

ART

# Artist's homage to Turner masterpiece questions whether migrant crisis has moved on in 200 years



(Above) Turner's *The Slave Ship*; (left) Tim Lee's modern update, *Migrant Ship*



● How far has the treatment of migrants come in the last 200 years? Critics of the doomed Rwanda flights plan might say not very far. But that's the question a Big Issue reader is posing with his spin on a JMW Turner classic.

Reader Tim Lee sent in his painting, *Migrant Ship*, after a dead teenager washed up on the beach right in front of him in the Gambia.

The incident, alongside several others during his 40 years of annual visits to the African country, compelled Lee to put his own spin on Turner's 1840 masterpiece, *The Slave Ship*.

Turner's classic painting depicted over 130 slaves thrown overboard the *Zong*, a ship bound for Jamaica by slave traders in 1781 in order to claim compensation for loss of goods.

"It just struck me that the consequences that modern-day migrants voluntarily choose are not always different from those of 200 years ago," said Lee, from Silverton in Cornwall. Overcrowded boats with human cargo manipulated by people traffickers leading to death."

He added, "I hope my painting might offer those who view it the opportunity to make their concerns and opinions known, while recognising the perilous journeys that many migrants face."

COST OF LIVING

## 'We need a new approach': Just one in seven think their living standards are improving, new poll finds

● While the cost of living crisis may not be over yet, Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt have been clear that the economy has "turned a corner".

But a new survey from YouGov and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) shows they are struggling to convince voters that it will translate into rising living standards.

TUC general secretary Paul Nowak said: "We need a new approach – a proper plan to get wages rising by investing in UK industry. And we need a new deal for working people, so they get a fair share of the wealth they create."

SOURCE: TUC

