**Debate Immigration - Gloria’s Story – Part 2** “What I did to try to stay her?”

**Do you want to stay here?**

**Gloria:** Yes. Even if sometimes I don 't feel like I really belong here, it's safer, and I can go to bed knowing that we're safe , nothing will happen to my Mum or my sisters. I've fitted in, I've made friends.

**What did you need to do to make it possible for you to stay?**

**Gloria:** They said that we need proof to show why we should stay here, like maybe what happened back in Kenya, or why it is not a safe place for us to go.

**What did you find helped the most?**

**Gloria:** So far I think it's gone quite good. My school did a campaign. My friends wrote letters to the Home Office .

**Amanda**:*We wrote saying that Gloria needs to stay because she's now in school, she has two little sisters, it would be safer, and they 'd get a better education, here.* *We also did some petitions on the computer and took them round to every class in the school* - *teachers, students, making them aware of what was going on.* *We got signatures from everyone in the school to say that Gloria needs to stay here.)*

**Gloria:** Then Mr Banks our form tutor sent them off to the Home Office. He told them that we needed more time. The family had a deportation notice. We had days to go before they had to leave the country.

**Amanda**:It was a real shock to me when I found out. Gloria hadn’t told me anything. I thought she was just like someone who lived here whose parents were from Africa like mine are from Jamaica. I thought she went to junior school here and everything. When I found out the stuff about her dad and that she was about to be deported, I just wanted her to stay. She was my best friend.

**Amanda**:We did a lot of crying the day before she was supposed to leave. All of us, standing at the school gates, crying our eyes out. We thought we’d never see her again.

At the last minute, it (the Deportation Notice)was stopped. She didn’t have to go. It felt good to know that! Everyone in the class who helped out felt good.

* After a successful campaign by Gloria’s school friends, the Wangai family made a second application to stay in this country. Now they are waiting to hear if the Home Office will let them stay.