



MAKE RIGHTS REAL FOR #ALLCHILDREN

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS NOT FOR SALE

### Children's Citizenship Rights in the UK

Thousands of children (including many born in the UK) are growing up without British Citizenship. The British Nationality Act 1981 ensures that children growing up here and who are as connected to the UK as any of their peers have the right to register as British citizens.

However, many children are currently being prevented from registering because of the fee charged for applying to register. The Home Office charged £1,012 for a child to apply, despite confirming the administrative cost of processing is £372. That means the Home Office makes £640 profit on every child applying for their right to register as a British citizen.

Nationality is recognised as an important element of an individual's identity. Being unable to access their right to British citizenship also undermines children's futures and places them at risk of facing the same injustices as the Windrush generation have experienced, such as denial of healthcare, employment, education, social assistance and housing. They are also put at risk because without citizenship they remain subject to immigration rules and powers.

The Home Office should be giving primary consideration to the best interests of the child when developing policies that concern them, not blocking their rights with a profit making fee.

In November 2019 we will be taking a petition to the Home Office, calling for:

- The removal of the profit-making aspect of the fee
- Introduction of a power for officials to waive the fee for those who cannot afford it
- No fee for children who are assisted by local authorities

We want to show that the current fee acts as a barrier to children's rights and to illustrate this we will be building a wall outside the Home Office, with bricks decorated with illustrations of citizenship rights and the barriers affecting children.

### TAKE ACTION

1. Sign the petition online or print the attached petition sheet to collect signatures:  
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-office-stop-profiteering-childrens-rights>
2. Send us paper 'bricks' with your illustration of citizenship and the barriers for children accessing these rights.





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## The Barrier to Citizenship

Help us decorate a 'wall' which will stand as an illustration of the barrier to citizenship by sending us your paper bricks.

Please draw or write something which illustrates:

- What citizenship means to you and/or
- What barriers stand between children and their right to citizenship

Bricks should be 65mm x 215mm (see template below).

Please send your bricks to: Children's Human Rights Network, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### Template 'Brick':



# UK: PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

## ENSURE CHILDREN CAN ACCESS THEIR RIGHT TO REGISTER AS BRITISH CITIZENS



We believe it is unacceptable for children who have the right to register as British citizens under the British Nationality Act 1981 to be prevented from doing so by the charging of a prohibitively high fee. We, the undersigned, call on the Immigration Minister to:

- Remove the profit-making element of the registration fee
- Introduce a fee waiver for cases where a child's parent or other carer would be unable to afford the fee to register
- Charge no fee for registration in cases of children assisted by a local authority under the Children Act 1989

Name	Address	Postcode	Signature

Information provided may be held by Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust and Amnesty International UK Section (AIUK); who will then share it with the addressee of this Action.

**Please send completed petitions to:  
Amnesty Children's Rights Network, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA**