

The Windrush Generation

Background information

On Wednesday June 23, 1948, The Times newspaper reported the arrival of the ship Empire Windrush under the headline 'Jamaicans arrive to seek work.' The article said: 'Of the 492 Jamaicans who arrived at Tilbury on Monday to seek work in this country, 236 were housed last night in Clapham South Deep Shelter. The remainder had friends to whom they could go and prospects of work. The men had arrived at Tilbury in the ex-troopship Empire Windrush. Among them are singers, students, pianists, boxers and a complete dance band. Thirty or forty had already volunteered to work as miners.'

The report was not entirely correct. According to the passenger List there were 1027 passengers on board, of whom just 539 gave Jamaica as their last place of permanent residence, so did 139 from Bermuda, 73 from Trinidad and 44 from British Guiana. Many came from other countries of the Caribbean. Many of them served Britain in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during WWII and were either returning to their jobs in the UK or coming to seek employment because workers were needed to help rebuild the country.

For the passengers of the Empire Windrush in 1948, and the thousands who followed them, the British Nationality Act Parliament passed in July 1948 was an important factor, as it allowed them and others living in Commonwealth countries British Citizenship and full rights of entry and settlement. The Nationality Bill was being discussed in both Houses of Parliament even as the ship sailed across the Atlantic to Britain during June 1948.

The ship that brought Caribbean migrants to Britain was once known as the Monte Rosa, a passenger liner and a cruiseship launched in Germany in 1930. During WWII, the Germans used her as a troopship, but after the war she was taken by the British, renamed MV Empire Windrush and became a troopship until March 1954, when she caught fire and sank in the Mediterranean Sea. The ship was said to have been named after the 'River Windrush' which starts in the Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire. The MV Empire Windrush was the opportunity that hundreds of young Caribbean men and women were awaiting, and they took it. The fare was £28 and 10 shillings (£28.50p).

After WWII, most of the West Indian servicemen and women were demobbed and returned to their homes in the Caribbean. RAF Serviceman Baron Baker was demobbed

in 1948, but decided to settle in London. Many of the passengers who disembarked on 22 June 1948 had no place to live and so he suggested to the Colonial Office that the Clapham South Deep Shelter, in South London, should be used. The Shelter had been used as a refuge for local people during German bombing raids in WWII and after 1945 to accommodate Italians and German prisoners of war.

At least 236 Windrush settlers were housed there from the night of 22 June until they found work. All of them were employed within a month. The decision to open it to them was important in the making of Lambeth as a multi-racial community. The Shelter was about a mile from the centre of Brixton and some of them found work and lodgings in the Borough; others settled in the south London boroughs of Wandsworth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich and in West London.

Britain has provided the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of British people of all backgrounds to understand and appreciate the contributions of Empire Windrush migrants to the well-being of this country. The 1950s saw attacks by racists who did not want them to settle in the UK; there were race riots in Notting Hill (London), and in Nottingham. It was common then for advertisements for housing to carry the words: no Irish, no blacks, no dogs. Caribbean migrants were not disillusioned as they organised the first West Indian Carnival in Britain (1959), but in May of that year a young man, Kelso Cochrane (from Antigua), was murdered. To this day the police have not brought anyone to justice. Undeterred, Carnival continued and took to the streets of Notting Hill in 1966. Today, it is the largest street festival in Europe, attracting over a million people over the weekend. The migrants who disembarked on 22 June 1948 from the Empire Windrush were not the first to settle in Britain. There has been a connection between the Caribbean and the UK for more than 400 years and the people in the former colonies still feel a 'closeness' with this country today. Over centuries their supplies and resources have enriched the UK, helping to make Britain the largest empire since Ancient Rome. African and Caribbean people have lived here during that time.

When Britain needed a helping hand during her war with Nazi Germany in 1939, the British appealed to the Caribbean people who responded positively. Thousands of men and women volunteered to come to this country to join the fight against Hitler, and many others served as merchant seamen. The Royal Air Force gained more recruits from the Caribbean than any other part of the British Empire, with around 400 flying as air crew, other volunteers served on the home front in a diversity of roles.

More than 600 Caribbean women served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in

Britain, and it should be noted that there were many ATS personnel also serving in the Caribbean during WWII. By the 1970s, Caribbean men and women were familiar and established people in the British population, and they had achieved more than mere survival. The Notting Hill Carnival is held in the same area where they had been attacked and pursued by angry crowds of 'teddy-boys', but the Carnival had begun as a celebration, a joyous all-inclusive testimony to the pleasure of sharing happiness. As it developed, it became clear that here was a Caribbean festival where everyone was welcome, and for everyone who wished to enjoy the occasion. Also, throughout the decades, the children of the 'Windrush pioneers' developed a 'black British culture' which is now part of a style shared by Africans, Asians, White and other youth alike. They have played vital roles in creating a new concept of what it means to be British. To be British in the present society implies a person who may also have their origins in Africa, the Caribbean, China, India, Greece, Turkey, Europe or anywhere else in the spectrum of nations.

