

Letter sent to the Home Secretary by

Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal; Professor Graham Caie, Vice Principal and Clerk of Senate; Professor Anne Andersen, Vice Principal and Head of the College of Social Sciences; Fred Cartmel, Chief Adviser of Studies MA Social Sciences Degree.

12 July, 2011.

Dear Ms May

We are writing to you to ask for your intervention to forestall the deportation of a third-year Honours student at the University of Glasgow, a Mr John Oguchukwu (Home Office Reference Number: 01052232). John is currently due for deportation on Wednesday the 20th of July, 2011.

John, who is originally from Nigeria, has been in Glasgow since 2002, and has been a student at Glasgow since 2007. This past year he completed (successfully) his Junior Honours year, achieving grades that set him on course for a Upper Second Class Honours degree. He has been an active member of the campus, involved with the Students Representative Council and very popular with his peers and teachers. Most recently, he was shortlisted by the Principal's Office for a bursary from the Thomas and Margaret Roddan Trust, which provides financial assistance to students who are deserving cases. John's record is even more impressive when one considers the adversity he has faced. John was funded last year at the University by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow. John has been seeking asylum in the UK for over nine years, and during this time has been entitled to Section 4 food vouchers and housing but little else. He has been subject to compulsory weekly sign-in sessions at the Home Office, and has on at least one occasion been unlawfully detained by the UKBA. This occurred over Christmas 2009, when John was held in a detention centre in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport for over ten weeks, before finally being released to his solicitor. John then had a lengthy struggle with UKBA to regain the keys to the flat that he had left behind when detained. In addition to this, his goods were seized, some of which are still to be returned.

It gives us great satisfaction to say that, during this difficult period for John, the University of Glasgow was a great source of support for both him, and those of us who were involved in helping him. The Clerk of Senate took a personal interest in his case, and was very generous with his time and care for John. A number of Professors who teach John also rallied to his cause, many writing letters of support and reference to his solicitor. John had his final court session at the High Court in Edinburgh about three weeks ago. This was an appeal to overturn the rejection of his application for asylum status. A representative from the University attended the session, and was impressed that John acquitted himself with great dignity. John has been an excellent student, and the University has supported him through good times and bad till this point.

John has done well at the university under extremely adverse circumstances to progress this far in his University career, which is to his credit. We believe that, if permitted leave to remain, John will be a valuable asset to Scottish society. It is our hope that your intervention will allow John to at least complete his studies.

Yours sincerely,