

Windrush Justice in 2024/25

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Political Activity

Windrush Day, June 2024

- [Black Equity Organisation](#) and UNISON intervened in a successful judicial review. The High Court ruled that then Home Secretary Suella Braverman, acted unlawfully when she abandoned three key recommendations from the Windrush lessons learned Review
- [Action for Race Equality](#) launched The Home Office Scandal: A Manifesto for Windrush Justice with colleagues
- Ahead of general election in July, [Keir Starmer](#) announced a ‘fundamental reset to respect and dignity for the Windrush Generation’.
- Home Secretary Yvette Cooper wrote a piece in [The Guardian](#) stating the government would:
 - Appoint a Windrush Commissioner
 - Open up access to the compensation scheme
 - Re-establish the [Windrush Unit](#)

Advocacy Support Fund, October 2024

- Home Secretary Yvette Cooper [published details](#) of £1.5million Advocacy Support Fund, government grant funding, which will be used to increase advocacy support for victims applying to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.
- This was a recommendation from the Windrush manifesto.

Windrush Commissioner, February-May 2025

The Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and Minister for Migration Seema Malhotra [invited applications](#) for the Windrush Commissioner on 13th February. The interview is scheduled to be completed by **19th May**.

The Commissioner will:

- be an independent advocate for all those affected by the scandal
- advise on the delivery of the compensation and status schemes
- advise on the delivery of the implementation of the lessons learned review
- be in post by the summer of 2025

Parliamentary questions

Two written parliamentary questions by **Kim Johnson, MP for Liverpool Riverside** from November 2024 have revealed that:

- Officials are working at pace to consider how losses from **Private and Occupational pensions could also be accounted for**. This is a complex issue, and we will continue to work closely with stakeholders and victims as the work progresses.
- Officials are working through the detail of the role and remit of a Windrush Commissioner including how they would interact and support other related public appointments such as the Windrush Compensation Scheme Independent Person, the Independent Examiner of Complaints and any appointment of a **Migrant's Commissioner**.

Future parliamentary questions

Action for Race Equality is working with Paulette Hamilton MP and Natasha Irons MP to ask questions on:

- The number of zero offers and what action the government plans to take
- The timeline for the implementation of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review
- The timeline for the review of the compensation scheme
- The parameters of the Advocacy Support Fund
- Whether the government will make an assessment of legal support for claims

Work across the sector

Strengthening support

Legal support for claims

Southwark Law Centre and **Garden Court Chambers** challenge over the Legal Aid Agency's refusal to fund legal advice for compensation scheme claims was granted permission by the Court of Appeal on **12th March 2025**.

Justice4Windrush are now in the final stages of launching a legal clinic with Clifford Chance and training will commence in **April 2025**. **They will give Windrush victims free support**. [Pauline Campbell](#) will be training their solicitors, so they understand the people they'll be working with. Pauline will aim to source 3 primary cases, then we shall start to externally promote this and expand capacity. They are also in talks with another law firm.

JUSTICE is launching a paper on the need for legal representation for Windrush claims in **June 2025** as part of the APPG Access to Justice. With the support of Dechert LLP and the University of Sussex, the report reviews a series of Windrush case files to show:

- The reasons why legal representation is essential

- Interviews with lawyers and clients to highlight the realities of the case journey
- The impact of legal support on a case inc. what the lawyer did that an individual couldn't do on their own

Black Equity Organisation is mapping the legal and advocacy support on offer to support people's Windrush claims. They have set up an advisory group including Glenda Caesar, Patrick Vernon & Roland Houslin. They are also mapping what level of advice people are offering, so victims and survivors are clear on the best place to go. It will be disseminated as far and wide as possible.

A shared strategy

The **Jigsaw House Society** and **Claudia Jones Organisation** with the support of **Black Lives Matter UK** are hosting a series of roundtables that centre Windrush victims and survivors. They are interviewing victims/survivors, campaigners and lawyers in-depth with the aim to create a:

- Shared vision
- Public narrative
- Strategic goals
- Campaign strategy
- Theory of change

The Minister for Migration and Citizenship Seema Malhotra attended their last public meeting where victims and survivors shared their experiences. There will be more roundtables ahead of Windrush Day.

