



National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)

## **ALERT and ADVISORY**

### **Guidance on scam calls from fraudulent Home Office imposers attempting to scam International Indian Students**

#### **What is happening?**

Fraudsters are calling victims from what appears to a genuine Home Office telephone number **0207 354 848**- which seems to have been 'spoofed'. To spoof numbers, fraudsters use software or calling cards that allow them to display any number they wish on a victim's phone.

Some of the tactics and practices that recent victims have experienced are below:

- The fraudster is very professional, authoritative and persistent.
- The fraudster may use the terms '*deportation notice*', '*alien registration form*' and '*late fee charges*'
- The student is asked to crosscheck the number flashing on the screen with the phone number listed on the Home Office website as a way of convincing the student of the call's authenticity.
- The phone number can show up as "Home Office - Customer Services" or 0207 354 848 and the number matches the number on the gov.uk website. It may also show up as 'Met Police' 020 7230 1212
- They advise the student not to share the conversation with anyone.
- The student is informed that they failed to fill in some paperwork correctly when they last entered the UK meaning they are now required to pay a fine or face immediate deportation from the UK and a subsequent 10-year ban.
- The terminology used is accurate, and the caller had the student's name and nationality.
- The fine payable starts at £100, rising quickly to £6,500.
- Details from official documents are demanded to be shared over the phone. E.g. Home address, Passport number or even Bank account details.
- The caller advises the student not to drop the call at any point or the Home Office will assume he is implicit in criminal activity and not cooperating.

#### **What to do if I get a call from a fraud claiming to be the Home Office? Our Advice:**

- Do not make any payment. The Home Office will NEVER call you to ask for money.
- Hang up the call without engaging further with the caller.
- Do not give the caller any personal information.
- Do not confirm that any information they have is correct.
- Please inform your relevant University International Student Support Team immediately.
- Report the matter to Action Fraud: [https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)
- Let us know about your experience by emailing [secretary@nisu.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nisu.org.uk) or contacting us via our Facebook page @NISAU.UK

If you have any queries relating the situation or would just like to report it to the NISAU for extra support in the matter, please don't hesitate to contact [secretary@nisu.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nisu.org.uk) at any point.