

RWANDA ACT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



THE JOINT COUNCIL
for THE WELFARE
OF IMMIGRANTS

In April 2024, the UK passed the 'Safety of Rwanda' Act allowing the Government to send people seeking asylum to Rwanda. They will not be allowed to claim asylum in the UK or come back here except in extremely limited circumstances. This law is new so we don't know yet how this will work in practice – but here is what we know so far:

Rwanda can only take a limited number of people so most people will not be sent there. It is possible that no one will be sent, because of legal challenges or practical barriers.

Who can the Home Office try to send to Rwanda?

- 1) Anyone who doesn't have a visa and claimed asylum in the UK on or after 1 January 2022, AND
- 2) came on a 'dangerous journey' and passed through another country where they could have claimed asylum, AND
- 3) has not had an interview or questionnaire and has not received a decision on their claim.

What happens if I am targeted?

- 1) The Home Office will issue a 'notice of intent' that you may be removed to a 'safe third country' including Rwanda
- 2) The Home Office may then decide that your asylum claim is 'inadmissible,' meaning they will not consider your asylum claim and they can detain and send you away

Can I challenge my case?

Yes. Under the Rwanda Act **you can challenge the decision on personal grounds** if you will face "a real, imminent and foreseeable risk of serious and irreversible harm" if they send you to Rwanda. You only have a short time to respond to the Home Office - if you need more time, you can explain why and ask for an extension. There are different ways to challenge your case depending on when you claimed asylum. If you get a 'notice of intent' or a letter saying your claim is 'inadmissible', it is **important you get legal advice** from a lawyer who is an expert in these cases.

Are there any exceptions, such as for children?

Yes. The UK will not send children, family members of children in the UK, or Rwandans. They also cannot send people who show specific risks of serious and irreversible harm.

What can I do?

If you think you might be sent to Rwanda, **find legal representation as soon as you can:**

- JCWI: 0207 553 7472 (Mon, Tues, Thurs, 10-1), info@jcwi.org.uk
- Wilsons LLP legal aid solicitors: 0208 808 7535, rwandareferrals@wilsonllp.co.uk
- Duncan Lewis solicitors: 02072752570t, toufiqueh@duncanlewis.com
- Care4Calais Rwanda number: 07519773268 (WhatsApp only)
- Care4Calais Rwanda helpline for people in detention: 0800 009 6268

If you want to join the fight against the Rwanda Plan, **take action now:**

- Sign our petition calling for repeal of the Rwanda Act: <https://shorturl.at/sOVY4>
- Join your local anti-raids group: <https://antiraid.net/local-groups>
- Support people in detention: <https://aviddetention.org.uk/visiting/visitors-groups>
- Get involved in networks like Solidarity Knows No Borders (<https://sknb.org>) or Action Against Detention or Deportations (<https://sites.google.com/view/no-deportations>)