The British national self-image has been thoroughly remodeled in a very short time. Seen against the deadly agonies associated with ethnic conflicts in other European countries and elsewhere, Britain offers the example of a nation that can live well together with a new and inclusive concept of citizenship. In a sense, the journey of the Windrush has never ended.

The Windrush Foundation

Additional information: The Caribbeans include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, The Barbados, Bermuda, Belize, The British Virgin Islands, Bonaire, Saint Eustatius, Saba, Cayman, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guyana, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Marteen, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, The US Virgin Islands

The Windrush Scandal

Document 1 - Windrush generation: Who are they and why are they facing problems?

BBC, April 18, 2018

Prime Minister Theresa May has apologised to Caribbean leaders over deportation threats made to the children of Commonwealth citizens, who despite living and working in the UK for decades, have been told they are living here illegally because of a lack of official paperwork.

Who are the "Windrush generation"?

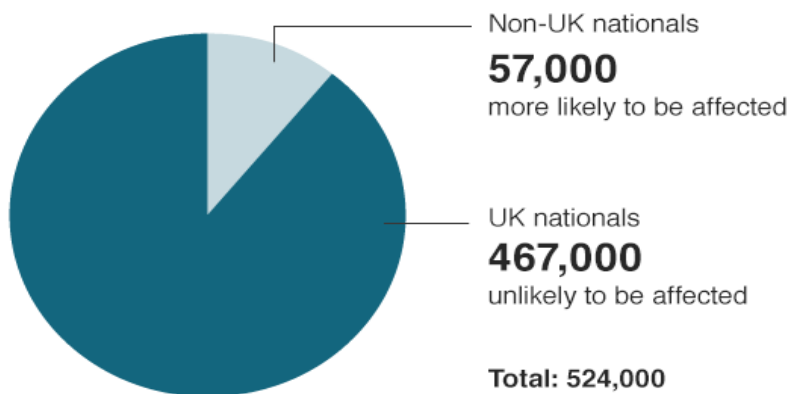
Those arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have been labelled the Windrush generation.

This is a reference to the ship MV Empire Windrush, which arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, on 22 June 1948, bringing workers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other islands, as a response to post-war labour shortages in the UK.

The ship carried 492 passengers - many of them children.

Commonwealth migrants arriving in the UK before 1971

2017 estimate of current population



Non-UK nationals breakdown



Total: 57,000

*Includes: Pakistan, Kenya and South Africa

It is unclear how many people belong to the Windrush generation, since many of those who arrived as children travelled on parents' passports and never applied for travel documents - but they are thought to be in their thousands.

There are now 500,000 people resident in the UK who were born in a Commonwealth country and arrived before 1971 - including the Windrush arrivals - according to estimates by Oxford University's Migration Observatory.

The generation's end

The influx ended with the 1971 Immigration Act, when Commonwealth citizens already living in the UK were given indefinite leave to remain.

After this, a British passport-holder born overseas could only settle in the UK if they firstly had a work permit and, secondly, could prove that a parent or grandparent had been born in the UK.

Where are they now?

Many of the arrivals became manual workers, cleaners, drivers and nurses - and some broke new ground in representing black Britons in society.

The Jamaican-British campaigner Sam Beaver King, who died in 2016 aged 90, arrived at Tilbury Docks in his 20s before finding work as a postman.

He later became the first black Mayor of Southwark in London.

The Labour MP David Lammy, whose parents arrived in the UK from Guyana, describes himself as a "proud son of the Windrush".

Are they here legally?

The Home Office did not keep a record of those granted leave to remain or issue any paperwork confirming it - meaning it is difficult for Windrush arrivals to prove they are in the UK legally.

And in 2010, landing cards belonging to Windrush migrants were destroyed by the Home Office.

Because they came from British colonies that had not achieved independence, they believed they were British citizens.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said there was "absolutely no question" of the Windrush generation's right to remain.

She told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "People should not be concerned about this - they have the right to stay and we should be reassuring them of that."

Mrs May's spokesman said the prime minister was clear that "no-one with the right to be here will be made to leave".

Why are they facing problems?

Those who lack documents are now being told they need evidence to continue working, get treatment from the NHS - or even to remain in the UK.

