



**Windrush  
National  
Organisation**

**Report on  
Windrush Faith  
Conference  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Report on the Windrush Faith Conference**  
**Edgbaston Park Hotel & Conference Centre**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Introduction:**

This report summarises the key points and outcomes from the recent meeting regarding the ongoing efforts to address the Windrush scandal. The meeting brought together community leaders, faith representatives, government officials, and advocacy groups, highlighting the progress made and the ongoing challenges faced by the Windrush generation and their descendants. It also served as a platform to discuss collaborative efforts in securing justice, healing, and ensuring that the wrongs of the past are not repeated.

**Key Speakers and Contributions:**

**Councillor Sharon Thomson:** Sharon Thomson spoke about her personal connection to the Windrush issue and expressed gratitude to the Windrush National Organisation (WNO) for its efforts both locally and nationally. She noted the importance of rebuilding trust and confidence within the community, emphasizing that some individuals affected by the scandal have passed away without seeing justice. Thomson also outlined 12 strategic asks that the WNO has been pushing for, with 4 already achieved. She highlighted the need for system change, particularly within the Home Office, and called for continued advocacy for Windrush victims and their families.

**Bishop Dr. Desmond Jadoo MBE (Chairperson WNO):** Bishop Desmond stressed the importance of faith leaders in the campaign for justice for the Windrush community. He noted that faith has been a crucial support for those affected, providing both emotional and spiritual guidance. Bishop Des encouraged faith leaders to come together to increase their collective efforts in advocating for justice. He also mentioned the upcoming international conference in October that will explore the legacy of Windrush and its impact on faith communities.

**Seema Malhotra MP (Home Office):** Seema Malhotra, responsible for Windrush issues within the Home Office, thanked the Reverend Clive Foster and Bishop Des for their ongoing efforts and the continued engagement with the government. She emphasized that the government's focus remains on ensuring compensation is distributed and that the community's voices are heard. Malhotra highlighted that over £105 million had been paid out in compensation and reaffirmed the government's commitment to righting the wrongs of the scandal. She also spoke about the Windrush Reset initiative, the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, and the plans to ensure people continue to receive the support they need.

**Glenda Caesar (Voice of Victims):** Glenda Caesar shared the personal challenges faced by victims of the Windrush scandal, including distrust and feelings of dismissal by authorities. Despite these challenges, she expressed a strong desire for forgiveness and emphasized the importance of community healing. Caesar called for collaborative efforts to ensure that such injustices never happen again and highlighted the need for support systems that address the emotional and spiritual needs of those affected.

**Bishop Mike Royal:** Bishop Mike Royal, with a Pentecostal background and as Chief Executive of Churches Together, discussed the role of the Church in addressing issues of racial justice and supporting the Windrush community. He stressed that the Church's involvement should not just be about campaigning but also about providing tangible support. Bishop Mike Royal highlighted various church-led initiatives aimed at providing emotional, spiritual, and practical assistance to those impacted by the scandal.

**Home Office Windrush Presentation:** Jacqui O'Neil and the Engagement Team from the Home Office presented on the ongoing efforts to support the Windrush generation, focusing on the Windrush Status Scheme and compensation initiatives. She acknowledged the damage caused by the scandal, particularly the trauma of individuals who were unable to demonstrate their legal status in the UK. The importance of building trust was also emphasised and noted that the Home Office was committed to working closely with faith communities to identify vulnerable individuals and ensure they receive the help they need.

**Reverend Clive Foster MBE (Vice Chair WNO):** Reverend Clive Foster, Executive Dean at Nottingham Trent University, and a leading figure at the Windrush National Organisation (WNO) provided an overview of the organization's work since its founding in 2020. He detailed the WNO's role in advocating for victims, raising awareness, and pushing for policy change. Foster also announced the organization's new strategy for 2025-2028, which includes national and international engagement and efforts to address emerging issues related to the Windrush scandal.

### **Roundtable Discussions:**

During the roundtable discussions, key points were raised regarding the spiritual and emotional support needed for individuals affected by the Windrush scandal. Faith leaders were urged to create accessible spaces for those struggling emotionally, ensuring that support extends beyond just practical or legal assistance. There was a consensus that faith communities have a unique role in advocating for the Windrush generation and their descendants, as they possess a high level of trust within their communities.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of accurate information and the role of faith leaders in disseminating this information. Participants emphasized the need to tackle misinformation about the Windrush scandal and ensure that communities, especially younger generations, are equipped with the knowledge to support affected individuals.

### **Action Items and Next Steps:**

**Promoting Awareness:** Continued efforts to raise awareness of the Windrush status and compensation schemes along with support options. Faith leaders are encouraged to actively engage in spreading the message to their congregations.

**Addressing Misinformation:** Faith communities will play a critical role in addressing the misinformation surrounding the Windrush scandal. Accurate and clear information needs to be provided, particularly to younger generations and through faith-based networks.

**Strengthening Collaboration:** There was a strong call for increased collaboration between faith communities, advocacy groups, and government officials. Establishing trust and working together will be essential for providing comprehensive support to those affected by the scandal.

**Upcoming Events:** The upcoming international conference in October, which will focus on the Windrush legacy, offers an important opportunity for continued dialogue and advocacy.

### **Conclusion:**

The meeting underscored the importance of continued advocacy, collaboration, and trust-building between government officials, faith leaders, and advocacy groups. The commitment to addressing the ongoing challenges faced by the Windrush community remains strong, and there is a shared determination to ensure that the wrongs of the past are not repeated. Moving forward, it will be crucial to maintain open lines of communication, provide accurate information, and offer both emotional and practical support to those impacted by the Windrush scandal.

