

Rudd going does not change Mayâ€™s hostile environ...

Published: January 16, 2026, 2:14 am

Amber Rudd has resigned as Home Secretary.

I have been tweeting about her conduct for the last few days. I am pleased she has had to face the consequences of her actions. But let's be clear, her resignation is only some punctuation in a longer sentence for those whose persecution she has pursued. As a result it is not enough to right all wrongs.

It is true that it is good news that, contrary to one opinion I was confidently given yesterday, she has realised that she has no choice but comply with the parliamentary conventions on resignation when misleading the House. If contempt for that had gone then accountability would have been shattered. But it hasn't been.

And it is good news that her resignation may let a successor more readily change policy: Theresa May can hardly demand the perpetuation of her own deeply hostile, and I think racist, policies now.

And let's give credit where it is due: full marks to the Guardian on this. That paper is doing a phenomenal job at present.

But let's then stand back and realise that this resignation was not about the deeply hostile and, I think racist, policy the Home Office was pursuing.

And this resignation does not hold the Prime Minister to account for her actions in creating that policy.

What is more, this resignation will allay no one's fears as the U.K. pursues Brexit for the main purpose of creating a more hostile environment for migrants.

And that the hostility will continue is apparent: Rudd did not have the decency to apologise to those she had mistreated in her resignation letter. It was instead a deliberate show of arrogance on the issue, as if it was to her credit that all was now being put right.

So Rudd going is important, because it had to happen. But it does not change the contempt for other people that runs through the government and parts of British society. And that is the malaise that is literally crippling this country right now, and that May represents. Something much more radical is required to address that and, regrettably, there is little chance of it happening as yet.