



## Nationality and Borders Bill House of Lords' Report (8 March 2022)

### Amendment 83

(Baroness McIntosh, Baroness Lister, Lord Bishop of Durham, Lord Alton of Liverpool)

The Home Office is charging more **than £1,000** for people who are British by birth, connection and statutory right to register their citizenship. Thousands of people are affected by this fee.

Charging fees of over £1,000 to fulfil the Home Office function of registering the citizenship of British people is **alienating and excluding**. People, including many children, are alienated from their own country and their peers.

The need to register arises for many people because, since 1983, they are not automatically citizens at birth due to a change of law in 1981.

The impact of these fees is **a continuation of the Windrush injustice**. British people are being excluded from their citizenship rights. The effects include:

- We are aware of people in their twenties and thirties (even approaching their forties), who have been born and lived in this country their entire lives and are being excluded from their citizenship rights.
- This is **crossing generations**. People born without citizenship, who have been unable to exercise their right to be registered as a citizen, are having children also born without citizenship and facing these 'huge' fees.
- **Children in care** are among the most marginalised of children affected by this fee. The cost of it is both a heavy burden upon local authorities and inhibits their acting on the citizenship rights of the children for whom they are responsible.
- Since Brexit, there is a growing problem of **children born in the UK to EU nationals**, then exercising free movement rights, who need to register their citizenship rights.

A [fuller briefing](#) is supported by:

Asylum Justice, British Indian Ocean Territory Citizens, British Overseas Territories Citizens Campaign, Cardinal Hume Centre, Chagossian Voices, Citizens UK, Coram Children's Legal Centre (CLC), European Network on Statelessness (ENS), Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA), Kanlungan, Law Society of Scotland, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Mishcon de Reya, North East Law Centre, Praxis, RAMFEL, Surrey Square Primary School, The 3Million, West London Welcome, Windrush Lives and YouthLegal.