



Hope for Justice  
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DEC Reference: [TRO/1136077/24](#).

May 2024

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your email dated 25 April 2024 in relation to concerns raised by Hope for Justice and the 27 other signatories in relation to the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act. I note the concerns raised by you all with regards to victims of modern slavery being relocated to Rwanda.

I would like to reassure you, that under the UK-Rwanda Treaty, the Government of Rwanda will provide appropriate support and assistance to those who are victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. It further provides that Rwanda will treat Relocated Individuals who have received a positive reasonable grounds decision as a victim of modern slavery and trafficking (in those cases where the United Kingdom is not obliged to make a conclusive grounds decision prior to removal). This ensures that for those cases where required, they will be appropriate compassionate and practical support provided.

Rwandan officials will have due regard to the psychological and physical signs of vulnerability of all relocated persons at any stage of the application and integration process. The Government of Rwanda will also have regard to information provided by the UK relating to any special needs an individual may have that may arise as a result of them being a victim of modern slavery. Rwanda will take all necessary steps to ensure these needs are accommodated. Interpreters will be available as required to ensure relocated individuals can make their needs known and all interviews will be conducted with sensitivity for the individual's wellbeing.

The Government of Rwanda has systems in place to safeguard relocated individuals with a range of vulnerabilities, including those concerning mental health, and gender-based violence. The UK is also providing additional expertise to support the development of Rwanda's capacity to safeguard vulnerable persons. The implementation of the provisions in practice, set out within the Treaty, will be kept under review by the independent Monitoring Committee, whose role was enhanced by the Treaty, and who will ensure compliance. Furthermore, section 6 of the Safety of Rwanda Act 2024 provides for the Secretary of State to publish an annual report about the operation of this legislation as it relates to the modern slavery and human trafficking provisions in Article 13 of the Treaty.

Rwanda cares deeply about supporting refugees and stands ready to welcome those relocated and help them rebuild their lives. It also has a proven track record of working

constructively with domestic and international partners, including the UNHCR, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and other non-government organisations, to process and support asylum seekers and the refugee population.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to me.

I trust this is a helpful reply.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Tomlinson KC MP**  
**Minister for Illegal Migration**