

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:

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

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 |