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**\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\***

**CISA expresses concern for the situation of 2,600 international students in the UK who are at risk of being deported.**

The Council of International Students Australia (CISA) are saddened by the fact that around 2,600 international students studying at London Metropolitan university (LMU) are at risk of being deported back after the United Kingdom Border agency (UKBA) revoked LMU right to issue student visas.

This drastic measure taken by UKBA has left up to 2,600 students at risk of being declared illegal residents. They may be forced to book a flight back to their respective country if they do not find an alternative educational institution to sponsor them in less than 60 days.

Final year international student officer at the LMU, Emmanuel Egwu said "People are panicking. UKBA have instructed London Metropolitan to stop teaching international students. What is going to happen now?"

"The UKBA should have considered the consequences of their actions before putting innocent international students who have spent thousands of dollars in this highly stressful situation. Any neglect or discrepancies on behalf of the LMU are beyond the students' control. I'm deeply saddened by the situation and my support is there for those international students affected as well as NUS UK for advocating their rights in this issue," said Aleem Nizari, CISA President.

The National Union of Students (NUS) UK has contacted Prime Minister David Cameron and Home Secretary Theresa May to "express anger at the way decisions have been made".

Liam Burns, NUSA President, said: "It is disgusting that international students continue to be used as a political football by politicians who seem either incapable of understanding, or are simply uncaring about the impact of their decisions on individuals, universities and the UK economy."

"This decision has left Emmanuel Egwu and dedicated students like him less than 60 days to enrol at a different institution or be deported back home with no qualifications because this time of the year is a tense period to get enrolled since the enrolling process for majority universities across the UK have ceased," said Mohamed Ebrahim, CISA Public Relation Officer.

International students in the UK contribute to the country's economy \$AUD 19.4 billion per year and the revocation by UKBA could result in an annual loss of up to \$AUD46.6 million

for the LMU. It said it would fight to "defend its reputation and, along with the wider higher education community, the reputation of the sector at large"

CISA president Aleem added that, "This is a blow to the international student community and we call on the UK authorities to make the right decision and not punish innocent students."

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