



# FROM GOOD HOPE TO GREAT BRITAIN

## RESTORING VISA-FREE TRAVEL FOR SOUTH AFRICAN VISITORS TO THE UK

### AIM

Launch a grassroots campaign to encourage the return of visa-free travel for South African nationals visiting the UK by means of a public petition.



### PETITION

We encourage the UK's 200,000 strong South African diaspora and South Africans at home to sign, showing both Governments the levels of public support.



Sign our petition at [Change.org/p/home-office-restore-visa-free-travel-for-south-africans-to-the-uk](https://change.org/p/home-office-restore-visa-free-travel-for-south-africans-to-the-uk)

### BACKGROUND

#### 2008



The UK revoked South Africa's 'visa-free' status for security reasons regarding passports and corruption.



It means that South Africans wishing to visit the UK for leisure or business now pay **£87 for a six-month** or **£330 for a two-year visa**.



**At the time a Home Affairs spokeswoman said that:**

*"This will be harder for black South Africans on lower incomes, particularly youngsters, who might only just be able to make the price of flights and accommodation."*

#### 2013



The South Africa Government said that it had taken significant steps to reduce UK concerns.



It approached the UK to negotiate possible reinstatement. This resulted in no change of policy.

**Eight years have passed without a resolution.**

**South Africa nationals currently enjoy visa-free access for short stay visits to Ireland.**

### CAMPAIGN CHAMPIONS



#### BUSINESS

**Simon Walker**

Director-General, Institute of Directors



"In a world where commerce is truly international, the British visa system has to focus on ease of doing business or we risk losing out on foreign investment. Before the referendum, we were promised that Britain after Brexit would be an open, trading nation, and that means being open to talent from countries like South Africa, the continent's second largest economy."



#### MUSIC

**Simon Shibambu**

South African bass-baritone



"I know from my own experience that the cost of a visa is too high for many promising South African singers. Visa-free travel to the UK for South Africans would make it much easier for young singers to visit this country to audition and attend performances, which can give a crucial boost to their careers. I therefore support those calling for a return of visa-free travel into the UK for South Africans."



## CAMPAIGN CHAMPIONS



### POLITICS

**Lord Peter Hain**  
Leading anti-apartheid campaigner



"Eight years have passed since UK visitor visa restrictions were applied to South Africans. A lack of a firm solution to ending this requirement has sadly gone on for too long to the detriment of many. Over 200,000 South Africans live in the UK. Most are frustrated and upset as family members struggle to afford the additional visa fees when previously none were necessary. This is effectively a tariff on family visits. A return to visa-free travel would help rebuild bonds between families as well as directly boost UK tourism by attracting fresh numbers of South Africans and restore visitor numbers to 2006 levels of over 350,000."



### A VIEW FROM SA

**Haniff Hoosen MP**  
Shadow Minister of Home Affairs,  
South Africa



"It is with much interest that I support the Royal Commonwealth Society's UK/SA visa waiver campaign. Historically, there have been very strong ties between our two countries. It does not make sense that goods produced in these two countries can pass freely but the visitors cannot. As the Shadow Minister of Home Affairs in South Africa, I will continue to advance the interests and benefits of this campaign in the South African Parliament in the hope that in the not too distant future, this campaign will bear the fruits of development for both countries."

## UK-SA TRENDS

**351k** **231k**

South African nationals visiting the UK declined significantly from **351,000 in 2006** to **231,000 in 2015**



**209,000** South Africans living in the UK – 2011 census



South African visitors spent a total of **£246m** in 2015



Of this 231,000 – 55,000 were business visitors **spending £73m**

### MARKET SHARE



An extra **£128m per annum in revenue** if the UK had maintained its 2006 South African visitor numbers and average spend



It would also have generated **2,370 extra UK jobs**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO



### TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

This is your campaign. We need South Africans in the UK and beyond as well as Britons to sign the petition.



### THIS IS ALSO YOUR STORY

We want South Africans to come forward and tell everyone. We need short articles to use in the press and vox-pops videos from the public.

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

