



The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Urgent – Justice for the Windrush Generation**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, people from across the United Kingdom will come together to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the HMT *Empire Windrush*, which brought over 800 people from the Caribbean to London in 1948.

While it was by no means the first ship to bring migrants from the West Indies to Britain, the Windrush has become symbolic of a generation of Caribbean and Commonwealth citizens answering a call for help, leaving their homes and families to contribute their skills, labour, and talents to help rebuild a Britain ravaged by war. They were not given any documents to demonstrate their right to live and work in Britain (which was automatic), nor were records kept.

In the 75 years since, those British-Caribbean pioneers – and their descendants – have contributed hugely to the Britain we are all proud to call home today.

While we will celebrate this summer, we also remember the injustices faced by the Windrush Generation on arrival in the UK and through to the present day, at the hands of landlords, the Home Office, and employers. As leaders, we, like so many, watched with dismay as many of the Windrush Generation were subjected to actions taken by the Government that led to them being denied healthcare and other essential services, being wrongfully detained and even in some cases deported from the country they helped to build. They had no reason to doubt their status, or that they belonged in the UK, and they did not deserve to suffer these indignities.

It is in that spirit that we ask the Government you lead to restore the faith and trust of the Windrush Generation and their descendants in our government and institutions. We must acknowledge these wrongs, however unintended, and commit to taking the steps that ensure such a situation is never repeated.

**We therefore demand that the UK Government commits to implementing all 30 recommendations submitted by Wendy Williams in March 2020 – in full – as soon as possible.**



This means the Government must urgently prioritise –

- The Home Secretary clearly setting out specifically how she, her Department and, where necessary, other institutions, will implement each recommendation and to what timescale.
- The Home Secretary reversing her decision to disregard introducing a Migrants' Commissioner; review the role of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration; and to run reconciliation events.
- The Home Department regularly reporting to Parliament, and the public, the progress it is making on implementing each recommendation.
- Perhaps most importantly of all – as per Recommendation 1 of the Williams Report – providing an unqualified apology to those affected by this grave injustice.

Prime Minister, on Windrush Day 2023, let us all resolve that this is the year that we come together to do right by our fellow citizens. Only then will we be able to truly heal the wounds that have been so needlessly inflicted on them, and wholeheartedly and unreservedly celebrate future anniversaries of the arrival of the HMS *Empire Windrush*.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Peter Mason  
Rupa Huq MP  
Virendra Sharma MP

Leader, Ealing Council  
Member of Parliament, Ealing Central & Acton  
Member of Parliament, Ealing Southall

Cllr Peray Ahmet  
Cllr Jas Athwal  
Cllr Muhammed Butt  
Cllr Nesil Caliskan  
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz  
Cllr Stephen Cowan  
Cllr Damien Egan  
Cllr Rokhsana Fiaz  
Cllr Ross Garrod  
Cllr Philip Glanville  
Cllr Georgia Gould  
Cllr Simon Hogg  
Cllr Claire Holland  
Cllr Adam Hug  
Cllr Anthony Okereke  
Cllr Shantanu Rajawat  
Cllr Barry Rawlings  
Cllr Darren Rodwell  
Cllr Grace Williams  
Cllr Kieron Williams

Leader, Haringey Council  
Leader, Redbridge Council  
Leader, Brent Council  
Leader, Enfield Council  
Leader, Islington Council  
Leader, Hammersmith & Fulham Council  
Mayor, Lewisham Council  
Mayor, Newham Council  
Leader, Merton Council  
Mayor, Hackney Council  
Leader, Camden Council  
Leader, Wandsworth Council  
Leader, Lambeth Council  
Leader, Westminster Council  
Leader, Royal Borough of Greenwich  
Leader, Hounslow Council  
Leader, Barnet Council  
Leader, Barking and Dagenham Council  
Leader, Waltham Forest Council  
Leader, Southwark Council