

Windrush explainer: notes and links for teachers

- The Windrush generation arrived in the UK from the Caribbean between the late 1940s and the early 1970s. They were invited to come to the UK after the second world war to work and help rebuild the country.
- The MV Empire Windrush was the name of one of the first ships that brought workers and their families from Caribbean islands such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to the UK in 1948.
- Lots of people were only young children when they arrived.
- A law came into force in 1973 meaning that they were given 'indefinite leave to remain' in the UK. This means they were legally allowed to live in the UK for the rest of their lives.
- However, they were not given any documents by the government to prove this status, and the government did not make a list of all the people who were allowed to stay.
- In 2012, the government brought in a law that meant everyone needed to prove their citizenship in order to get employment, NHS treatment, or rent a home.
- Lots of the Windrush generation had no way of proving this.
- People have lost their jobs, their homes and have been denied medical treatment.
- Many people have been threatened with being sent back to the country where they were born, even though they have not been there since they were a young child.
- Some people were sent to detention centres and told they were in the UK illegally.

The Guardian and BBC explainer videos are both around two minutes long and very effective at describing the history of the Windrush generation and the scandal:

[Video: Guardian Windrush explainer](#) [Video: Newsround Windrush explainer](#)

More in-depth information on the topic can be found here:

[Timeline of key events](#) [Eight people tell their story](#)

These are two videos of people telling their own stories, which feature in the resource:

[Video: Albert Thompson explains what happened to him](#)

[Video: Paulette Wilson explains what happened to her](#)

Abridged versions of articles about the Windrush scandal appear in the resource. If you would like to look at them in more depth they can be found here:

28 November 2017 - [Paulette Wilson reports that she has been threatened with deportation after 50 years in the UK](#)

11 January 2018 – [Paulette Wilson gets legal right to remain in UK](#)

30 April 2018 - [Amber Rudd resigns](#)

5 May 2018 - [Family of Paulette Wilson say they are glad they spoke out](#)