



HM Government



The Windrush Help Team

**Here to support you
and your family**



If you or your parents came to the UK from any Commonwealth country before 1973, or you came to the UK from any country before the end of 1988, then we could help you get documents to show your legal status. We can also help you claim the compensation you're entitled to.



Who can get help?

You may be able to get help if you are confused or unsure about your legal status in the UK. You may also get help if you have suffered losses because you could not prove your legal status. This applies if:

- you or your parents came to the UK from any Commonwealth country before 1973
- you came to the UK from any country before the end of 1988
- Some grandchildren and close family members may also be able to claim compensation.

How can you get documents to show your right to live in the UK?

Some people who settled lawfully in the UK years ago do not have the documents to show their legal right to live and work here. The Government's Windrush Help Team supports people to get these documents free of charge.

What can you claim compensation for?

The Windrush Help Team also helps people claim compensation. If you have lost out on things like jobs and healthcare because you could not prove your right to live in the UK, you may be able to claim compensation.

You may be able to claim compensation if you:

- lost access to employment, housing, healthcare, education, banking, benefits or driving
- incurred costs because of an unsuccessful immigration application
- were detained, deported or removed, or your daily life was impacted

Examples of people helped by the Windrush Scheme

Christopher

Christopher's father came to the UK from Grenada in 1970. Christopher came to the UK with his mother when he was eight. He has lived in the UK ever since. Both of Christopher's parents died many years ago. Christopher works for the NHS. Christopher asked the Windrush Scheme for help to get British citizenship.

He could not remember certain details about his parents, such as when they came to the UK and what their status was. The Windrush Scheme looked for information about Christopher and his parents, so he could prove he was allowed to live in the UK. They found Government records that showed that Christopher's parents lived in the UK ever since they arrived, and that his father was working here before 1973. This showed that his father was settled before 1 January 1973.

Christopher was granted British citizenship.

Patricia

Patricia came to the UK from Jamaica with her parents in 1963 when she was five. She has lived in the UK ever since. She had nothing to prove that she was allowed to live in the UK.

Patricia contacted the Windrush Scheme. They explained how to apply. They helped her by looking for proof of her status and long residence in Government records.

She was given British citizenship for free without needing to take any further tests.

Sandeep

Sandeep came to the UK from India and settled here in 1970 aged 20. He set up a business in the UK. In 2008 he went back to India to look after his elderly parents. He kept his business active in the UK. His two children and their families still lived here and he visited the UK regularly.

When Sandeep's parents died in India, he wanted to come back to the UK to live. He got a six-month visit visa, and contacted the Windrush Scheme for help on arrival.

Sandeep was granted 'indefinite leave to remain' because of his strong ties with the UK.

Yvonne

Yvonne is 75 and arrived in 1966 with her husband. They have two children who were born in the UK and still live here. Yvonne and her husband retired in 2008 and went to Nigeria. She has visited the UK often to see her family.

When her husband died, Yvonne wanted to return to the UK to live with her daughter.

The Windrush Scheme team helped Yvonne get a 'returning resident visa' because of her strong ties to the UK. Now back in the UK she has been given a further document to prove she is 'settled' in the UK.

Contact the Windrush Help Team to find out more

Anything you tell us will be treated with sensitivity and your information will not be passed on to Immigration Enforcement.

 **Call the free helpline: 0800 678 1925**

 **Visit: [GOV.UK/WindrushHelpTeam](https://www.gov.uk/WindrushHelpTeam)**

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