

# Statement

15<sup>h</sup> November 2023

## **RR Welcomes Supreme Court Ruling Against the UK Govt's Asylum Plan for Rwanda**

RR welcomes the Supreme Court decision deeming the UK government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda as unlawful. The judges concluded that Rwanda cannot be considered a safe destination for asylum seekers, as there is a risk of refolement meaning that genuine refugees might be returned to the very countries they fled from.

While we understand the challenges the UK government faces in Channel crossings, we are concerned that their current approach may jeopardise the lives and safety of numerous refugees and asylum seekers, both within the UK and abroad. We acknowledge that asylum seekers, some of whom are victims of human trafficking and criminal gangs, are risking their lives to cross the channels.

The core issue lies in the absence of a mechanism or safe routes enabling individuals to seek asylum or refugee status while outside the UK. Consequently, they are left with limited options, often resorting to risking their lives to cross the channel and reach British territories for asylum. The UN resettlement program stands as an option for asylum seekers, but acceptance rates are low, and the criteria are often unclear.

We hope that the Supreme Court ruling prompts the UK government to reassess its approach, implementing a mechanism that allows genuine asylum seekers to apply for asylum while outside the UK. This includes establishing safe passage for claiming asylum in the UK and developing an immigration system grounded in humanity, justice, and alignment with the UK's ethos of welcoming refugees and complying with the Refugee Convention.

### **ENDS**

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*Rethink Rebuild Society* (RR) is a Manchester-based charity that works towards improving the lives of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants, in particular but not exclusively Syrians in the UK, helping them become positively established within the British society. In addition to its work in the UK, RR in collaboration with a number of charities and organisations has already initiated educational projects as well as children and adolescent protection programmes inside Syria. We have helped establish and support schools in several parts of Syria that together are accommodating thousands of Syrian children of varying ages.

