



The above organisations have provisionally pledged their support of this Stop the Deportation Campaign

The United Kingdom’s cruel and hostile asylum environment has given rise to yet another **Home Office** plan to deport people to Zimbabwe on a flight chartered on 2 March 2022.

StatusNow4All¹ These Walls Must Fall, MyRight2Vote, BARAC UK, RAPAR, CCC, Zapu, ROHR and ZHRO² abhors this decision, made in the name of the Home Secretary, Priti Patel.

It is immoral:

These are just some of the factors of note in relation to those who are being rounded up for deportation right now:

- Some have been here a long time, as many as twenty years;
- Some will have had Refugee Leave, such was the compelling case they presented on arrival in UK, but the law, now, allow the Home Office to strip them of this, due to a conviction for particular offending behaviours [para 339 Immigration Rules].
- Deportation Orders are automatically made against people without British or Irish citizenship who have been given a prison sentence of more than a year
- Some of these people will have served their time in prison and on license like any other person with a conviction and have subsequently lived in the community for many years without re-offending – the bulk of these ‘crimes’ are old.
- They have been suffering the psychological damage and indignities of being on indefinite Immigration Bail with ankle tags, curfews, not allowed to work or study, and the ever-present threat of removal.
- Suicide amongst those in this situation is NOT uncommon.

In addition, it is putting these people’s lives in jeopardy:

1. In Zimbabwe: We note that there has been a change of name of the President of Zimbabwe from Robert Mugabe to Emmerson Mnangagwa, but the Political Party ruling the country remains Zanu-PF.
2. We also note that serious concerns are being raised about the human rights record in Zimbabwe and ask what ‘*sordid deals*’ have been made that allow the UK to send people to a such place where their lives are at significant risk.
3. In its **World Report 2022, Human Rights Watch reports**: The administration of President Emmerson Mnangagwa failed to take meaningful steps to uphold human rights and ensure justice for serious abuses primarily committed by security forces in 2021.
 - a. There has been no accountability for abuses by security forces, including the August 2018 post-election violence, and killings and rape during the January 2019 protests.
 - b. Abductions, torture, arbitrary arrests, and other abuses against opposition politicians and activists have not been meaningfully investigated.

¹ Main author of this petition <https://statusnow4all.org/deportation-in-this-cruel-hostile-environment/>

² Additional content <https://www.zhro.org.uk/human-rights-uk>