Jamaica telephone number for potential claimants

Justice for Windrush Generations have successfully secured a Jamaican (working) direct phone number for the Home Office. Roland and Garrick have been promoting the line and encourage others to do so. The number is **876 733 5302**. People can now get information on WCS and HO Team, (note time difference UK **5** hours ahead). The Home Office hours are **9-5pm** but messages will be picked up the next day and contact made.

JFWG, has asked for the same in the other 65 affected countries and have suggested other communication methods.

Public (statutory) Home Office Scandal inquiry

Leigh Day, led by partner Jacqui McKenzie has instructed counsel to submit a Pre Action Protocol on the failure of the government to have a [public inquiry](#) into the Windrush (Home Office) scandal.

They had two meetings with the Home Secretary, in June and October 2024, where they discussed the need for an Inquiry, and of which she agreed to investigate. They have

also raised this several times before with previous Home Secretaries, and whilst giving evidence to the [Home Affairs Committee](#).

Leigh Day sent a formal request for an inquiry and did not receive a response by **6 February 2025** deadline. They have now proceeded with a Pre Action Protocol, a letter to the Home Office sent **to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken** to avoid the necessity of litigation.

This will sit alongside work on a **People's Inquiry** that is being developed by **Anna Steiner, University of Westminster** and **Gifty Edilah**. This lays the groundwork for a statutory inquiry, ready to shape it so it's in line with victims and survivors desires for restitution and reparation.

Shaping the government's delivery of Windrush commitments

Windrush Commissioner

Black Equity Organisation is looking at the Windrush Commissioner role and how we ensure that its original conception as a Migrants Commissioner and the remit of the position as outlined in the Windrush lessons learned review is not lost.

Action for Race Equality is consulting with groups on the Windrush Justice Programme on what the Windrush Commissioner role should look like and what they should prioritise when in post.

Advocacy Support Fund

Action for Race Equality's Chief Executive met with the Minister Seema Malhotra in November to share what learning from their Windrush Justice Programme that could inform the government's Advocacy Support Fund. Members of the WJP team then met with the Home Office in December to discuss the proposed Advocacy Support Fund in more detail.

Reconciliation events

Action for Race Equality will host a roundtable on reconciliation with external facilitators with experience working on justice and restitution as part of the [Windrush Justice Programme](#). The aim is to have a blueprint for the policies government have committed to that reflects what victims/survivors, advocates and other experts want.

Informing the public

Justice4Windrush campaign video series

Lincolnshire Ladies, March 2025

A series of campaign videos released throughout March alongside Women's History Month, showcasing that Windrush is not a 'Black' issue but a human rights issue that

effects black people. The campaign film features 10 elderly white women and their views on Windrush generation, pre and post a talk with Sidney McFarlane MBE.

Call to action: embed Black British History into the curriculum.

Morphing Film, June 2025

This film features actor Nick Bartlett and Windrush victim Chris Hayibor. The campaign film aims to transform audience expectations and perspectives as Nick (a white man) tells Chris' story, then morphs into him.

The tagline: this could happen to any of us if documents are weaponised against you.

Kings College London with Tian Brown-Sampson and Brian Mullin

The Promise immersive performance, July 2025

Since last summer, theatre-makers Tian Brown-Sampson and Brian Mullin have been working with King's and victims and activists for the Windrush community to create **THE PROMISE**, an immersive theatre piece that reflects the ongoing harms of the Home Office's 'Windrush' scandal.

The aim of the performance is for the audience to go on an interactive journey drawn from real-life testimonies of Windrush Justice Clinic clients and their experience of the Windrush Compensation Scheme. This will be followed by a reflection and discussion session on how to mobilise and calls to action with the Windrush Community and activists.