

# Episode #561 The Wind Rush Scandal 5th Aug, 2025

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# **Transcript**

[00:00:00] Hello, hello, hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English, the show where you can listen to fascinating stories and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:20] I'm Alastair Budge, and today it's part two of our three-part mini-series on the theme of citizenship and identity.

[00:00:29] In part one, in case you missed it, we talked about the debate and recent referendum¹ in Italy on who has the right to Italian citizenship.

[00:00:38] In part three, the next episode, we'll talk about the battle between Malta and the European Union over the right to sell citizenship.

[00:00:48] And in today's episode, we are going to talk about a recent <u>scandal</u><sup>2</sup> in the UK, a <u>scandal</u> involving tens of thousands of people who thought they were British,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> a vote where all people in the country chose yes or no about an important question

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> a bad event that made people angry or shocked

had no reason to <u>doubt</u><sup>3</sup> they were British citizens, but then the government told them they weren't.

[00:01:05] So, let's not waste a minute, and get right into it.

[00:01:11] You may well have heard the expression "the sun never sets on the British Empire".

[00:01:17] At its peak<sup>4</sup>, in 1920, the British Empire contained 35.5 million square kilometres of territory, 26% of all land on Earth, an area 170 times larger than the size of Great Britain itself.

[00:01:36] For better or for worse, at various points from the 16th century onwards, from the Caribbean to West Africa, the Middle East to Australia and the Pacific, the <u>Union</u>

<u>Jack</u><sup>5</sup> flew high and the local population were <u>subjects</u><sup>6</sup> of a British monarch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> not be sure about it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> the highest point or the most important time

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> the national flag of the United Kingdom

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> people ruled by a king or queen

work across the Empire, including Britain itself.

[00:01:54] One of the many things that this meant was that, in theory at least, these <a href="mailto:subjects">subjects</a> shared a <a href="mailto:common">common</a> legal status under the Crown, with the right to move and

[00:02:10] In practice, moving from one British colony to another was much more difficult.

[00:02:16] First, there was the simple fact that it was incredibly expensive. Someone from Jamaica or India or Myanmar couldn't decide one day, "I think I'll try out life in Edinburgh"; the cost of simply getting there would mean they couldn't even <a href="mailto:entertain">entertain</a>\* the idea.

[00:02:35] Second, racial <u>prejudice</u><sup>9</sup> and <u>discrimination</u><sup>10</sup> often blocked their path.

There were restrictions on free movement, including permissions or taxes to leave a country.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> shared by all, general

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> consider, think about

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> an unfair dislike of someone because of race, religion or other reasons

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> unfair treatment of people based on race, gender or something else

[00:02:47] And even if someone made it to Britain, especially if they were not white, they were often met with <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gov/host-litty">hostility</a>1, from <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gov/host-litty">hostility</a

[00:03:00] This meant that for the vast majority of the existence of the British Empire, free movement within it, and a shared identity of "Britishness", was really a mirage<sup>13</sup>, a nice idea in theory but in practice it was something enjoyed by a tiny fraction of the 400 or so million people that were part of it.

[00:03:24] This started to change after the Second World War.

[00:03:28] Britain, the so-called "Mother country", had lost half a million people during the war, had been badly <u>bombed</u><sup>14</sup> during the Blitz, and was in <u>desperate</u><sup>15</sup> need of rebuilding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> anger or hate

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> people who rented out buildings or accommodation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> something that seemed real, but was not

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> attacked with bombs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> serious or urgent

[00:03:42] The answer was right in front of it, or rather, it was in its many overseas territories.

[00:03:49] In 1948, Britain passed a new law creating a new status — Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies — which confirmed that people born in British colonies were legally recognised as British subjects. This meant that, at least in theory, the British Prime Minister and a farmer in rural Pakistan or Jamaica were equals in terms of their right to hold British citizenship and live and work in Britain.

[00:04:22] And so, in June of 1948, a ship called the HMT Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks, just east of London.

[00:04:34] On board were 1,027 passengers, mostly from Jamaica, coming to Britain to take up work and help rebuild a country still recovering from the devastation 16 of the Second World War.

[00:04:48] This arrival is often seen as the symbolic beginning of what came to be known as the Windrush generation, named after the ship itself, the HMT Empire Windrush.