Changes to immigration law in 2012, which require people to have documentation to work, rent a property or access benefits, including healthcare, have left people fearful about their status.

The BBC has learned of a number of cases where people have been affected.

Sonia Williams, who came to the UK from Barbados in 1975, aged 13, said she had her driving licence withdrawn and lost her job when she was told she did not have indefinite leave to remain.

"I came here as a minor to join my mum, dad, sister and brother," she told BBC Two's Newsnight. "I wasn't just coming on holiday."

Paulette Wilson, 61, who came to Britain from Jamaica aged 10 in the late 1960s, said she received a letter saying she was in the country illegally.

"I just didn't understand it and I kept it away from my daughter for about two weeks, walking around in a daze thinking 'why am I illegal?'"

What has the government said?

In her apology, Mrs May insisted the government was not "clamping down" on Commonwealth citizens, particularly those from the Caribbean.

The government is creating a task force to help applicants demonstrate they are entitled to work in the UK. It aims to resolve cases within two weeks of evidence being provided.

Announcing the move, Home Secretary Amber Rudd apologised for the "appalling" way the Windrush generation had been treated.

She told MPs the Home Office had "become too concerned with policy and strategy - and loses sight of the individual".

Delegates at this week's Commonwealth heads of government meeting in London are to discuss the situation.

What about other Commonwealth arrivals?

Not everybody who arrived in the UK during the period faced such problems.

Children's TV presenter Floella Benjamin, who was born in Trinidad, said: "I could so easily be one of the Windrush children who are now asked to leave but I came to Britain as a child without my parents on a British passport."

Baroness Benjamin, 68, moved to Beckenham, Kent, in 1960.

"Before 1973 many Caribbean kids came to Britain on their parents' passport and not their

own. That's why many of these cases are coming to light," she said.

How is the campaign progressing?

More than 160,000 people have signed a petition calling on the government to grant an amnesty to anyone who arrived in the UK as a minor between 1948 and 1971.

Its creator, the activist Patrick Vernon, calls on the government to stop all deportations, change the burden of proof, and provide compensation for "loss and hurt".

Mr Vernon, whose parents migrated to the UK from Jamaica in the 1950s, called for "justice for tens of thousands of individuals who have worked hard, paid their taxes and raised children and grandchildren and who see Britain as their home."

However, some people have objected to the word "amnesty" - saying it implies the Windrush generation were not legally entitled to live in the UK in the first place.

How is the Windrush celebrated?

Events are held annually to commemorate the Windrush's arrival 70 years ago, and the subsequent wave of immigration from Caribbean countries.

A model of the ship featured in the opening ceremony for the London 2012 Olympic Games, while the lead-up to Windrush Day on 22 June is being marked with exhibitions, church services and cultural events.

They include works by photographer Harry Jacobs, who took portraits of Caribbean families coming to London in the 1950s, which are being exhibited in Brixton, south-east London.

Document 2 - 'It's inhumane': the Windrush victims who have lost jobs, homes and loved ones

The Guardian, April 20, 2018

About 50,000 people who arrived from Caribbean countries after the second world war, at the invitation of the UK government, face eviction, NHS bills and deportation if they have not formalised their residency status or no longer have the documentation to prove it.

The problems have arisen as a result of the government's "hostile environment policy", which requires employers, NHS staff, landlords and other bodies to demand evidence of people's citizenship or immigration status.

Some of the Windrush-generation children, often travelling on their parents' passports, were not formally naturalised and, as adults, never applied for passports. The Home Office destroyed their landing cards, making it almost impossible for many people, including those below, to prove they had the right to be in the UK, and having a serious impact on their lives.

Kenneth Williams, 58

Williams arrived in Britain in 1969 on his sibling's passport. In 2015 the council he had been working for via an agency refused him direct employment without a passport. He was suspended on full pay but then told to leave. He had a mortgage and could not access benefits owing to his status, so had to rely on family and friends. He was finally given a card confirming he had indefinite leave to remain in August 2017.

Junior Green, 61

Having lived in the UK since he was five months old, Green visited his dying mother in Jamaica last year but was refused readmission. He was eventually granted a temporary visa but the delay in getting this meant he missed his mother's funeral back in the UK. His employer kept his job open but, he says, his mother's death and the surrounding turmoil meant he was too stressed and depressed to resume work.

Judy Griffith, 63

Griffith joined her parents in the UK in 1963. After 52 years, a jobcentre employee told her she was an "illegal immigrant" and, because her passport with evidence of leave to remain had been stolen, she was unable to work or travel. Griffith could not visit her sick mother in Barbados in 2016, or attend the funeral. And without work she has got into significant arrears on her flat in London, and narrowly escaped eviction. She recently

received papers confirming she has indefinite leave to remain.

