



# SHORT Book review: The Windrush Betrayal

Anti-racist religious education



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# The Windrush Betrayal: Exploring the Hostile Environment by Amelia Gentleman

Review by: Stephanie Rhodes

## Review

*"How do you pack for a one-way journey back to a country you left when you were eleven and have not visited for 50 years?"*

Written by Guardian Reporter Amelia Gentleman, this book provides a tragic account of the Windrush Scandal based on interviews with victims. Each case illustrates the devastating impact of the Hostile Environment Policy.

One particularly horrifying example, exposed after several attempts to alert the Home Office is that of Albert Thompson. Albert's case sadly highlights the immediate consequences of the policy which left him homeless approaching retirement age and denied cancer treatment. It was after his referral to an Oncology unit that he discovered he was ineligible for treatment on the NHS as his immigration status was under investigation and he was required to pay £54,000 for radiotherapy. He had lived and worked in England throughout his adult life contributing towards a system that would later unexpectedly reject him. This case is not rare and the book delves into the experiences of several victims who lost jobs, homes and all sense of normality in the country that they called home.

This book is recommended to anyone trying to understand how institutional racism continues to impact the lives of the Windrush generation and their children to this day.