

Last week was refugee week. How is the experience of refugees different from choosing to leave your country to go and start a new life elsewhere?



H.M.S. WINDRUSH
LONDON

WINDRUSH DAY - SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019

Saturday 22nd June was the first Windrush Day

The first ever **Windrush day** was celebrated all over the country to remember the first generation of people from the Caribbean who came over to the UK by invitation to help rebuild Britain after the World War Two. The Windrush docked in Tilbury, Essex on 22nd June 1948

Many were enticed to cross the Atlantic by job opportunities amid the UK's post-war labour shortage.

It heralded the start of mass immigration from commonwealth countries to the UK now referred to as “The Windrush Generation”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48638418>

Question: How would you have felt as you arrived?



What skills did people bring with them?



The listed occupations on the passenger lists give some indication of the wide range of skills that were on offer. Among those arriving from the Caribbean were **mechanics, carpenters, tailors, engineers, welders and musicians.**



According to the RAF, **dozens of the Caribbean passengers were also RAF airmen returning from leave or veterans re-joining the service.** A future Mayor of Southwark, Sam King, who had served in England with the wartime RAF, was among them.

But when they arrived here to live and work, they were often met with hostility, prejudice and racism.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-kent-48708840/windrush-nurse-people-sat-at-you-they-were-horrible>

What is the Windrush Scandal?



In 2017, hundreds of people from the Caribbean who arrived in the UK as children (some of them from the Windrush generation) were threatened with deportation (removal from the country) in what became known as the Windrush Scandal.

The Windrush generation were told they were here illegally despite having lived and worked in the country for decades and it dominated the news for months in 2017.

Up to 87 people were deported when the government claimed that people were here illegally.

Some have died abroad whilst waiting to hear if they have the right to be treated as UK citizens.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-43746746/windrush-migrants-facing-deportation-threat>

This weekend people demonstrated to demand that the government recognise the contribution that immigrants from the Commonwealth have made to this country

Sara led the Windrush scandal protests

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zv3r2AdOBt8>

What can we learn from history?



We can all recognise the contribution that other people have made to to our lives

Try showing gratitude to others

Try saying thankyou to all members of staff and to students for what they do . That includes cleaners, teachers, dining hall staff, office staff, premises staff...And each other.

It can make a huge difference.