[00:05:01] In the years that followed, tens of thousands more people arrived from the Caribbean, from countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and others.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> great damage or ruin

[00:05:13] Many came in response to advertisements encouraging Commonwealth citizens to come and work in Britain, particularly in <a href="mailto:sectors">sectors</a> where there were <a href="mailto:severe">severe</a> labour shortages: public transport, manufacturing, construction, and the newly created National Health Service.

[00:05:31] And of course, they came not necessarily out of <a href="mailto:charity19">charity19</a> or some <a href="mailto:patriotic20">patriotic20</a> sense of the need to rebuild Britain; they came <a href="mailto:seeking21">seeking21</a> a better life, for themselves, and for their children.

[00:05:45] It's worth <a href="mailto:stressing">stressing</a><sup>22</sup> that these people were not coming as "immigrants" in the way we might understand that term today.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> parts or areas of work or life

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  very bad or serious

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> help given to people in need

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 20}$  showing love for and being proud of their country

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> looking for it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> emphasizing or highlighting

[00:05:53] Legally, they were British <u>subjects</u>, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. Many travelled on British passports, and under the law at that time, they had every right to live and work in Britain.

[00:06:07] That being said<sup>23</sup>, the welcome they received was often far from warm.

[00:06:13] Many faced open <u>hostility</u>, <u>discrimination</u>, and racism. <u>Landlords</u> would refuse to rent to them, employers would <u>turn them away<sup>24</sup></u>, and finding decent housing or <u>stable<sup>25</sup></u> work could be a daily <u>struggle<sup>26</sup></u>.

[00:06:28] There was a famous picture taken of a sign in a window which read, "No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs."

[00:06:37] Nevertheless, over time, many of those who arrived settled and built lives and communities in Britain.

[00:06:45] Britain became home, these people, this "Windrush generation", contributed to British society in countless ways: working in hospitals, driving buses, building

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> in spite of that, nevertheless

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 24}$  refuse to allow them to stay, send them away

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> safe and not changing much

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> a hard time or fight to do it

homes, raising families, and leaving their mark on British culture through music, food, and traditions from the Caribbean.

[00:07:06] And this wasn't a small number of people. Between 1948 and 1970, an estimated half a million people travelled from the Caribbean to live and work in Britain.

[00:07:19] And this was combined with millions of other immigrants from other countries, often former British colonies.

[00:07:27] By 1971, the foreign-born population of the United Kingdom reached more than 3 million, 6.4% of the total population.

[00:07:38] To state the obvious, this was a big change, and during this time, public attitudes towards immigration started to <a href="mailto:shift27">shift27</a>.

[00:07:48] Pressure built, particularly from parts of the British public and certain politicians, to limit further immigration from the Commonwealth, from former colonies that still maintained close links to Britain.

[00:08:02] This <u>culminated</u><sup>28</sup> with the Immigration Act in 1971, which introduced the idea of Indefinite Leave to Remain, essentially granting permanent residency to people

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> change

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> reached the point of highest development

already in Britain, but making it clear that future immigration would be subject to stricter control.

[00:08:23] For many of those who had already <u>settled</u><sup>29</sup>, this legal shift didn't affect their daily lives at the time <u>in the slightest</u><sup>30</sup>. They were already living and working in Britain, some had been doing so for 20-plus years, and, perfectly understandably, they assumed they had every right to continue doing so.

[00:08:44] But <u>crucially<sup>31</sup></u>, many never received formal documentation to prove their legal status.

[00:08:51] They had arrived legally, under the law at that time, and furthermore, there was nothing requiring them to register or carry proof of their right to be in the country.

[00:09:03] They worked, paid their taxes, bought houses, voted in elections, had children, and then grandchildren, and were able to live and exist like any other British citizen.

[00:09:16] Then, in 2012, everything changed.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mathrm{29}}$  made a home in the new place

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> not even a little bit

<sup>31</sup> in a very important way

[00:09:21] The British government, under Conservative leadership, started to <u>roll out</u><sup>32</sup> a new policy it called its "<u>hostile</u><sup>33</sup> environment policy", which promised to <u>clamp</u>

<u>down on</u><sup>34</sup> people who were living illegally in the United Kingdom.

[00:09:37] This was all in response to an election <u>pledge<sup>35</sup></u> to reduce immigration and <u>win over<sup>36</sup></u> voters from parties like UKIP, which had an even <u>harsher<sup>37</sup></u> anti-immigration stance<sup>38</sup>.

