# Labour’s scrapping of Rwanda plan exposes urgent need for modern UK ID system to secure borders



The Labour Government's recent decision to scrap the Rwanda deportation plan marks a worrying retreat from effective border control—a move likely driven by political correctness rather than practical security needs. What many fail to acknowledge is that this policy, despite its flaws, was part of a broader effort to tackle illegal migration head-on. Instead, Labour has chosen to appease activism and influence from liberal groups, abandoning policies designed to protect British communities from unwelcome and unmanaged migration flows.

Behind this ideological shift lies a troubling history of policy failures rooted in Labour and their allies’ resistance to tightening immigration controls. Decades ago, the concept of a national ID card system, which could have been an effective tool to combat fake identities, illegal work, and benefit fraud, was dismissed under Labour’s watch—often justified by superficial concerns over civil liberties. At the height of the initiative, 15,000 national ID cards were issued, aiming to improve immigration enforcement and national security. Yet, ill-conceived political correctness led to its abolition, hampering efforts to verify identities and secure borders.

Now, with our borders once again under strain, the current Labour government signals a willingness to revisit these failings, hinting at plans to reinstate ID cards or similar digital identity schemes. This push echoes proposals from opposition think tanks aligned with Labour’s ideology—favouring digital ‘BritCards’ stored on mobile devices as a way to streamline identity checks. Such measures could potentially restore some control over illegal entry and employment, ultimately protecting the integrity of public services and lawful industries from exploitation.

However, critics of stricter verification often cry “Orwellian!” at any mention of identity checks, framing these sensible measures as invasion of privacy. But they conveniently ignore the fact that digital identity verification is already embedded in our daily lives—from online banking to healthcare access. Young Britons, in particular, navigate a digital environment that acts as a form of identification, demonstrating that privacy concerns are often exaggerated. Protecting our borders through better ID systems simply extends this familiar framework to support national security.

The government’s recent White Paper on migration has taken steps towards modernising how individuals are identified—using electronic visas and digital systems for those arriving via asylum or work routes. Yet, these measures do not replace the need for a comprehensive, all-encompassing ID framework that covers every resident and worker. Without a unified system, government agencies and employers find themselves blindfolded—unable to quickly and reliably verify who is genuinely entitled to work or access services, leading to increased fraud and abuse.

As the UK’s migration challenges grow more complex, the political calculus should be clear: investing in a solid, modern ID system is not just about convenience, it is about security and national resilience. Such a system would help clamp down on benefit fraud, cybercrime, and illegal employment—providing a backbone to enforce immigration laws effectively. It would also help ensure that legal residents and workers are protected—the very people who play by the rules and deserve better safeguards.

Skeptics may argue that deploying comprehensive identity verification risks Orwellian overreach. Yet, in reality, safeguarding civil liberties today requires smart, proportionate measures—especially when the alternative is a porous border that invites unchecked illegal crossings and exploitation. The digital age demands modern solutions, and the UK should not fall behind by abandoning policies that could restore control and confidence.

If Labour truly wants to address the immigration crisis, it should recognise the proven benefits of a unified ID system—not continue to pander to short-term political pressures that only hinder effective border management. It’s time to look beyond empty slogans and consider practical, firm policies that secure our borders, uphold the rule of law, and restore a sense of order to this nation’s immigration system. Anything less risks leaving our country vulnerable to the chaos of unchecked migration and illegal activity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-14790539/Labour-civil-libertires-backlash-ID-cards-no-brainer.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz9dn8erg3zo> - On 6 July 2024, Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed the termination of the controversial Rwanda deportation scheme, describing it as a 'gimmick' and stating it was 'dead and buried before it started'. The scheme, initiated by the previous Conservative government, aimed to deter illegal immigration by deporting migrants to Rwanda. Starmer's Labour Party had campaigned on a manifesto pledge to scrap the plan, which had already cost around £310 million. He argued that the scheme had never been an effective deterrent, as it would only deport less than 1% of small boat arrivals.
3. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/6/keir-starmer-says-scrapping-uks-rwanda-migrant-deportation-plan> - On 6 July 2024, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the cessation of the Rwanda deportation plan, inherited from the previous Conservative government. He criticised the scheme as ineffective, stating it was 'dead and buried before it started' and had never served as a deterrent. Starmer's Labour Party had pledged to end the plan during their election campaign, opting instead for more effective approaches to tackle illegal immigration. The decision was welcomed by rights advocates who had long criticised the plan as inhumane and costly.
4. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/29/uk-appeal-court-rules-rwanda-deportation-plan-unlawful> - On 29 June 2023, the UK Court of Appeal ruled that the government's plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda was unlawful, stating that Rwanda could not be considered a safe third country for such deportations. This decision was a significant setback for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's administration, which had proposed the plan as a measure to deter illegal immigration. The ruling highlighted concerns over the safety and human rights conditions in Rwanda, casting doubt on the feasibility of the deportation strategy.
5. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/06/29/uk/uk-government-rwanda-ruling-intl-gbr/index.html> - On 29 June 2023, the UK Court of Appeal ruled that the government's plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda was unlawful, stating that Rwanda could not be considered a safe third country for such deportations. This decision was a significant setback for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's administration, which had proposed the plan as a measure to deter illegal immigration. The ruling highlighted concerns over the safety and human rights conditions in Rwanda, casting doubt on the feasibility of the deportation strategy.
6. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20240917-uk-uses-funds-from-scrapped-rwanda-deportation-asylum-plan-to-boost-border-security> - In September 2024, the UK government redirected nearly €90 million from the abandoned Rwanda deportation scheme to fund the new Border Security Command (BSC). This initiative aimed to combat people-smuggling gangs by investing in technology and additional staff. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper stated that the funds would be used to enhance intelligence capabilities and dismantle the trade in human smuggling. The decision followed the Labour Party's election victory and the subsequent scrapping of the controversial deportation plan.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/17/uk-asylum-backlog-rwanda-plan-hotels-deportations> - Following the termination of the Rwanda deportation plan, the UK's asylum backlog was projected to be 118,063 at the start of 2025, a reduction of 59,000 cases compared to if the policy had continued. The Refugee Council attributed this improvement to the government's decision to accelerate claims processing and scrap the Rwanda scheme, which had been criticised for its impracticality and high costs. The reduction in backlog was seen as a positive development for the UK's asylum system.