

## Briefing from the Josephine Thomas Support Committee

### The letter campaign is going well

Thank you to everyone who has written to the Home Office minister, Timothy Raison M.P.' With so many people writing perhaps he will change his mind and allow Josey to stay in Britain. All the same, we haven't won yet and we dare not hope too much for Home Secretaries and their ministers are not easily moved to compassion.

### Josey is not alone with this problem of threatened deportation

~~MOREOVER~~ Josey's case is a warning to others who could be caught by the Two Year Returning Resident's Rule. Indirectly this rule is discriminatory for it is mainly black residents from the New Commonwealth who are hit by it.

### Josey's altered family situation

All three of Josey's British-born sons have now joined their mother in Huddersfield. The two younger boys, David aged 13, and Stephen aged 11, have been living with their grandmother in Carriacou. Their long separation from their mother has been a source of sorrow and growing concern for all the family, so their recent arrival in Huddersfield is of particular significance.

Now that Josey's eldest son Richard, aged 17½, has also come to Huddersfield, Josey will enjoy much needed practical and moral support. Richard has been at sea, working as a deck-hand and sending regular remittances to his grandmother, since he was 14. He made up his mind to join his mother and family in Huddersfield, both to help them, and to secure for himself further education with the aim of promoting his career at sea.

Josey's friends and supporters are delighted that the family is now almost re-united. But there remains in Carriacou, with Grandma, Josey's five year old son, Samuel. He was born in Grenada and therefore has no right of entry to the UK unless the threat to deport Josey is withdrawn and she is granted "settled" status.

None of these happy family events alter in any way Josey's situation in the cold eyes of the Home Office who will regard them as irrelevant.

THEREFORE the arguments about her immigration case to be put to Mr.T. Raison should not now be altered in any way. The Support Committee just want Josey's well-wishers to be aware of her altered family situation.

### The facts of Josey's immigration case remain the same

Josey was born a British citizen; she came to the UK as a British citizen and remained British until 1974 when her country of origin, Grenada, became independent. At that moment, through no act of her own, she automatically lost her British citizenship and because of this became subject to the Two Year Returning Resident's Rule.

Family circumstances forced her to go back to Grenada in 1976 and she was unable to return to Britain until 1979, five months over the two year limit. Even so Josey has lived most of her adult life in Huddersfield, over sixteen years; and four of her five children were born here, and of course have the right to live in this country.

The fact that Josey had a grant from the International Social Service of GB in 1976 to assist her departure under the voluntary repatriation scheme should not be held against her. The Immigration Act 1971 allows those Commonwealth residents settled here before 1 January 1973 to do this and in any case Josey was desperate at the time.

### Keep the letters flowing . . . (quote ref. T 135557)

If you haven't written a letter yet, then write now to Timothy Raison! Just a one line letter asking the minister not to deport Josey will do. Address your letter to T.Raison M.P. Home Office, London SW1H. Please send a copy to Josey's M.P. Barry Sheerman, House of Commons, London SW1A.