Jeffrey Miller, 61

Miller came from Grenada in 1966, aged nine, on his brother's passport. He was aware he needed to naturalise formally but the process is expensive and he was worried he did not have all the documents required. He decided instead to avoid all contact with the state, but Theresa May's apology this week, and her promise that no one would be deported has given him the courage to try to resolve his situation.

Briggs Levi Maynard, 89

Maynard arrived in the UK in late 1957 and after a lifetime working, retired on a state pension in 1993. He had travelled on his Barbadian passport many times without problems but in 2017, at Bridgetown airport, he was told he could not return to the UK because he had neither residency nor records of his status. The temporary solution was to buy a return ticket to Barbados. Now he is trying to apply for citizenship; something he never thought would be necessary.

Winston Jones, 62

Jones (not his real name) arrived in London in 1972, aged 16. More than 40 years later, he was admitted to hospital with a brain aneurysm, where staff told him he may have to cover the £5,000 bill. While there, he lost his home because of his "illegal" residency status and he was ineligible for a bed in a state-funded homeless hostel so he was discharged to the streets. Eventually a bed was found for him, and he spent years trying to prove his residency, until in January 2018 the Home Office confirmed he had indefinite leave to remain.

Dexter Bristol, 57

Bristol moved from Grenada to the UK in 1968, aged eight, to join his mother who was working as an NHS nurse, and he spent the rest of his life in the UK. He was sacked from his cleaning job last year because he had no passport, was denied benefits and became depressed. Bristol died while still trying to prove he was in the country legally.

Glenda Caesar, 57

Caesar has spent decades worrying she might be deported, despite living in the UK since she was six months old. When her mother died Caesar tried to go to the Caribbean to bring her mother's body back but was told she could not apply for a British passport. The Home Office has since granted her indefinite leave to remain.

Paulette Wilson, 61

Wilson, a former cook at the House of Commons, arrived in the UK in 1968, aged 10. She

never applied for a British passport and has no papers proving her right to remain. Last October, she was sent to the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre for a week, then taken to Heathrow for deportation to Jamaica. A last-minute intervention from her MP and a charity prevented her removal, and Guardian publicity resulted in her receiving a biometric card.

Anthony Bryan, 60

Bryan has spent three weeks in immigration removal centres over the past two years. He lost his job when Capita told him he had no right to be in the UK, and that it could be fined £10,000 if it continued to employ him. Last November, police and immigration officials arrived early at his home with a battering ram; a plane ticket was booked to take him to Jamaica, the country he left when he was eight and to which he has never returned.

Renford McIntyre, 64

Having arrived in 1968, aged 14, McIntyre had worked in the UK for 48 years but is now sleeping in an industrial unit in Dudley. In 2014 a request for updated paperwork from his employers revealed he did not have documents showing he had a right to be in the UK. He was sacked and the local council told him he was not eligible for benefits.

[...]

Document 3 - Windrush: UK citizenship fees and language tests waived

BBC, April 23, 2018

UK citizenship fees and language tests will be waived for the Windrush generation and their families, Home Secretary Amber Rudd has said.

She told MPs she wanted people to have the "formal status" they should have had all along, without having to pay naturalisation fees or pass any tests.

She also vowed speedy compensation for anyone who had "suffered loss".

Labour said the "buck stopped" with Ms Rudd for a crisis which had brought "shame" on the government.

In a statement to Parliament, Ms Rudd said the citizenship offer would apply not just to the families of Caribbean migrants who came to the UK between 1948 and 1973, but anyone from other Commonwealth nations who settled in the UK over the same period.

Ms Rudd apologised again for changes to immigration rules - dubbed the "hostile environment" policy - which she said had had an "unintended and devastating" impact on the Windrush generation.

While the public expected immigration rules to be enforced, she said, it had never been the intention for a crackdown on illegal immigration to affect those who were "British in all but their legal status".

"This should never have happened," she told MPs.

"We need to show a human face to how we work and exercise greater judgement where it is justified."

Analysis by the BBC's assistant political editor Norman Smith

After days of damaging headlines and repeated apologies, the home secretary sought to draw a line under this scandal with a series of significant concessions.

However, Amber Rudd sparked anger on the opposition benches after she suggested the scandal was the result of successive changes to immigration rules by governments dating back to the 1980s.

While some of the detail surrounding the policy changes have yet be spelt out, ministers will hope that they have done enough to correct the mistakes that have been made and to assuage widespread public anger at the treatment of the Windrush families.

She said she wanted to give the Windrush generation the formal immigration status they "should have had a long time ago" by encouraging those who were not UK citizens to apply to become so.