[00:09:50] The Home Office, which is the British department responsible for internal affairs–stuff like immigration, passports, public safety, and so on–it started to do things

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> start using

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> unfriendly or not welcoming

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> take strong action to stop them

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> serious promise

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> make them agree with them

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> more strict

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> opinion or way of thinking

like send trucks around areas with high immigrant populations with big signs on telling people that if they are in the country illegally, they will be deported<sup>39</sup>.

[00:10:13] But it wasn't just about making illegal immigrants feel uncomfortable in Britain; the government also introduced a series of new rules that made it harder for anyone without clear documentation to live and work in the country.

[00:10:29] <u>Landlords</u> were required to check the immigration status of <u>tenants</u><sup>40</sup> before renting to them.

[00:10:35] Banks had to <u>verify</u><sup>41</sup> a customer's immigration status before opening an account.

[00:10:41] Employers had to confirm that someone had the legal right to work in the country.

[00:10:47] Even access to healthcare was restricted if someone couldn't prove their legal status.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 39}$  sent back to their own country by the government

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> people who rented a house or flat to live in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> check if things were true or right

[00:10:54] Essentially, if you didn't have the legal right to be in the country, you were **cut off from**<sup>42</sup> most major services. Your ability to exist comfortably, or even exist at all, was made **an awful lot**<sup>43</sup> harder.

[00:11:09] For those living in the country illegally, it was a **hostile** environment indeed.

[00:11:16] Now, this policy enjoyed relatively high public support at the time. After all, its <u>intended</u><sup>44</sup> target was illegal immigrants, people who didn't have a legal right to be in the country.

[00:11:31] And the vast majority of immigrants in the UK, both then and now, are not illegal immigrants; they are legal immigrants. They have clear documentation: a passport or a residence permit.

[00:11:46] So when these new rules came in, they might have been a bit annoying because you'd have to go and make a photocopy or update your documents, but they were little more than a **formality**<sup>45</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> no longer able to get or use them

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> more than a lot, much

<sup>44</sup> planned or meant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> a rule or thing they had to do to make their status official

[00:11:59] For many members of the Windrush generation, however, who had arrived legally decades earlier but had never been issued formal papers, or had any <u>inclination</u>

45 that they would ever need them, these rules suddenly became a huge problem.

[00:12:16] People who had lived in Britain for fifty or sixty years were now being asked to prove that they had the right to be there.

[00:12:25] And many...couldn't.

[00:12:28] This "hostile environment" policy was incredibly hostile indeed. People were asked to provide documents such as payslips, utility bills, or job contracts for every single year they'd been in the country.

[00:12:45] Perfectly understandably, many people couldn't do this; they had thrown away electricity bills from 1963 and hadn't bothered to keep their bank statements from 1981. So they didn't have any form of official documentation proving that they'd been in the country.

[00:13:05] To make matters worse, it turned out that in 2010, two years before the "hostile environment" policy came into place, in the name of digitalisation and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> feeling or thought

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> changes in the system or processes to be operated with the use of computers and the internet

efficiency, the Home Office had destroyed thousands of landing cards, the paper cards with the names and dates of people who arrived in the UK.

[00:13:27] This was part of a supposedly <u>routine</u><sup>48</sup> clean-up of public records, but for many, it was the last remaining piece of evidence that they had come to the UK legally, and therefore had every right to be there.

[00:13:43] And without the right documents, people found themselves considered to be illegal immigrants, <u>unwitting<sup>49</sup></u> victims of this "<u>hostile</u> environment" policy.

[00:13:54] They were unable to work, unable to rent homes or even <u>evicted</u><sup>50</sup> from their home, denied access to healthcare or benefits, unable to open bank accounts, or even threatened with <u>deportation</u><sup>51</sup>.

[00:14:09] Some people were <u>detained</u><sup>52</sup> and held in immigration centres.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> standard or regular

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> not knowing that it was happening

 $<sup>^{50}</sup>$  made to leave their home by law

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> the act of sending them back to their own country

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> kept there and not allowed to leave

[00:14:14] A few were wrongly deported to countries they had never been to, despite

having spent their entire adult lives in Britain.

[00:14:23] The scandal eventually came to public attention in 2017 and 2018, when

newspapers, campaigners, and lawyers began to highlight case after case of people

being mistreated 53.

[00:14:38] One widely reported case was that of a lady called Paulette Wilson.

