

Motion A - Appointment of a Haringey Windrush Champion - amendment

Proposer: Cllr Beverley Berrick

Seconder: Cllr Ibrahim Ali

This Council notes:

1. People who arrived from Caribbean countries between 1948-1973 to help rebuild Britain, many of whom settled in Haringey and worked in the NHS, transport, and public services. The Windrush scandal saw hundreds of Commonwealth citizens wrongly denied healthcare, housing, jobs, and in some cases wrongly detained or deported due to lack of paperwork.
2. *In 2018, David Lammy MP, the Member of Parliament for Tottenham, worked to expose the scandal. In conjunction with Lenny Henry and others, he organised a petition by black celebrities to the UK government to coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in London. The petition demanded 'amnesty for anyone who was a minor that arrived in Britain between 1948 to 1971'.*
3. *On 16th April 2018, David Lammy MP secured an urgent question in the House of Commons. In an emotional and brilliant speech, he described the revelations as 'a National Day of Shame'. The then Home Secretary, Amber Rudd MP, was made to apologise to the House.*
4. *David Lammy continued to campaign for those effected by the Windrush scandal, both in parliament and in the media. He lobbied for a fair and accessible compensation scheme for victims, without caps or restrictions. He changed the course of history in his support for those effected by the Windrush scandal.*
5. While the scandal primarily impacted Black Caribbean communities, the Windrush Compensation Scheme is also open to other Commonwealth nationals and their children who arrived before 1973, and those with settled status before 1988. This includes residents of Black African, South Asian, and other Commonwealth backgrounds living in Tottenham, Seven Sisters, Wood Green and across the borough.
6. Haringey is one of London's most diverse boroughs. Census 2021 data shows approximately:
7. ◦ Black / Black British: 17.3% of residents. Within this, Black Caribbean 5.9% and Black African 9.2%
8. ◦ Asian / Asian British: 9.2%
9. ◦ Other ethnic groups including Turkish, Kurdish, and Mixed: significant populations, particularly in North Tottenham.

This diversity means the impact of hostile environment policies has been felt across multiple communities in Haringey, even though Black Caribbean elders are the group most directly targeted.

10. As of July 2024, 8,800 claims have been made nationally to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, with £94 million paid out. The Home Office estimated 15,000 may be eligible, meaning less than 20% have come forward. Campaigners report delays, complex forms, and distrust as barriers.
11. Bernie Grant MP, Haringey *Labour's* first Black MP, fought for Windrush residents' rights. Broadwater Farm and other estates in Tottenham remain home to many Windrush elders and their families.

This Council believes:

1. That Haringey has a duty to ensure no resident is denied their rights due to historical immigration failings.
2. That many eligible residents in Haringey have not claimed compensation because they do not know the scheme exists, do not trust it, or cannot access support to apply.
3. That *the Cabinet should appoint a Windrush champion from the community to provide leadership, visibility and accountability on this issue.*

This Council Resolves:

- *To set up a Windrush Working Group, made up of cross-party councillor representatives, residents and key stakeholders. This group will annually appoint one of its members to take up the role of Windrush Champion, confirmed by the Cabinet,*
- Act as a point of contact for residents, community organisations and stakeholders, affected by *the Windrush scandal.*
- Increase awareness and uptake of the Compensation Scheme and Windrush Documentation Scheme, and available sources of advice and support in the borough.
- *Report a clear action plan and progress to the Cabinet on an annual basis.*
- Request the Home Office provide borough-level data on Haringey claims, and publish an annual Haringey Windrush Report on claims made, payments received, and support given.

- Make recommendations to the-Cabinet on how the Council can improve awareness, accessibility and uptake of the compensation scheme.