## **Windrush Faith Conference Roundtable Discussions (Report)**

### **Spiritual and Emotional Support**

Faith leaders have a vital role in providing spiritual and emotional support for individuals affected by the Windrush scandal.

It is essential that churches and faith-based organisations offer open and accessible spaces for individuals to receive help. Key actions include:

**Open Surgeries:** Faith leaders should hold open surgeries specifically to address trauma and mental health issues faced by Windrush individuals. This allows affected individuals to seek assistance in a safe and supportive environment.

**Point of Contact:** Establish a clear point of contact for Windrush victims within the church or faith community. This could be a designated person or team responsible for providing support, offering guidance, and assisting with navigating services.

**Raising Awareness:** Windrush issues should be placed on the agendas of faith meetings, ensuring that there is continued focus on the plight of those affected. Initiatives such as the Third Age Chaplaincy should be used to help raise awareness and provide relevant support.

**Home Visits:** Faith leaders must be prepared to visit individuals in their homes if necessary. This will ensure that individuals who may not be able to attend church services or community meetings can still receive vital support and care.

**Building Trust:** It is crucial to build trust with the Windrush generation. This can be achieved by offering Windrush-friendly pastoral support, creating a warm, welcoming environment, and ensuring that emotional support spaces are safe and accessible for all individuals.

### **Practical Assistance**

Practical assistance is vital in helping individuals navigate the challenges they face. Faith communities can provide direct support by facilitating access to various resources and services. Important actions include:

**Signposting Assistance:** Faith leaders should act as signposts, directing individuals to free legal services, community support, and government services. This can be achieved through websites, workshops, and informational materials.

**Community Networking:** Faith communities should expand their outreach efforts by working with local organisations and services. The creation of 'warm spaces' within communities, where people can receive support and interact with others, will help foster a sense of belonging.

**Health Support:** Faith communities should recognise and identify health conditions that may affect an individual's ability to communicate effectively. Providing appropriate support for those with disabilities or health conditions can ensure that they are not excluded from services and assistance.

**Leveraging Faith Resources:** Within churches and places of worship, there are often many members with a wide range of skills and expertise. Faith communities should make use of these skills to provide practical support, such as legal advice, language translation, or financial assistance.

**Engagement with Faith Leadership Teams:** It is essential that faith leadership teams are made fully aware of the specific needs of the Windrush generation. By bringing the issue to their attention, faith communities can ensure that appropriate support mechanisms are put in place.

**Equality Act Awareness:** Faith leaders must be vigilant in ensuring that the rights of individuals under the Equality Act are not violated, particularly when it comes to racial discrimination. This includes creating inclusive environments where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

## Advocacy and Awareness

Faith leaders are in a unique position to advocate for the Windrush generation and raise awareness within their communities. Actions that can be taken to promote advocacy and awareness include:

**Home Office Engagement:** Invite the Home Office's engagement team to attend services and faith events. This offers an opportunity for dialogue and a chance to address any concerns or misconceptions about the Windrush issue directly with key authorities.

**Debunking Misconceptions:** Faith leaders should actively engage in discussions that help clarify misunderstandings and build trust within their communities. Open forums and listening sessions can help bridge the gap between the Windrush generation, the Home Office, and the public.

**Improving Personal Knowledge:** It is crucial that faith leaders improve their own understanding of the Windrush issue, its historical context, and the needs of those affected. This knowledge will help them advocate more effectively and offer informed support.

**Raising Awareness Across Communities:** Faith leaders should ensure that all members of their communities are well-informed about the Windrush scandal and its impact. This includes educating both the public and other faith leaders from diverse backgrounds about the situation, ensuring a coordinated and unified response.

### Community and Social Support

In addition to spiritual and emotional support, faith communities can provide significant community and social assistance. By fostering connections with local organisations, governments, and community groups, churches can help ensure that no one suffers in silence. Actions include:

**Windrush Fund:** Establish a fund to provide financial support for those affected by the Windrush scandal. This fund could be created through donations from church members, community partners, and local businesses.

**Exploring Grants:** Faith communities should investigate available grants from local councils and government bodies that are specifically designated for supporting Windrush victims.

**International Partnerships:** Churches and faith organisations can partner with other faith groups in Commonwealth countries where Windrush victims may have links. This will allow for greater international solidarity and support for those affected.

**Counselling Services:** Offering professional counselling services for Windrush individuals will help them cope with the emotional and psychological toll of their experiences. Access to mental health resources should be made available to all who need it.

**Social Media Outreach:** Use existing community platforms and social media to raise awareness and offer support to Windrush individuals. Regular updates, events, and outreach activities through these channels will ensure that people are informed and feel connected to the wider community.

**Workshops and Presentations:** Organising workshops that provide balanced, clear information about Windrush issues will be crucial in building trust and offering practical solutions. Inviting the Home Office to participate in these workshops will help facilitate better communication between the government and the community.

### **Establishment of a Multi-Faith Council for Windrush Purposes**

To better coordinate efforts and ensure that the Windrush generation receives comprehensive support, the establishment of a Multi-Faith Council is recommended. This council would bring together leaders from different faith groups to work collaboratively on addressing the unique needs of the Windrush generation. The council would act as a central body to monitor progress, share resources, and advocate for policy changes to support the affected individuals.

This report highlights the key actions that faith communities can take to provide spiritual, emotional, practical, and social support to individuals affected by the Windrush scandal. By working together, faith groups can ensure that those impacted receive the care, advocacy, and resources they need to overcome the challenges they face.



Home Office



BIRMINGHAM CITY  
University





**Report on Windrush Faith Conference  
Edgbaston Park Hotel Conference Centre  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

[www.windrushnationalorganisation.com](http://www.windrushnationalorganisation.com)