

Migrant Voice Statement, 23 July 2019

A response to [remarks by Home Secretary Sajid Javid](#) at Home Affairs Select Committee, 22 July



We welcome some of the Home Secretary's remarks yesterday regarding the international students wrongly accused of cheating by the Home Office five years ago – but we are deeply concerned that he could renege on his pledge of a substantial statement, and that the solution he's offering will be a cheap imitation of one.

It was good to hear the Home Secretary acknowledge that the Home Office needs to change its approach on this issue. It was also good to hear him say that even if just one person has been wronged, it's the government's duty to do "more to help" – that's progress from the frankly insulting Home Office claim that anyone wronged can find redress in the courts, which is virtually impossible and impossibly expensive.

But we are concerned that the solution the Home Secretary hinted at – offering the students an "opportunity" to present "new evidence" – is not a solution, nor even close to one. These innocent students have tried again and again in the courts, using all the evidence they have, to clear their names. But, due to the Home Office's insistence on relying on fundamentally flawed evidence that has been torn apart by countless legal and technical experts, the students have been defeated at every step.

The only "new evidence" the Home Secretary should be interested in scrutinising is the evidence of Home Office failures and disregard for justice that's there in black and white in the recent [APPG report](#), the [National Audit Office report](#) – both of which he claims to have read – and [our own report](#) from a year ago.

And the only "new evidence" the Home Secretary should be asking of the students is evidence of their ability to speak English. Let them sit a new test – give them that "opportunity" at the very least – and clear their names if they pass. Home Secretary, you said yesterday you don't want to "hold out false hope" – so why not give these students some real hope instead and the chance to get their futures back. It is in your power to do this.