[00:14:44] She had arrived in Britain from Jamaica as a 10-year-old in 1968, worked for

decades in Britain, raised a family, was a mother and a grandmother, and even worked

in the House of Commons canteen<sup>54</sup>, cooking for prime ministers and members of

parliament.

[00:15:04] In 2016, nearly fifty years after arriving in Britain, a letter popped<sup>55</sup> through

her door informing her that she'd broken the law, and she had been found to be living

in the country illegally.

<sup>53</sup> treated in a cruel or unfair way

<sup>54</sup> a place where people ate

<sup>55</sup> appeared quickly or suddenly

[00:15:20] She was told that she needed to pack her bags and return to her "home

country" of Jamaica.

[00:15:28] But Jamaica wasn't "home"; she left as a 10-year-old and had never been

back.

[00:15:35] And to underline, she had come to the UK completely legally, and up until

that moment, she had no idea that she was anything other than a British citizen.

[00:15:46] She was taken away in a van to an immigration centre where she was held for

a week. She was about to be put on a plane and sent to Jamaica, and were it not for a

last-minute intervention<sup>57</sup> from her MP, her Member of Parliament, she would have

been **deported** from Britain.

[00:16:06] And she was far from the only case.

[00:16:09] As more stories emerged<sup>58</sup>, public anger grew.

<sup>56</sup> if it hadn't happened

<sup>57</sup> involvement or interference

<sup>58</sup> came out or became known

[00:16:13] The government was accused of failing to properly document people's legal rights, of creating impossible demands for <u>proof</u><sup>59</sup>, and of targeting people who had every reason to believe they were British citizens.

[00:16:28] And given that the vast majority of those affected were of Black Caribbean heritage, there were also questions raised about structural racism.

[00:16:39] The political fallout was swift.

[00:16:42] Amber Rudd, who was then the Home Secretary, resigned in 2018 after admitting that the Home Office had set internal targets for deportations.

[00:16:54] Theresa May, who was Home Secretary when the policy was introduced but had since been made Prime Minister, issued a public apology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> something that showed their claims were true

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> the bad results of the situation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> happening quickly

[00:17:03] The government created what it called the Windrush Compensation Scheme to try to compensate those affected.

[00:17:12] But this too has been heavily criticised.

[00:17:16] There were long delays in processing cases, the application process was complicated, and even if they were <u>deemed</u><sup>64</sup> <u>entitled</u><sup>65</sup> to <u>compensation</u>, they often received far less than they expected.

[00:17:30] People got payouts of a few hundred or a few thousand pounds, which might not sound so bad, but are trivial when you consider the fact that they were unable to work or claim unemployment benefits while their cases were being investigated.

[00:17:46] Some died before receiving any payment at all.

<sup>62</sup> money given to people who were treated unfairly

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 63}$  pay or give something because of loss or hurt

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> thought or considered

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> having the right to get it

[00:17:51] For many observers, the Windrush <u>scandal</u> became not just a question of administrative failure or <u>bureaucratic</u><sup>66</sup> mistakes, but something much deeper: a reflection of how Britain struggles with questions of citizenship, identity, and its colonial past.

[00:18:10] Because at the heart of this scandal is a simple question: what does it mean to be British, or indeed from any country?

[00:18:20] I am British–I have British citizenship through both my parents–but I have lived in Britain for a much lower percentage of my life compared to many of the victims of the Windrush scandal.

[00:18:34] My kids have never lived in Britain, and unless they do, they will probably never consider themselves British, yet they have British passports.

[00:18:46] But people like Paulette Wilson never considered herself to be anything other than British, nobody who knew her would have said she was anything other than British, yet she found that her government, or at least what she had considered to be her government, decided she was not.

<sup>66</sup> relating to a system of government that had too many rules or steps

[00:19:05] Fortunately, the <u>mistreatment<sup>67</sup></u> was so great, and the number of people affected so large, that this <u>scandal</u> did not go unnoticed, and the <u>wrongs<sup>68</sup></u> have at least been <u>partially<sup>69</sup> righted<sup>70</sup></u>.

[00:19:20] The <u>scandal</u> is an uncomfortable reminder that even in a country with long-established legal traditions like Britain, the <u>gap</u><sup>71</sup> between who you feel you are and who the law says you are can sometimes be dangerously wide.

[00:19:38] OK, then, that is it for today's episode on The Windrush Scandal.

[00:19:43] I hope it's been an interesting one and that you've learnt something new.