All fees, language and citizenship tests connected with the naturalisation process would be waived and anyone who had left the UK but been prevented from coming back would now be helped to do so, without any fees.

The offer will apply to those who already have leave to remain, those who do not have the paperwork usually required and children of the Windrush generation.

"In effect this means anyone from the Windrush generation who now wants to become a British citizen will be able to do so," she said.

Ms Rudd said nine residency cases had been settled by a special Home Office team set up to deal with the crisis, while 84 individuals had had appointments made.

Nick Broderick, who came to Britain from Jamaica as a toddler, has spent £30,000 fighting deportation.

He told the BBC that Ms Rudd's announcement was "positive" and would "help a lot of people". He said he was hoping to work again "and get my life back on track".

He said although he had heard nothing about compensation, he was glad he could now become a citizen.

Glenda Caesar, who came to the UK from Dominica with her parents as a six-month-old baby, recently won her battle for citizenship with the Home Office.

The fees and the documentation had been particularly difficult to provide, she said, and she was "so happy" with this move - but still felt annoyed by the saga.

"It's a lot of hurt that I had to go through... We've lost money, I've lost money, I'm in arrears with certain bills.

"So it was, y'know a financial loss to a lot of us, a lot of us, not only myself.

"They've taken 10 years away from me."

'Let down'

All Home Office records dating back to 2002 would be checked to see if anyone had been wrongly deported, Ms Rudd told MPs, adding that no cases had been identified so far with about 50% of documents verified.

She added: "The state has let these people down, with travel documents denied, exclusions from returning to the UK, benefits cut and and even threats of removal. This has happened for some time.

"I will put this right and where people have suffered loss, they will be compensated.

"None of this can undo the pain already endured, but I hope it demonstrates the government's commitment to put these wrongs right, going forward."

Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott said the scandal "should not have been a surprise"

to ministers, given the warnings they had received, and told Ms Rudd "ultimately the buck stops" with her.

"She is behaving as if it is a shock to her that officials are implementing regulations in the way she intended them to be implemented," she said.

While she welcomed the promise of compensation, she said there was a lack of detail and the sums should "reflect the damage to family life" suffered by families and not be "token".

Reflecting on her families' personal experience, she said: "This was a generation with unparalleled commitment to this country, unparalleled pride in being British, unparalleled commitment to hard work and contributing to society.

"It is shameful this government has treated this generation in this way."

And Labour's David Lammy, a leading campaigner for justice for the Windrush families, said they were being offered something which was already their right.

He called on ministers to help others who also made their life in the UK after World War Two but who might not get equal treatment.

"They are from countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda," he said.

"Many of these people have temporary leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain. It is unfair. They were born under Empire."

Document 4 - Black British history 'missing from school curricula in England'

The Guardian, January 8, 2020

An education campaign has been launched to get black British history embedded in the national curriculum and taught in schools in England year round, as an alternative to the limitation of Black History Month.

Schools mark Black History Month with a variety of lessons and activities every October, but campaigners say it is not enough and have developed the “black curriculum” to help ensure all pupils aged between eight and 16 are taught about black history through the year.

The curriculum, which aims to be largely arts based, has been designed to develop a sense of identity and belonging among young people, as well as help build social cohesion and raise attainment.

The syllabus has 12 topics, including art history, politics and migration, and seeks to redress the predominantly Eurocentric perspective of the national curriculum for England. It covers a wide variety of subjects including the sound-system culture, the “sus” laws, Windrush, gentrification and deportation.

The black curriculum was devised by 23-year-old Lavinya Stennett, who thought of the idea while studying for a degree in development and African studies at Soas University of London. She later built up a team of 30, and has started visiting schools and holding weekend workshops.

Stennett was motivated, in part, by her own education in south London, where she found Black History Month focused mainly on slavery, Martin Luther King, and the American civil rights movement, with little attention paid to black British history. “It really is just to do with slavery – which is an important part of history, we do need to learn about it. But I don’t think that’s enough for young people.”

Black History Month has been an annual fixture in the UK since 1987, celebrated in schools and at tens of thousands of events across the country, but in 2018 a row occurred after a number of local authorities scrapped the name, rebranding it “diversity month”.

The 1999 Macpherson report, which followed the racially motivated murder of Stephen Lawrence, highlighted the need for a national curriculum which reflected a diverse population, but according to Stennett there had been insufficient progress.

Experts say there are opportunities in the history and English curricula to study black British history and texts by black British writers, but Stennett said her aim was to make

the teaching of black British history mainstream and mandatory.

