# Windrush man’s wrongful deportation ends with return to UK ahead of Windrush Day



The ongoing repercussions of the Windrush scandal continue to reverberate across the UK, epitomised by the recent decision to repatriate Winston Knight, a 64-year-old man who endured a decade of wrongful deportation. Having lived in the UK since the age of six, Knight's journey back home follows years marked by trauma and homelessness in Jamaica, a country he scarcely knew after being forcibly removed.

In a striking legal reversal, the Home Office has acknowledged that Knight is indeed a member of the Windrush generation—individuals from the Caribbean who settled in the UK between 1948 and 1971. His return, scheduled before Windrush Day on 22 June, is a poignant reminder of the injustices faced by many in this community, who have been adversely affected by discriminatory immigration laws. Knight's plight reflects a broader narrative of systemic racism embedded within decades of UK immigration policy, which sought to curb the presence of Black individuals in Britain. An official report has highlighted that these policies, in part, contributed to the wrongful deportations that have now come to light in what has been termed the Windrush scandal.

Knight's deportation followed a conviction related to the 2011 riots—an act he describes as an "opportunistic mistake." Despite having lived in the UK for nearly five decades, he faced substantial challenges in proving his residency due to the lack of formal documentation, a common issue faced by many in the Windrush generation. His account vividly illustrates the precarious existence he endured in Kingston, where he was often homeless, living amid violence and instability, and surviving on meagre resources. "I’ve witnessed so many murders and stabbings... it has left me deeply traumatised," Knight recounted from Jamaica.

The long-awaited recognition of his status comes after a protracted judicial review and significant advocacy from his legal representatives. Nina Kamp, a consultant solicitor at Duncan Lewis Solicitors, who represents him, emphasised the psychological and physical toll that nearly twelve years of homelessness in a volatile environment has inflicted on Knight. Yet, despite the Home Office’s acceptance of its error, no formal apology has been extended from officials—a troubling reality that underscores the ongoing difficulties faced by victims of systemic failures within the immigration system.

This case comes against the backdrop of Windrush Day, established in 2018 to commemorate the contributions of Caribbean migrants to British society, coinciding with the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush. On this day, communities across the UK engage in celebrations highlighting the rich cultural heritage that the Windrush generation has imparted. Events range from educational workshops to cultural performances, acting as both a commemoration and a reflection on the injustices faced by those who contributed to the nation’s fabric.

Furthermore, in recognition of the enduring legacy of the Windrush generation, the UK government has allocated substantial funding to various community-led projects aimed at celebrating this history. These initiatives not only honour past contributions but also foster understanding and inclusivity, attempting to bridge the gap created by a history of exclusion and systemic racism.

As Knight prepares to return to the UK, he holds onto the hope of rebuilding his life—expressing a desire to re-engage with his passions, such as playing football and working again in his previous profession of painting and decorating. "For the first time since I was deported here, I’m sleeping in a bed," he shared, a small yet significant milestone in a long journey towards recognition and healing.

The case of Winston Knight serves as a stark reminder of the desperate need for accountability and reform within the UK immigration system—an appeal echoed strongly by advocates for those affected by the Windrush scandal. As the nation prepares to celebrate the contributions and resilience of the Windrush generation this June, it remains imperative to acknowledge the enduring pain of those unjustly affected by policies rooted in racial discrimination.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: Sources [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica)
2. Paragraph 2: Sources [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britains-racist-immigration-laws-led-wrongful-deportations-black-people-report-2024-09-26/), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windrush_Day)
3. Paragraph 3: Sources [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica), [[6]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-projects-awarded-funding-to-celebrate-windrush-day)
4. Paragraph 4: Sources [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica)
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6. Paragraph 6: Sources [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windrush_Day)
7. Paragraph 7: Sources [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2025/may/16/uk-agrees-to-fly-home-wrongly-deported-windrush-generation-man-from-jamaica> - The UK Home Office has agreed to fly Winston Knight, a member of the Windrush generation, back to the UK after a decade of wrongful deportation. Knight, 64, was deported in 2013 following a conviction during the 2011 riots. He arrived in the UK in 1966 at age six and has been living on the streets of Kingston, Jamaica, since his deportation. The Home Office has now acknowledged his status as a member of the Windrush generation and revoked his deportation order. Knight is expected to return to the UK before Windrush Day on June 22, which commemorates the contributions of Caribbean migrants to the UK. The article also highlights the broader context of the Windrush scandal, where many Caribbean migrants were wrongfully detained or deported due to discriminatory immigration laws.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britains-racist-immigration-laws-led-wrongful-deportations-black-people-report-2024-09-26/> - An official report revealed that decades of racist immigration laws in the UK led to wrongful deportations of Caribbean migrants, known as the Windrush scandal. Between 1948 and 1971, hundreds of thousands of Caribbean migrants arrived in Britain to fill labor shortages. The report found that immigration legislation from 1950 to 1981 aimed to reduce the number of Black people in the UK, describing the scandal as 'deep-rooted racism.' The findings have prompted calls for accountability and reparations for those affected.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windrush_Day> - Windrush Day, observed annually on June 22, commemorates the contributions of Caribbean migrants to the UK. The day marks the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948, bringing hundreds of passengers from the Caribbean. The observance was introduced in 2018 to honor the legacy of the Windrush generation and their descendants. Events include cultural performances, educational workshops, and community gatherings to celebrate the diverse heritage and history of the Caribbean community in Britain.
5. <https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/windrush-day> - The National Maritime Museum in London hosts annual events to celebrate Windrush Day, including talks, workshops, and cultural performances. The museum partners with the Caribbean Social Forum and other local organizations to honor the legacy of the Windrush generation. Activities are designed to engage visitors of all ages, offering insights into Caribbean culture and the history of migration to the UK. The event is free and open to the public, aiming to educate and celebrate the contributions of Caribbean communities.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-projects-awarded-funding-to-celebrate-windrush-day> - The UK government has awarded £500,000 in funding to 30 projects across England to celebrate Windrush Day on June 22. The initiatives aim to commemorate the Windrush generation and their descendants, supporting community-led events that highlight their contributions to British society. The funding will support a variety of activities, including cultural performances, educational workshops, and exhibitions, fostering a deeper understanding of the Windrush legacy and promoting inclusivity and diversity.
7. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/windrush-day-2025> - Twinkl, an educational resource provider, offers information and teaching resources for Windrush Day 2025. The materials aim to educate students about the history and significance of the Windrush generation, highlighting their contributions and the challenges they faced. Resources include lesson plans, activities, and information on the Windrush scandal, providing educators with tools to teach about this important aspect of British history and promote discussions on racism and inclusivity.