



Notification to the UK Government of case brought by Shamima Begum

The European Court of Human Rights has given notice¹ to the Government of the United Kingdom of the application **Begum v. the United Kingdom** (application no. 36427/24).

The case concerns a complaint submitted by Shamima Begum about the 2019 decision to deprive her of her British citizenship. She had left the UK in 2015, then aged 15, to travel to Syria to align herself with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

A [statement of facts](#) submitted to the parties, with questions from the Court, is available in English on the Court's website.

Notification of a case is a stage in the Court's proceedings when a Government is informed that an application against it is pending and that the Court is requesting more information. The Court cannot take up cases or issues by itself; it examines possible human-rights violations when people or States submit a complaint to it. Notification (often referred to as "communication") does not mean that a case is admissible or that there has been a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court's ruling in the case is made at a later stage. This could either be a decision on admissibility or a decision on admissibility and merits as part of one judgment.

The applicant, previously a British national, was born in 1999. At the time of lodging her application, she was living in a camp in Northern Syria.

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 5 December 2024.

Relying on Article 4 (prohibition of slavery and forced labour) of the European Convention of Human Rights, Ms Begum complains in particular that the decision to deprive her of her citizenship did not take into account a number of questions linked to the question of whether she had been a victim of trafficking.

On 25 November 2025 the Government of the United Kingdom were given notice of the application, with questions from the Court.

The [statement of facts](#) submitted to the Government has been available in English only on the Court's Internet site since 15 December 2025.

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¹ Under Rule 54 § 2 (b) of the Rules of Court: "the Chamber or the President of the Section may decide to give notice of the application or part of the application to the respondent Contracting Party and invite that Party to submit written observations thereon and, upon receipt thereof, invite the applicant to submit observations in reply."

We are happy to receive journalists' enquiries via either email or telephone.

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The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.