



— YOUNG MIGRANTS STANDING UP —

**WE BELONG**

# Who is We Belong?

- Our Co-CEOs were inspired to become campaigners for young migrants after experiencing first-hand the impact of government hostile environment policies.
- The lives of thousands of young migrants in UK were blown off course by a law change in 2012, which stripped them of their right to a student loan. The new legislation left young people who had grown up in the UK unable to take up their deserved university places and put education and career ambitions in limbo.
- At the time, it felt like a devastating setback - but it was to prove a pivotal moment. Legislation intended to limit young migrants' life chances and shrink their ambitions but instead of giving up, our co-CEOs galvanised into action, young migrants across the country came together to campaign and mobilise, as never before.
- Under the guidance of Just for Kids Law, the Let us Learn campaign was launched to support young migrants and lobby for equal access to education.
- In 2015 we launched Let us Learn campaign.
- Prior to this, schools and universities weren't aware of the issue and how they could support us – our career ambitions were shrunk.

# Supreme Court Case, Tigere 2015



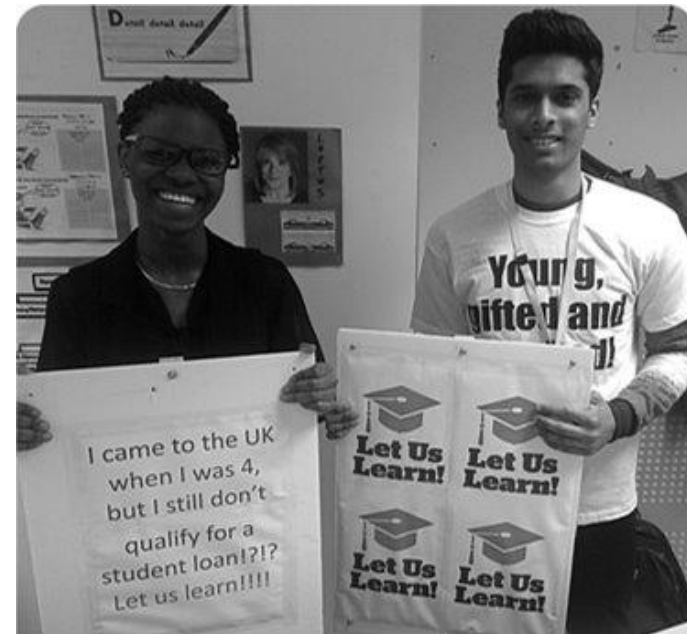
- Supporting case studies
- Media coverage
- Word of Mouth Story sharing
- Physical actions

# The Common Question

- If these young people have lived in the UK for such a long time, then surely their immigration status should be settled, and they should have British citizenship?

**Difficulty:** many young people only recognise there is a problem with their status until they apply to UCAS or already started university and get their student loan application rejected.

- Prior to that there is an assumption that they are eligible because of the length of time that they have lived in UK.



# Immigration Status - Student Loan Eligibility Explained



- **Refugees** who live in the UK and those granted **Humanitarian protection** (faced a recent change) - are eligible for student finance and treated as home students.
- **Asylum Seekers** are not eligible for student finance and will be charged international fees.
- **Limited forms of leave, such as Discretionary Leave or Limited leave to remain**, if 18 years old & over, may only be eligible if they have lived half their life in the UK and held their immigration status lawfully for a minimum of 3 years by the first day of the academic year of your course e.g. 1st sept, 1st Jan.
- **Indefinite Leave to Remain** may be eligible for funding if they have had lawful status for 3 years for the first day of the first academic year of the course e.g. 1st sept, 1st Jan.
- **British citizenship** - must have also continually been living in the UK for 3 years.

# Let Us Learn Actions

- In 2016, lobbied universities, writing and calling to explain the issue.
- Launched Young Gifted and Blocked campaign.
- Sought support from local MPs
- In just over 2 years, we had actively reached out to HE institutions.
- Our asks called on universities to set up scholarships or bursaries so we can carry on learning and pursue our educational and career ambitions.
- We assisted some higher education institutions in shaping the scholarships and funding support for migrant applicants.
- Spoke at high number of conferences across the UK & used social media to spread awareness of the issue.



