

Open Letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on the Rwanda Bill/Act

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to express our shared outrage at the passage of the misleadingly named 'Safety of Rwanda Act'. This is a shameful and performatively cruel law that will risk people's lives and betray who we are as a society.

We all want to be safe - and we want that safety for each other, too. As a country, we are proud to uphold our responsibility to support refugees. Given the chance, communities across our country go the extra mile to welcome those in need. The wider public do not support the Rwanda plan.¹

But this law would enable the Government to forcibly expel people seeking asylum - including children and survivors of trafficking and modern slavery - despite concerns they could be put at grave risk of harm and human rights abuses. The Rwanda plan will force people who have fled violence and persecution into detention centres where they may face abuse and mistreatment, with no time limit. They will then be removed to a country to which they have no connection, despite our country's Supreme Court ruling that it is unsafe for them. Through this law, the Government will put them at grave risk of mental and physical harm, and of being returned to danger in the countries they fled.

Despite the clear ruling from the Supreme Court, the Government is rewriting the facts so they can shirk our responsibilities to refugees. In doing so, the Government would break international law and further shatter the UK's commitment to justice and the rule of law. While this is a targeted attack on refugees and migrants, an attack on one group's rights is an attack on all of us.

Outsourcing our asylum system to other countries is never acceptable. It abandons our duty to share in the global responsibility towards those forced to seek safety. Instead of continuing down this dangerous path, the Government must guarantee that asylum claims will be heard fairly on our shores, and open safe routes so that people are not forced to take dangerous journeys.

As organisations working towards a better future for all, we believe in kindness and compassion. The Government must listen to the people, abandon this deplorable deal with Rwanda and similar plans with other countries, and protect those who need sanctuary.

¹ British Future / Focaldata poll, published 17 March 2024: "Only 24 per cent of the public think the government should try to get the Rwanda Bill through in its current form" ("Less than a quarter of the public back Rwanda Bill in current form, poll finds", *Politics.co.uk*, 18 March 2024, available at: <https://www.politics.co.uk/news/2024/03/18/less-than-a-quarter-of-the-public-back-rwanda-bill-in-current-form-poll-finds>)

Signed by 251 civil society organisations, in alphabetical order:

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| 1 | ACAP (Ashton Churches Asylum Project) | 30 | Bristol Refugee Rights |
| 2 | Action for Refugees i Lewisham | 31 | Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees |
| 3 | African Rainbow Family | 32 | Bromsgrove Justice and Peace Group |
| 4 | After Exploitation | 33 | Calais Light |
| 5 | Amnesty Mid Gloucestershire Group | 34 | Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary |
| 6 | Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU) | 35 | Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group |
| 7 | Apna Haq | 36 | Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign |
| 8 | Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) | 37 | CARAS (Community Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) |
| 9 | Asylum Link Merseyside | 38 | Care4Calais |
| 10 | Asylum Matters | 39 | Central England Law Centre |
| 11 | Asylum Seeker Housing Project | 40 | Children's Rights Alliance for England, part of Just for Kids Law |
| 12 | Asylum Support Appeals Project | 41 | Choose Love (CIO) |
| 13 | Asylum Welcome | 42 | Christian Concern for One World |
| 14 | Bail for Immigration Detainees | 43 | Church of Scotland |
| 15 | Baptists Together | 44 | Churches Together in Sandbach |
| 16 | BARAC UK | 45 | Citizens of the World Choir |
| 17 | Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary | 46 | City of Sanctuary Sheffield |
| 18 | BEACON | 47 | City of Sanctuary UK |
| 19 | Best for Britain | 48 | Columbans Missionaries in Britain |
| 20 | Big Leaf Foundation | 49 | Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) |
| 21 | BIRCH Network | 50 | Community Policy Forum |
| 22 | Birmingham City of Sanctuary | 51 | Communityworks |
| 23 | Boaz Trust | 52 | Connected Routes CIC |
| 24 | Bournville Amnesty | 53 | Conversations From Calais |
| 25 | Bradford City of Sanctuary | 54 | Coventry Against Racism |
| 26 | Bradford Immigration & Asylum Support & Advice Network (BIASAN) | 55 | Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre |
| 27 | Bradford Rape Crisis | 56 | Da'aro Youth Project |
| 28 | Bristol Defend the Asylum Seekers Campaign | 57 | Darlington Assistance for Refugees |
| 29 | Bristol Law Centre | 58 | Detention Action |

