



Treaty Series No. 32 (2024)

# Exchange of Letters

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on the Interpretation of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for the Provision of an Asylum Partnership to Strengthen Shared International Commitments on the Protection of Refugees and Migrants

Kigali, 10 May 2024

[The Agreement entered into force 10 May 2024]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
by Command of His Majesty  
May 2024*



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**EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ASYLUM PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN SHARED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

**Letter No. 1**

*British High Commission Rwanda to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

*Kigali  
10 May 2024*

Dear PS Clementine,

I have the honour to refer to recent discussions between our two Governments concerning the interpretation of the terms "Relocated Individual" in Article 1(1)(1) and "other individuals arriving illegally in the United Kingdom" in Article 2(3)(b) of the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for the Provision of an Asylum Partnership to Strengthen Shared International Commitments on the Protection of Refugees and Migrants signed at Kigali on 5 December 2023 ("the Agreement").

It is the understanding of my Government that it was the joint intention of our two Governments that the ambit of aforementioned terms extended to individuals who: arrived in the United Kingdom illegally, made an asylum or humanitarian claim which was admitted to the United Kingdom asylum system — notwithstanding that the individual arrived illegally — which was not granted by the United Kingdom authorities, and so have exhausted all domestic appeal rights and that the Agreement should be construed accordingly.

It follows from this understanding that the protections and guarantees provided under the Agreement apply equally to such individuals as they would to asylum seekers whose claims are not considered by the United Kingdom or those who did not make an asylum or protection claim against their country of origin or country of former habitual residence in the United Kingdom and who are relocated under the terms of the Agreement.

It is also the understanding of my Government that it was the joint intention of our two Governments that the word 'removed' in the definition of "Relocated Individual" in Article 1(1)(1) includes the assisted relocation of any individual who does not have leave to remain in the United Kingdom to Rwanda.

It follows from this understanding that the protections and guarantees provided under the Agreement apply equally to those who accept assistance from the United Kingdom authorities to voluntarily leave the United Kingdom for the Republic of Rwanda as they would to asylum seekers whose claims are not considered by the United Kingdom or those who did not make an asylum or protection claim against their country of origin or country of former habitual residence in the United Kingdom and who are relocated under the terms of the Agreement.

If this is also the understanding of your Government, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply to that effect shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments concerning the interpretation of these terms.

## **Letter No. 2**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to the British High Commission  
Rwanda*

*Kigali  
10 May 2024*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 10 May 2024 on the interpretation of the terms ‘Relocated Individual’ and ‘removed’ in Article 1(1)(l) and the terms ‘other individuals arriving illegally in the United Kingdom’ in Article 2(3)(b) of the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for the Provisions of an Asylum Partnership to Strengthen Shared International Commitments on the Protection of Refugees and Migrants signed at Kigali on 5 December 2023 (‘the Agreement’).

It is hereby confirmed that our two Governments are in agreement on the interpretation of these terms as detailed in your letter. It is further confirmed that the protections and guarantees under the Agreement apply equally to all relocated individuals.

If this is agreeable to your Government, I have the honour to confirm that your letter and this response constitutes an agreement between our two Government concerning the interpretation and application of these terms.

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