She said: "Throughout centuries to the present day black British history has been made and unfolded in front of our very eyes in different spheres. Yet with no mandatory place on a highly Eurocentric national curriculum, black British history continues to be viewed as insignificant.

"We have seen the effects of this omission, which pose a number of serious and dangerous political consequences. It has seen the arbitrary deportation of UK nationals, and not least the preservation of racism in British society."

The black curriculum initiative was formally launched on Wednesday at Soas, alongside a report by Jason Arday, assistant professor in sociology at the University of Durham, which called for greater diversity in the history teaching workforce and better training for teachers.

Stennett's work builds on a growing number of initiatives aimed at increasing diversity in the curriculum.

Claire Alexander, professor of sociology at the University of Manchester, won a 2019 Guardian University Award for her work on the website Our Migration Story, which explores the stories of migrants who shaped Britain, to support new GCSEs developed by the OCR and AQA exam boards.

Alexander said: "My concern is the need to mainstream this across the curriculum. In the last few years the way history has been taught has been very narrow. Teachers feel their training is not sufficiently diverse. They are worried about saying the wrong thing.

"There's a real need for more centralised support in making sure people know this is a really important question for young people and in supporting teachers in their training to teach these histories in a sensible way."

A DfE spokesperson said: "Black history is an important topic which schools have the freedom to teach from primary school age onwards, as part of the history curriculum. Schools have flexibility in how they teach this subject and which resources to use from a range of organisations and sources, which could include the black curriculum if they choose." [...]

Document 5 – Windrush : Government defends Jamaica deportation flight

BBC, February 10, 2020

Home Secretary Priti Patel has defended plans to deport 50 people to Jamaica on Tuesday, after more than 170 MPs called for the flight to be halted.

She said those on the flight had been convicted of "serious offences" carrying sentences of more than a year.

She was bound by legislation to deport them, she said.

But shadow home secretary Diane Abbott said the move was unfair as some had come to the UK as children and "have no memory" of the country of their birth.

It comes after a leaked draft of the Windrush scandal report said the government should consider ending the deportation of foreign-born offenders who came to the UK as children.

Ahead of the flight on Tuesday, protests against the deportations took place on Monday evening outside Downing Street.

Meanwhile, a legal challenge that was launched against the flight by a firm representing its potential passengers has been refused by the High Court.

Duncan Lewis Solicitors had argued that the flight's passengers include people who are "potential victims of trafficking, groomed as children by drugs gangs running county lines networks and later pursued in the criminal justice system as serious offenders".

The flight from the UK to Kingston is due to leave on 11 February and is expected to include a man who arrived in the UK aged five.

In the Commons, Labour's shadow home secretary Ms Abbott said there was "widespread concern", saying the deportation flight "constitutes double jeopardy because the persons have already served an appropriate sentence for their crime".

She added: "Many of the proposed deportees came here as children and have no memory of Jamaica."

Ms Patel said every person on the flight had been convicted of a "serious offence and received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more".

Therefore under legislation introduced by a Labour government in 2007, she said, "a deportation order must be made".

There were cries of "shame" as Ms Patel left the chamber during Labour MP David Lammy's urgent question on the subject.

Father-of-five Howard Ormsby is among those who are due to be deported on Tuesday.

He was jailed for 18 months after he was convicted of possession with intent to supply

class A drugs and he was released in December.

"I came here at the age of 15 with my older sister and I've been here 18 years of my life," the 32-year-old said, speaking to the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire show from a detention centre in Harmondsworth, near London Heathrow.

"I've never tried to deny the fact I've made a mistake, but everyone has a chance to right their wrongs.

"I have all my family here - I have no one in Jamaica."

He said he believed that if he is sent to Jamaica he would be killed because of gang violence there.

Tajay Thompson is also facing deportation to Jamaica. He served half of a 15-month sentence in 2015 after he was convicted of possessing class A drugs with intent to supply at 17.

"I feel like I was born here. Jamaica is not my country," Mr Thompson said, adding that he had no links to the Caribbean nation, which he had only visited twice since coming to the UK aged five.

"It's not like I'm a rapist or a murderer, I've made a mistake when I was 17 and it's now going to affect my whole life."

The 23-year-old, who is living in south London, added that he was groomed into a gang as a teenager.

Junior Home Office minister Kevin Foster replied for the government, saying deportation orders were issued to "serious and persistent" foreign offenders, whether they were born in Jamaica, the United States or anywhere else.

"It is criminality which matters, not nationality," he said.

He said those on the flight had been sentenced to a total of more than 300 years in prison and had been convicted of offences including rape, rape of a child, serious drugs offences, firearms offences and violent crimes.