# We Belong – Education Future Plans

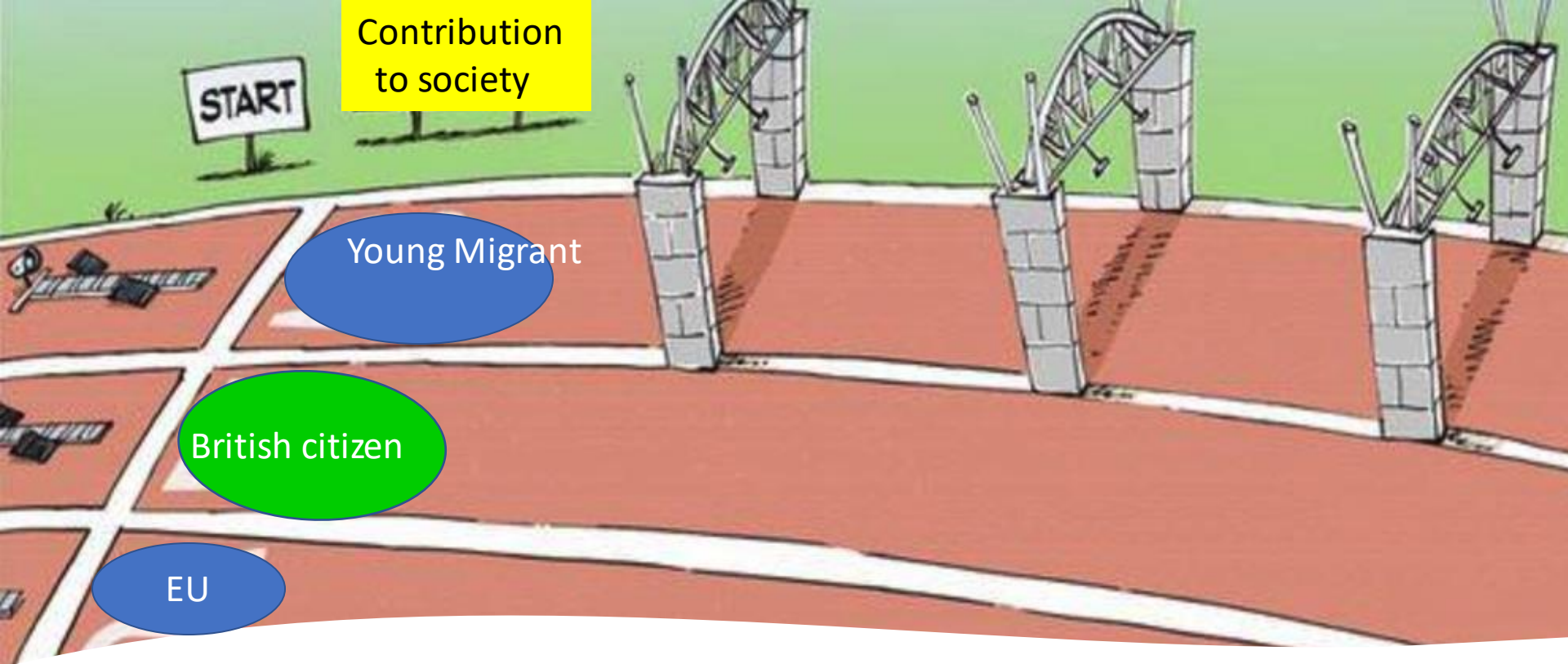
- Bridging communication between schools and universities
- Reaching out to student voice groups at universities
- Reaching out to more universities that don't offer many or none scholarships - Lobbying for more.
- Partnering with Widening participations teams at universities to find effective methods of supporting migrants with precarious status who are already at university.
- National hub & awareness campaign - highlighting the need and importance for equal access to higher education for young migrants.
- Impact on young migrant mental health.
- Working with student finance on how to handle enquiries and cases which concern young migrants who fit into criteria but still face difficulty during finance assessments.

# HE Institutions – What Can You Do?

- More vocal stance on barriers that affect young migrants with precarious status when applying to higher education institutions e.g. easier way to access website info.
- Recognise the causes of young migrants' inability to access funding when assessing applications and fee classifications.
- Review of fee classification
- Development of more services that Widening participation teams provide for applicant







## Impact of Chasing Status on Higher Education

- High fees to get lawful status & Risk of losing lawful status
- Countless years waiting for statuses to be regularised before they can begin to higher education
- Education access barrier
- Inability to work, acquire bank accounts, rent houses
- Lack of legal aid

A silhouette of a person's profile is shown against a blue background with bokeh lights. The person's head is tilted downwards, and their eyes are closed. The text "Mental Health" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Mental Health

# We Are On Social Media, Follow Us!



**@WeBelong19**



**@WeBelong19**



**@WeBelong19**

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**WE BELONG**

ABOUT OUR WORK CAMPAIGNS IMPACT COMMUNICATIONS EVENTS GET INVOLVED

### Young Gifted & Blocked

From September 2012, young migrants with Limited Leave to Remain (LLR) had to wait 10 years after receiving their status before they could access student finance. With the help of Just for Kids Law, we intervened in a Supreme Court case regarding this matter and overturned the rules.

Now young people with LLR must prove that they have lived at least half their lives in the UK and have 3 years continuous lawful status by the time they are ready to start their academic course in September.

Our job wasn't done.

Young migrants often don't realise that they don't have any lawful status until they start applying for universities. By then it's too late for applications to stay in the UK.

Young Gifted and Blocked (Let us Learn/Just for Kids Law)

Watch later Share