

Rota Parliamentary Report: Spring 2022

6 new laws and how they will impact our communities



Much of the media attention over the last few months, has been on the 'Partygate' scandal or on the Home Secretary's increasingly outlandish plans to deal with illegal immigration. But as Parliament closes for the Spring recess, an avalanche of new legislation is to become law. Much of it will have an impact on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in the UK.

Sometimes it can be hard to keep up with all that is going on, especially if you are already battling the system in your own specific area, so ROTA has produced a brief summary of the Bills that have either been passed or are about to be passed.

1. Nationality and Borders Act 2022



Changes the UK immigration system by introducing a two-tier system for asylum seekers arriving in the UK, differentiating based on method of arrival.

Some clauses could have an impact on the rights of British born people of colour even generations after their parents arrived here.

There is also concern about the Government's plans to 'process' asylum cases in Rwanda.

[This Act is now law](#)

Read more:

[The Refugee Council](#)
[Amnesty International](#)
[The Guardian](#)

2. Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts ACT 2022



Covers a wide range of community safety issues and seeks to introduce measures which aim to have an impact on victims of crime, those who perpetrate crimes, and wider community safety.

More police powers are introduced without extra scrutiny or any measures to make policing fairer.

This will exacerbate existing racial inequalities in the justice system by increasing police stop & search powers, placing restrictions on the rights of some Gypsy Roma, Traveller communities and curbing the right to protest.

[This Act is now law.](#)

Read more:

[BBC](#)

[Guardian](#)

[Criminal Justice Alliance](#)

3. Elections Act 2022



Changes the way elections work with the aim of making UK elections “more secure, modern, inclusive and transparent.”

One change is that voters will be required to show photo ID before being issued a ballot paper in polling stations.

The introduction of voter ID could stop over 2 million people, who do not currently hold suitable documents, from voting. People from racialised communities are likely to be over represented in this group.

There are also concerns about political control of the Electoral Commission.

[This Act is now Law](#)

Read more:

[Independent](#)

[Open Democracy](#)

[The Mirror](#)

[The Runnymede Trust](#)

4. Building Safety Act 2022



Moves to address safety concerns arising from the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy, including the use of unsafe cladding on many high-rise buildings in the country.

The Bill contains some protection for leaseholders and clarifies positions on accountability.

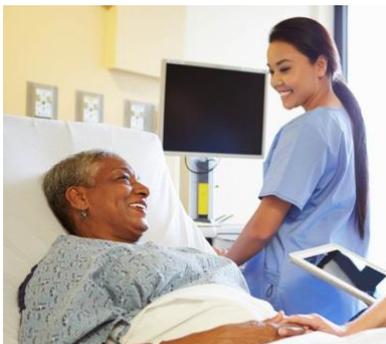
Britain's minority ethnic communities live disproportionately in flats (85% of Grenfell victims were people of colour) and being able to feel safe when they go to bed at night is essential.

There are concerns that protections do not extend to all leaseholders, and campaigners say there are still gaps where responsibility is not clear. The new law also ignores leaseholders who have already paid out.

[This Act is now law.](#)

Read more:
[Inside Housing](#)
[Building Design](#)
[National World](#)

5. Health and Care Bill



Reforms the structure of the health service by encouraging integration of services and removing the requirement for competition.

Black and Asian communities in the UK are more likely to live in the more deprived neighbourhoods and there is concern that the spending cap the Bill introduces will increase health inequalities.

[This Act is now law](#)

Read more:
[Unison](#)
[Royal College of Nursing](#)
[National Health Executive](#)

6. Online Safety Bill



The Online Safety Bill aims to protect children online and tackle some of the worst abuses on social media, including racist hate crimes.

The Bill was introduced in response to racist tweets following England's defeat in the Euro Final. There has been a noticeable increase in hate speech online and the change of ownership and direction of Twitter may see a further normalisation of hate.

The Bill suggests changes around anonymity which could have an impact on at-risk groups.

[The Bill is at its second reading which means it is still possible to make changes.](#)

Read more:

[The New Statesman](#)

[The Financial Times](#)

[Open Democracy](#)

ROTA works across a number of areas of policy development to ensure that structural racism is dismantled and our systems become fair.

To keep up to date with what we are doing and how we can work together. Please join our membership. It's free and is open to anyone working with racially marginalised communities or working towards an anti-racist Britain.

You can become a member of ROTA as an individual or as an organisation by completing the form appropriate membership form below.

- [sign up as an individual member](#)
- [sign up as an organisational member](#)

Race on the Agenda (ROTA) is one of Britain's leading anti-racist change drivers. Working with communities impacted by systemic racism, ROTA helps create the policies and practices to tackle inequality.

Originally set up in 1984, **ROTA** aims to support and amplify the work of anti-racist organisations across the country as they work to bring equality to their communities.

Together, we will end systemic racism in Britain.

[Watch our video](#)

Image credits:

- ["Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament - London"](#) by [derekskey](#)
- ["Refugee children from Syria at a clinic in Ramtha, northern Jordan"](#) by [DFID - UK Department for International Development](#)
- ["stop and search"](#) by [meophamman](#)
- ["Polling Station"](#) by [secretlondon123](#)
- ["Council block"](#) by [Joffley](#)
- ["Laptop Keyboard"](#) by [nist6ss](#)