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| 59 | Disability Rights UK | 92 | Hexham Amnesty |
| 60 | Diverse Cymru | 93 | HIAS+JCORE |
| 61 | Doncaster Conversation Club | 94 | Hope and Aid Direct |
| 62 | Durham City of Sanctuary | 95 | Hope Projects |
| 63 | EachOther | 96 | House of Rainbow CIC |
| 64 | Ecojustice Ireland | 97 | Human Rights Consortium
Scotland |
| 65 | End Violence Against Women
Coalition | 98 | Human Rights Lawyer |
| 66 | Entraide UK | 99 | Human Rights Watch |
| 67 | Equally Ours | 100 | Humanists UK |
| 68 | Fair Vote UK | 101 | Humans for Rights Network |
| 69 | Fair Way Scotland | 102 | Ice and Fire Theatre Company |
| 70 | Faith Network for Manchester | 103 | IMIX |
| 71 | Fatima House | 104 | Immigration Law Practitioners'
Association (ILPA) |
| 72 | Focus on Labour Exploitation
(FLEX) | 105 | Inclusion North CIC |
| 73 | FODI | 106 | INQUEST |
| 74 | forRefugees | 107 | Interfaith Scotland |
| 75 | Freedom from Torture | 108 | Iraqi Association |
| 76 | Friends of the Earth England,
Wales and Northern Ireland | 109 | Jesuit Refugee Service UK |
| 77 | Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group | 110 | Just Fair |
| 78 | Global Link | 111 | Just Futures Research Centre,
University of Huddersfield |
| 79 | Good Chance Theatre | 112 | JustRight Scotland |
| 80 | Govan Community Project | 113 | KRAN |
| 81 | Gower College Swansea | 114 | Latin American Women's Rights
Service (LAWRS) |
| 82 | Greater Manchester Immigration
Aid Unit | 115 | Law Centres Network |
| 83 | Hackney Stand Up to Racism | 116 | Leeds Anti Raids Action |
| 84 | Haringey Migrant Support Centre | 117 | Leeds Asylum Seekers Support
Network |
| 85 | Haringey Welcome | 118 | Leeds Refugee Forum |
| 86 | Hastings Community of Sanctuary | 119 | Legal Aid Practitioners Group |
| 87 | Hastings Supports Refugees | 120 | Leicester City of Sanctuary |
| 88 | HBTSR (Hay Brecon and Talgarth
Sanctuary for Refugees) | 121 | Lewisham Refugee and Migrant
Network (LRMN) |
| 89 | Heanor Baptist Church | 122 | Liberty |
| 90 | Helen Bamber Foundation | 123 | Lifeline Options CIC |
| 91 | Herts for Refugees | 124 | Louth Churches for Refugees |