[00:19:47] As a quick reminder, this is part two of a three-part mini-series on the theme of citizenship and identity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> bad or unfair treatment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> things that were unfair or not right

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> not completely, only in a way

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> made right or fixed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> space or difference

[00:19:55] In part one, the last episode, we talked about the question of what makes an Italian.

[00:20:01] And next up, in part three, we will talk about a different way to become a citizen: by paying a fat <a href="mailto:chunk">chunk</a><sup>72</sup> of money, and one small country's battle with the EU for the right to continue doing so.

[00:20:15] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds by Leonardo English.

[00:20:21] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> a significant amount of

# **Key vocabulary**

Word	Definition
Referendum	a vote where all people in the country chose yes or no about an important question
Scandal	a bad event that made people angry or shocked
Doubt	not be sure about it
Peak	the highest point or the most important time
Union jack	the national flag of the United Kingdom
Subjects	people ruled by a king or queen
Common	shared by all, general
Entertain	consider, think about
Prejudice	an unfair dislike of someone because of race, religion or other reasons
Discrimination	unfair treatment of people based on race, gender or something else
Hostility	anger or hate
Landlords	people who rented out buildings or accommodation

Mirage something that seemed real, but was not

**Bombed** attacked with bombs

**Desperate** serious or urgent

**Devastation** great damage or ruin

**Sectors** parts or areas of work or life

**Severe** very bad or serious

**Charity** help given to people in need

**Patriotic** showing love for and being proud of their country

**Seeking** looking for it

**Stressing** emphasising or highlighting

**That being said** in spite of that, nevertheless

**Turn them away** refuse to allow them to stay, send them away

**Stable** safe and not changing much

**Struggle** a hard time or fight to do it

Shift change

**Culminated** reached the point of highest development

**Settled** made a home in the new place

In the slightest not even a little bit

**Crucially** in a very important way

Roll out start using

**Hostile** unfriendly or not welcoming

**Clamp down on** take strong action to stop them

**Pledge** serious promise

Win over make them agree with them

**Harsher** more strict

**Stance** opinion or way of thinking

**Deported** sent back to their own country by the government

**Tenants** people who rented a house or flat to live in

**Verify** check if things were true or right

**Cut off from** no longer able to get or use them

An awful lot more than a lot, much

**Intended** planned or meant

**Formality** a rule or thing they had to do to make their status official

**Inclination** feeling or thought

**Digitalisation** changes in the system or processes to be operated with the use of

computers and the internet

**Routine** standard or regular

**Unwitting** not knowing that it was happening

**Evicted** made to leave their home by law

**Deportation** the act of sending them back to their own country

**Detained** kept there and not allowed to leave

Mistreated treated in a cruel or unfair way

**Canteen** a place where people ate

**Popped** appeared quickly or suddenly

Were it not if it hadn't happened

**Intervention** involvement or interference

**Emerged** came out or became known

**Proof** something that showed their claims were true

**Fallout** the bad results of the situation

Swift happening quickly

**Compensation** money given to people who were treated unfairly

**Compensate** pay or give something because of loss or hurt

**Deemed** thought or considered

**Entitled** having the right to get it

**Bureaucratic** relating to a system of government that had too many rules or steps

**Mistreatment** bad or unfair treatment

Wrongs things that were unfair or not right

Partially not completely, only in a way

**Righted** made right or fixed

**Gap** space or difference

**Chunk** a significant amount of

# Language spotlight

#### 1. The sun never sets on the British Empire

- **Meaning**: This phrase was used to describe how large the British Empire was—it always had land in daylight somewhere in the world. It can now mean something is vast or widespread.
- **Synonyms**: covers the whole world, is everywhere
- **Antonyms**: limited, small, local
- Examples:
  - At its height, the sun never sets on the British Empire because it had colonies on every continent.
  - The company has offices in 50 countries; truly, the sun never sets on their business.

#### 2. Turn (someone) away

- **Meaning**: To refuse to let someone enter a place or take part in something.
- **Synonyms**: reject, refuse entry
- **Antonyms**: welcome, accept

#### • Examples:

- The restaurant was full and had to **turn customers away** at the door.
- Many landlords **turned them away** simply because of the colour of their skin.

#### 3. Roll out

- **Meaning**: To officially start or introduce something new to the public.
- **Synonyms**: launch, introduce, start
- **Antonyms**: cancel, stop, withdraw

#### • Examples:

- The government **rolled out** a new policy to reduce illegal immigration.
- Apple plans to **roll out** its latest phone model next week.

