**ASRA IMA External Comms - Authorized lines**

The Safety of Rwanda Act received Royal Assent on 25 April 2024, alongside ratification of the Treaty with Rwanda. This is a significant step forward as we work towards the delivery of a first flight to Rwanda, as set out by the Prime Minister. This legislation builds on the objectives set out in the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and the Nationality and Borders Act 2022. Together, it forms a key part of a top priority for the Government to reduce the level and impact of illegal migration to the UK.

The Safety of Rwanda Act:

* + confirms that Rwanda is a safe third country for the purposes of removing individuals to Rwanda.
	+ confirms that Rwanda has agreed to fulfil its obligations under the UK’s treaty with Rwanda.
	+ makes clear the very limited scope for individuals to challenge their removal to Rwanda.
	+ applies in its entirety on a UK-wide basis, including in Northern Ireland.
* More information can be found here
* [Illegal Migration Bill: overarching factsheet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-migration-bill-factsheets/illegal-migration-bill-overarching-factsheet) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-migration-bill-factsheets/illegal-migration-bill-overarching-factsheet> and [Rwanda factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a139ebe96df5000df84586/Safety_of_Rwanda_Bill_Fact_Sheet_11_Jan_2023_FINAL.pdf)

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* On 25 April 2024, the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024 came into force when the UK-Rwanda Treaty was ratified by both the UK and Rwandan governments. The treaty works hand in hand with the Safety of Rwanda Act, which confirms that Rwanda is safe for the purposes of relocating people.

* Those individuals who are relocated to Rwanda will be given safety and support there. For those who are not granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, they will instead be granted permanent residence so that they are able to stay and integrate into Rwandan society. Once individuals are relocated to Rwanda, they will have their needs looked after while their claims are being considered. This includes safe and clean accommodation, food, healthcare, and amenities. Individuals relocated under the MEDP will be supported for up to 5 years and will have access to integration packages so that they can study, undertake training and work. People are free to leave if they wish and they will not be detained.  But those in genuine need of international protection will be provided with it in Rwanda.”
* Everyone considered for relocation will be screened and have access to legal advice.
* Anyone who is here \*illegally, including those who arrived through dangerous, unnecessary, and illegal means, may be relocated to Rwanda.
* \*We can confirm that we will not relocate unaccompanied asylum-seeking children until they reach the age of 18. The Secretary of State is not required to make arrangements to remove an unaccompanied child from the UK until they turn 18 years old, but there is a power to do so. As a matter of current policy this power will only be exercised in limited circumstances ahead of them reaching adulthood, such as for the purposes of family reunion or where removal is to a safe country of origin.

On 14 April 2022, the then Prime Minister announced the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) between the UK and Rwanda to address the shared international challenge of illegal migration and break the business model of people smuggling gangs.

* On 25 April 2024, the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024 came into force when the UK-Rwanda Treaty was ratified by both the UK and Rwandan governments. The treaty works hand in hand with the Safety of Rwanda Act, which confirms that Rwanda is safe for the purposes of relocating people.
* This means that going forward, decision-makers will be required to treat Rwanda as a generally safe country for the purpose of relocating individuals.
* The Safety of Rwanda Act limits unnecessary challenges whilst enabling decision makers and the courts and tribunals to consider claims that Rwanda is unsafe for an individual person due to their particular circumstances, despite the safeguards in the treaty, if there is compelling evidence to that effect. But an individual claim is not permitted on grounds that Rwanda may remove the person to another state in contravention of any of its international obligations. The treaty has removed this risk.
* Under the UK-Rwanda Treaty, Rwanda has also strengthened its end-to-end asylum system through passing new domestic legislation and creating a specialist asylum appeals body to consider individual appeals against any refused claims. It will have two co-presidents, from Rwanda and another Commonwealth country, and be made up of judges from a mix of nations, ensuring that the final determination of asylum claims is objective and impartial.
* The treaty also enhances the role of the independent Monitoring Committee, which will ensure adherence to obligations under the treaty and have the power to set its own priority areas for monitoring.
* Those individuals who are relocated to Rwanda will be given safety and support there. For those who are not granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, they will instead be granted permanent residence so that they are able to stay and integrate into Rwandan society. Once individuals are relocated to Rwanda, they will have their needs looked after while their claims are being considered. This includes safe and clean accommodation, food, healthcare, and amenities. Individuals relocated under the MEDP will be supported for up to 5 years and will have access to integration packages so that they can study, undertake training and work. People are free to leave if they wish and they will not be detained.  But those in genuine need of international protection will be provided with it in Rwanda.”

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**May 2024**

Work is underway to operationalise the IMA. We have already delivered the first tranche of IMA reforms and the wider measures will follow in the coming months, which includes work to consider the impacts ondecision making, accommodation, accommodation support and the impact this will have on homelessness. Specific timings/details on these areas will be provided as this work progresses.

**Gov.uk information**

[Illegal Migration Act 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/illegal-migration-bill)

[Home Secretary delivering on promises to tackle immigration - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-delivering-on-promises-to-tackle-immigration)

[Immigration status and enforcement action: caseworker guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/considering-immigration-status-and-deciding-enforcement-action)

[Powers and operational procedure: caseworker guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powers-and-operational-procedure)

[First phase of detentions underway for Rwanda relocations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-phase-of-detentions-underway-for-rwanda-relocations)