- 125 Mafwa Theatre CIC
- 126 Manchester City of Sanctuary
- 127 Manchester Migrant Solidarity
- 128 MAP Middlesbrough
- 129 Mary Thompson Fund
- 130 Medact
- 131 Medical Justice
- 132 Mermaids
- 133 Merseyside Solidarity Knows No Borders
- 134 METRO Charity
- 135 Metropolitan Community Church of North London (MCCNL)
- 136 Micro Rainbow
- 137 Migrant Champions Network
- 138 Migrant Voice
- 139 Migrants' Rights Network
- 140 Migration Policy and Practice
- 141 Music Action International
- 142 NACCOM
- 143 New Citizens' Gateway
- 144 New Europeans UK
- 145 NIARA
- 146 No To Hassockfield
- 147 North Wales Regional Equality Network
- 148 Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF)
- 149 Oasis Church
- 150 Oldham Unity Destitution Project
- 151 One Community Link
- 152 One Life To Live
- 153 One Roof Leicester
- 154 Open Rights Group
- 155 Our Second Home
- 156 Out In The City
- 157 Oxfam GB
- 158 PAFRAS
- 159 Peace of Mind CIO
- 160 Pendle New Neighbours
- 161 People & Planet
- 162 PERN (Penrith and Eden Refugee Network)
- 163 Plan International UK
- 164 POMOC
- 165 Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS)
- 166 Praxis
- 167 Public Interest Litigation Support Project
- 168 Public Law Project
- 169 Quakers in Britain
- 170 Race Equality Network
- 171 Rainbow Home
- 172 Rainbow Migration
- 173 RAIS (Refugee Advocacy, Information, and Support)
- 174 Reach Group, Huddersfield
- 175 Reclaim the Agenda
- 176 Refugee Action
- 177 Refugee and Migrant Centre (West Midlands)
- 178 Refugee Council
- 179 Refugee Futures
- 180 Refugee Legal Support (RLS)
- 181 Refugee Support Group
- 182 Refugee Welcome Homes CIC
- 183 Refugee Women Connect
- 184 Refugee Youth Service
- 185 Refugees & Mentors CIC
- 186 Refugees at Home
- 187 Rene Cassin, the Jewish Voice for Human Rights
- 188 Restore, a project of Birmingham Churches Together
- 189 Right to Remain
- 190 Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

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| 191 | Room to Heal | 221 | The Gomes Brothers |
| 192 | Safe Passage International | 222 | The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) |
| 193 | Scotswood Garden | 223 | The Launchpad Collective |
| 194 | Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees | 224 | The Methodist Church |
| 195 | Scottish Refugee Council | 225 | The Pickwell Foundation |
| 196 | Settle Area Refugee Support group | 226 | The Snowdrop Project |
| 197 | Six Ways Baptist Church | 227 | The United Reformed Church |
| 198 | Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church | 228 | The VOICES Network |
| 199 | Skipton Refugee Support Group | 229 | The William Gomes Podcast |
| 200 | Social Equity Centre | 230 | These Walls Must Fall |
| 201 | South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group (SYMAAG) | 231 | Together with Migrant Children |
| 202 | South Yorkshire Refugee Law & Justice | 232 | UK Must Act |
| 203 | Southall Black Sisters | 233 | Unicorn Theatre |
| 204 | Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group | 234 | Unite NW522 |
| 205 | Southeast and East Asian Centre (SEEAC) | 235 | United Reformed Church, Wythenshawe |
| 206 | Southeast and east Asian Women's Association | 236 | Vauxhall Law Centre |
| 207 | St Paul's Church, Birmingham | 237 | Voices in Exile |
| 208 | St Vincent de Paul RC Church (Liverpool) Justice & Peace Group | 238 | Voices Without Borders |
| 209 | St Vincent Newcastle (St Vincent de Paul Society England & Wales) | 239 | Waging Peace |
| 210 | Stand and Be Counted Theatre | 240 | Walking With |
| 211 | Stand For All | 241 | We Are Survivors |
| 212 | Stories of Hope and Home | 242 | We Belong |
| 213 | Street Talk | 243 | Welcome Group Halesowen |
| 214 | Stroud District Together With Refugees | 244 | Welsh Centre for International Affairs |
| 215 | Student Action for Refugees (STAR) | 245 | Welsh Refugee Council |
| 216 | Swansea Asylum Seeker Support (SASS) | 246 | West London Welcome |
| 217 | Swansea Women's Asylum and Refugee Support Group | 247 | Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary |
| 218 | Tees Valley of Sanctuary | 248 | Women for Refugee Women |
| 219 | The Ark Synagogue | 249 | Women's International League of Peace and Freedom |
| 220 | The Comfrey Project | 250 | Women's Support Project (Rights & Choices) |
| | | 251 | Young Roots |