

**9 February 2022**

**For immediate release**

A BBC investigation has raised fresh doubts about the evidence used to throw thousands of students out of the UK for allegedly cheating in an English language test.

The investigation – which comes eight years to the day (10 February) after a BBC TV programme sparked a Government decision that remains one of the biggest scandals in recent British history.

“The BBC’s research for the *Newsnight* programme confirms what we have been saying all along – that thousands of students had their futures ruined based on unreliable evidence and the unprofessional reaction of the Home Office,” says Nazek Ramadan, the director of the charity Migrant Voice that is working with the victims to clear their names.

“Eight years is shamefully long time for the government to continue ignoring its responsibility for creating and refusing to right this wrong, which affected 56,000 students.

“We call on it to act now to put an end to this injustice and give the students their future back.

Some students have managed to stay in the country, trying desperately to fight the issue in the courts, but this has proved an insufficient remedy. It is available only to those very few affected students able to endure living with no rights and legal status for many years while trying to raise tens of thousands of pounds to fight complicated legal battles.

“Even when the students win, they find that they cannot get their place at university back, nor all the money they spent on fees and lawyers, but they have lost what should have been the best years of their lives,” says Ramadan.

“This new information must lead to action now,” she says “It’s as though nothing has been learned from the Windrush scandal.”

- For interviews with students and Nazek Ramadan, Director of Migrant Voice: 07876787494 / [press@migrantvoice.org](mailto:press@migrantvoice.org)

+ BBC story: The English test that ruined thousands of lives:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60264106>

- Background information on the issue and Migrant Voice's #MyFutureBack campaign: <https://www.migrantvoice.org/home/pagenews/myfutureback-campaign-overview-070222135912>

- Also see the link to this short film with some of the students' stories  
<https://www.migrantvoice.org/mediaitem/inquisition-220519081958>

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