#### 4. Clamp down on

- **Meaning**: To take strong action to stop or limit something bad or illegal.
- **Synonyms**: crack down on, enforce rules, punish

- **Antonyms**: allow, tolerate, ignore
- Examples:
  - The government is trying to **clamp down on** tax fraud.
  - New laws were made to **clamp down on** people working without legal documents.

#### 5. Cut off from

- **Meaning**: To be separated or no longer able to access something
- **Synonyms**: disconnected from, blocked from
- **Antonyms**: connected to, included in, allowed access
- **Examples**:
  - Without documents, many were **cut off from** work, healthcare, and housing.
  - During the storm, the village was **cut off from** the rest of the country.

# <u>Quiz</u>

# **Listening Comprehension Multiple Choice Questions**

1.	What was the main reason people from the Caribbean came to Britain after World War II?
a)	To study medicine
b)	To escape war in their own countries
c)	To help rebuild the country and find better jobs
d)	To visit family
2.	Why were many Windrush arrivals unable to prove their immigration status years later?
a)	They were never asked to register
b)	Their landing cards were destroyed and no other records were kept
c)	Their birth certificates were fake

d) They lost their British passports in the war
3. Why did the British government introduce the "hostile environment" policy?
a) To increase trade with the Caribbean
b) To start a war on crime
c) To welcome new workers
d) To reduce illegal immigration and win voters
4. What happened to many Windrush generation members under the hostile environment policy?
a) They lost jobs, housing, or were threatened with deportation
b) They received awards from the government
c) They were given British passports
d) They were sent to university

5. What role did charities and campaigners play in the Windrush scandal?
a) They helped deport people more quickly
b) They punished employers who hired immigrants
c) They raised awareness and supported affected individuals
d) They replaced destroyed documents

#### True or False

- 6. The Windrush generation were considered illegal immigrants when they first arrived. (True/False)
- 7. People who couldn't prove their legal status lost access to healthcare and work. (True/False)
- 8. The British government always gave Windrush arrivals proper documents in the 1950s and 60s. (True/False)
- 9. Most landlords and employers welcomed the Windrush generation without discrimination. (True/False)

10.	The Windrush Compensation Scheme was criticised for being slow and unfair.
	(True/False)
Fill in	the Blank
11.	Many travelled on British passports, and under the law at that time, they had
	every right to live and work in Britain. That said, the welcome they
	received was often far from warm.
12.	For many of those who had already settled, this legal shift didn't affect their
	daily lives at the time in the
13.	This was all in response to an election pledge to reduce immigration and
	over voters from parties like UKIP.
14.	Your ability to exist comfortably, or even exist at all, was made an lot
	harder.
15.	She was about to be put on a plane and sent to Jamaica, and it not for a
	last-minute intervention from her MP, her Member of Parliament, she would
	have been deported from Britain.

# **Vocabulary Practice**

16. What does " <b>hostile</b> " mean in the context of the podcast?
a) Friendly and helpful
b) Unkind and unwelcoming
c) Official and boring
d) Calm and peaceful
17. What is a " <b>scandal</b> "?
a) A law about taxes
b) A secret code
c) A shocking or shameful event
c) A shocking or shameful event d) A new holiday

18. What does " <b>deported</b> " mean?
a) Given a free holiday
b) Told to join the army
c) Sent to prison in the UK
d) Sent back to one's home country by the government
19. What does " <b>fallout</b> " mean in this context?
a) Leaving work early
b) The effects of a bad situation
c) Jumping out of a plane
d) Getting angry with a friend

20. What is a " <b>mirage</b> "?
a) A real city
b) A dream that feels real
c) A picture on a wall
d) Something that seems real but isn't

# **Answers**

1.	c) To help rebuild the country and find better jobs
2.	b) Their landing cards were destroyed and no other records were kept
3.	d) To reduce illegal immigration and win voters
4.	a) They lost jobs, housing, or were threatened with deportation
5.	c) They raised awareness and supported affected individuals
6.	False
7.	True
8.	False
9.	False
10.	True
11.	being
12.	slightest
13.	win
14.	awful
15.	were
16.	b) Unkind and unwelcoming
17.	c) A shocking or shameful event
18.	d) Sent back to one's home country by the government
19.	b) The effects of a bad situation

20. d) Something that seems real but isn't