



Home Office

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DECS Reference: TRO/1467740/26

25 March 2026

Dear Worku Teshome,

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 February 2026 to the Home Secretary about the concerns raised regarding the treatment of ethnic Amharas in Ethiopia. Your correspondence has been passed to the Asylum Policy Secretariat for a response.

I appreciate you taking the time to raise these issues on behalf of London Fano CIC and the wider Amhara community. I would like to address each of the matters highlighted.

Asylum decisions for Ethiopian nationals

I can assure you that all asylum and human rights claims from Ethiopian nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Asylum decision makers carefully consider each claimant's protection needs by assessing all the evidence provided by the claimant in light of published country information guidance. They receive extensive training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance. Each individual assessment is made against the background of relevant case law and the latest available country of origin information. This is based on evidence taken from a wide range of reliable sources, including reputable media outlets; local, national, and international organisations, including human rights organisations; and information from the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office.

Our assessment of the situation of a given group in a given country is set out in the relevant country policy and information note, which is available on GOV.UK at: [Country policy and information notes - GOV.UK](#). CPINs are kept under constant review and updated periodically, therefore we consider the information in them to be reliable when assessing risk.

Protection is normally granted where a claimant has a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention or a claimant faces a real risk of serious harm. Those found not to need protection are refused and when appeal rights are exhausted, they are expected to leave the UK.

I can confirm that we will not remove anyone to their own or any other country where they have a well-founded fear of persecution or are at risk of serious harm.

Refugee family reunion

We have temporarily suspended the Refugee family reunion route to ease the pressures that public services have been placed under due to the significant increase in visas issued on the route in recent years. The lack of any requirements for sponsors with protection has inevitably led to a significant strain on local authorities and public services. Between 2015-2022, there were approximately 5,500 individuals granted under refugee family reunion each year. In 2024, there were 19,258 individuals who arrived under this route. That represents a 107% increase on grants in 2023 and a 368% increase from grants in 2022. In the year ending June 2025, this reached the highest on record.

The suspension of the family reunion route is to enable the Government to undertake a full review of the current family rules to ensure we have a fair and properly balanced system, which could then be placed on a more sustainable footing.

I would like to assure you that outstanding applications will continue to be considered under the family reunion rules in place prior to the commencement of the suspension, including those that are at appeal. Those with protection status can use other family routes should they wish to reunite with their family and consider that they meet the relevant Immigration Rules.

There are also safe and legal routes for people to come to the UK should they wish to join family members here, work or study. They would need to meet the requirements of the relevant Immigration Rule under which they were applying to qualify for a visa. Details about the criteria and how to apply are available on GOV.UK at: <http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

Asylum Policy Secretariat