BLM
Cym D'Souza	Chair, BEM National
Sibon Phiri	Managing Director, United Legal Access
Joanne Barrett,	Windrush Defenders Legal C.I.C.
Natalie Denny,	Merseyside Together
Pamela Franklyn	Caribbean Social Forum, London
Cllr Jono Gridsdale	Preston City Council
Ida Lewis	
Cecil Walsh	
Cllr Martin Seaton	
Cllr David Barrow	Preston City Council
Linda Patterson	
Dannath Patterson	Windrush Applicants
Dave Williams	Dominica and Friends, Preston Windrush
Karen Lawson	Dominica and Friends, Preston Windrush
Professor Alan Rice	Co-Director of Institute for Black Atlantic Research (IBAR) & Director of the UCLan Centre for Migration, Diaspora and Exile (MIDEX), University Of Central Lancashire
Cllr Jonathan Saksena	Preston City Council
Cllr Martyn Rawlinson	Preston City Council
Cllr Neil Darby	Preston City Council
Fiona Frank	Plus 8, Lancaster Cohousing BLM group