

# UK's Rwanda asylum saga

■ **Apr 14, 2022:**

Prime minister **Boris Johnson**

(right) unveils plan to send asylum-seekers entering UK illegally to Rwanda, with claims decided by Rwandan authorities.

**Under deal UK will pay Rwanda £140 million (€163m) per year**



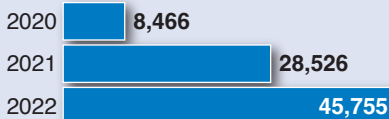
■ **Jun 14:** First flight

to Rwanda grounded following intervention by **European Court of Human Rights**



■ **Dec 19:** UK High Court concludes plan is lawful

**Migrants crossing English Channel**



■ **Oct 25: Rishi Sunak**

(inset) becomes prime minister, vowing to do "**whatever it takes**" to ship deportees to Rwanda



■ **Mar 7, 2023:** Sunak introduces **Illegal Migration Bill** – which receives Royal Assent in July

■ **Apr:** Home Office pays extra **£100 million (€117m)** to Rwanda

■ **Nov 15:**

**Supreme Court – highest court in UK – declares sending asylum seekers to Rwanda is unlawful.**

Asylum seekers at risk of facing **refoulement** – being returned to country of origin where they could face threat to life or liberty



■ **Dec 5:** New Home Secretary **James Cleverly** (above) signs formal migration treaty in Rwanda.

**UK claims treaty guarantees non-refoulement**

■ **Dec 6:** Despite Supreme Court decision, government publishes **Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill** which must be approved by Parliament.

Immigration minister **Robert Jenrick**

(inset) – close ally of Sunak – resigns saying emergency bill does not override Supreme Court and ECHR challenges



■ **Dec 12:** Rwanda bill – which declares Rwanda "safe" and seeks to limit migrants appealing against being sent there – passes its first parliamentary hurdle with majority of 44 votes