There were no British nationals on the flight, he said, and everyone was an adult.

But Mr Lammy criticised the "tone" struck by Mr Foster in his remarks, saying it has been less than two years since there was a consensus in the House of Commons about the unacceptable treatment of the descendants of the Windrush generation.

He accused ministers of "suppressing" a report into the scandal and of "disrespecting the contribution of West Indian, Caribbean and black people in this country", asking when "will black lives matter once again".

The Windrush scandal saw many of those who had arrived in Caribbean countries

between 1958 and 1971 detained or deported despite having the right to live in the UK for decades.

The fallout prompted criticism of the government's "hostile environment" approach to immigration and led to the resignation of Amber Rudd as home secretary in 2018.

Answering queries on the publication date of the Windrush report - known as the Lessons Learned Review - Mr Foster said as it was an independent review and ministers could not compel it to be produced by a particular date.

Earlier, more than 170 cross-party MPs said in a letter that they have "grave concerns" about the Home Office's deportation plan and called on the government to cancel all further deportations until the Windrush report was published.

Labour MP Nadia Whittome, who organised the letter, said the government "risks repeating the mistakes of the Windrush scandal unless it cancels this flight".

Document 6 – Windrush scandal: from offhand denial to May's shamefaced apology

The Guardian, March 19, 2020

In the six months between the first Windrush interview I did for the Guardian in November 2017 and the resignation of the Home Secretary in April 2018, I was on the phone so regularly to the Home Office press office that the department's on-hold music became permanently seared into my brain.

Wendy Williams's report into the Windrush scandal offers a rare and fleeting insight into what was happening at the other end of the phone.

I was frequently frustrated by the offhand nature of the official responses. Home Office staff seemed very slow to grasp what was happening, moving gradually over the months from dismissing the problem to blaming the individuals affected for their own difficulties, before attempting to downplay the scale of the issue.

The Williams report has detailed interviews with unnamed Home Office staff members revealing how calls from the Guardian began to trigger a sluggish internal inquiry. In response to my questions about the detention of Paulette Wilson, (a law-abiding 61-year-old grandmother who had been in the UK for almost 50 years) and Anthony Bryan (a law-abiding 60-year-old grandfather who had been here since he was eight), the press office alerted officials that a reporter was asking for information on these proposed deportations. The following day an immigration official emailed back to say they "would need to think carefully about how to respond".

By the end of 2017, the Home Office acknowledged internally that the Guardian was "uncovering a series of cases with a pattern that could no longer be interpreted as unique or a 'one-off'". But no action was taken.

When the Home Office realised it might have an issue with "a few people", press officers were briefed to respond: "We're taking a closer look." But by February, senior officials told the press office staff to take a new line, in effect blaming individuals for their own difficulties, and claiming it was their own responsibility to sort out their status. "Those who have resided in the UK for an extended period but feel they may not have the correct documentation confirming their leave to remain should take legal advice and submit the appropriate application with correct documentation so we can progress the case."

That day, I spent a long time on the phone explaining to a press officer that people were not taking legal advice because legal aid for immigration cases had been abolished in 2012 by the government, and paying for a lawyer was unaffordable if you had been sacked

from your job and denied benefits as a result of a Home Office decision to classify you as an illegal immigrant. People affected were also unable to make the application because the fees were unaffordable.

By March, the press office had again changed its response. Now it asserted that: "We value the contribution made by Commonwealth citizens who have made a life in the UK." It was a peculiar formulation (which still remains in use by the press office), since Commonwealth citizens were coming forward in large numbers to describe how little they felt valued by a government that was treating them as if they had broken immigration laws.

Downing Street remained oblivious to the growing unease. On 15 April 2018 the Guardian reported that No 10 had refused a formal diplomatic request from representatives of 12 Caribbean countries to meet the prime minister to discuss the situation of the Windrush generation. Downing Street officials told Williams that they were "not aware" of the concerns the Caribbean leaders wanted to raise with the prime minister, and later found time for a meeting. But by that point the diplomatic snub had become international news, and within hours Theresa May was forced finally to apologise for her government's treatment of the Windrush generation.

Document 7 - The Windrush review is unequivocal: institutional racism played its part

The Guardian, March 21, 2020

In June 2018, the then home secretary, Sajid Javid, commissioned the Windrush Lessons Learned review – a report reflecting on the causes of the Windrush injustices. The independent review was in response to mounting evidence that members of the Windrush generation were losing jobs, homes and access to benefits, as well as being denied NHS treatment, detained, and forcibly deported to countries they left as children.

The findings, alongside the testimonies of black British citizens affected by the hostile environment, are truly anguishing.

Wendy Williams, the HM inspector of constabulary appointed as the independent reviewer, has examined the key legislative, policy and operational decisions that led to the Windrush injustices, and spoken to those who suffered grave and catastrophic consequences from becoming entangled in the government's hostile immigration policies. Williams' review draws a stark conclusion: the UK's treatment of the Windrush generation, and approach to immigration more broadly, was caused by institutional failures to understand race and racism. Their failures conform to certain aspects of Lord Macpherson's definition of institutional racism, enshrined in the Macpherson report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, published in 1999.

Macpherson defined institutional racism as: "The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture, or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantage minority ethnic people."

The Windrush Lessons Learned review pulls no punches in describing the failure of ministers and officials to understand the nature of racism in Britain. It shows how the government's hostile environment immigration policies had devastating impacts on the lives and families of black citizens within the UK.

It is hard to forget the story of Michael Braithwaite, who came from Barbados to the UK as a nine year-old, more than 50 years ago. Thinking that he was British, Braithwaite never applied for a passport – but in 2017, after the implementation of the 2014 and 2016 Immigration Acts, he suddenly lost his job as a special needs teaching assistant in a school where he had worked for more than 15 years. Michael had been living in the UK legally his entire life, but he lost his much-loved job and livelihood because he could not

prove his citizenship status.

The fact that black British people who had spent much of their lives in Britain, working and paying taxes, were accidental victims of the government's immigration policies, perfectly illustrates how the coalition and Conservative governments not only failed to adhere to existing race relations legislation, but also showed a complete lack of understanding about "indirect discrimination" – a concept accepted in legislation as far back as the 1976 Race Relations Act.

Neither that lesson of "unintended discrimination", nor the definition of "institutional racism" from the Macpherson report, seem to have been learned by Britain's policymakers and politicians. Not only is intent irrelevant for assessing whether policies are racially discriminatory, but race equality laws (including the 2000 Race Relations Amendment Act and the public sector equality duty) appear to have made little difference to immigration and citizenship policies affecting people from different ethnic groups.

This reveals a shocking lack of understanding of what racism is – namely that it's not solely about intent. In April 2018, the dramatic apology by the then prime minister, Theresa May, showed a failure to understand this lesson, when she insisted it wasn't her government's intent to disproportionately affect people from the Caribbean in the operation of hostile environment immigration policy.

For policymakers and politicians to learn the profound lessons of the Windrush review, they must not only "right the wrongs" suffered by the Windrush generation (as well as those from other ethnic minority groups), but they must also understand how and why immigration and citizenship policies, and Home Office culture, have repeatedly discriminated against black and ethnic minority citizens over the decades.

The Windrush generation are owed a full apology – an apology that is based on understanding that their treatment wasn't an accidental misfortune, but the result of institutional failure to understand the role of race and racism in Britain.

Document 8 - Windrush compensation scheme to get MPs' backing

BBC, March 24, 2020

Legislation authorising compensation payments to victims of the Windrush scandal is set to be approved by MPs.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme Bill is expected to pass through its final Commons stages on Tuesday.

Members of the Windrush generation and their families who were wrongly told they were in Britain illegally have been promised financial redress.

A recent review found a “profound institutional failure” had turned thousands of lives upside down.

An estimated 500,000 people now living in the UK who arrived between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have been called the Windrush generation, a reference to a ship which brought workers to the UK in 1948.

They were granted indefinite leave to remain in 1971 but thousands were children travelling on their parents' passports, without their own documents.

Changes to immigration law in 2012 meant those without documents were asked for evidence to continue working, access services or even to remain in the UK.

Some were held in detention or deported, despite living in the country legally for decades, resulting in a furious backlash over their treatment.

Home Secretary Priti Patel has apologised for this “betrayal of trust” and said all those entitled to compensation will receive it.

The first payments from the scheme have been made, although legislation is necessary to authorise public expenditure relating to it.

The bill has cross-party support although Labour has been pushing for wider eligibility criteria, faster payments, and more assistance for those seeking justice.

The legislation will also need to be approved by the House of Lords before it becomes law.

It is unclear whether this will happen before Parliament breaks up for its Easter recess on Tuesday, amid speculation that this could be brought forward due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Compensation payments will be calculated through an assessment of the financial impact on individuals' lives, such as loss of income and access to housing, of not being able to prove their immigration status.

The Home Office has said it will consider requests “in the round based on all the available evidence” including its own records and those of other departments.

In its impact assessment, the department said payments could total between £120m and £310m, based on the assumption that 15,000 people applied.

The Home Office has set a deadline of 2 April, 2021 for claims although there will be a sixth-month grace period after that for exceptional cases to still be considered.