Dear NAME OF MP,

**Invitation to attend Westminster Hall debate on Homelessness Amongst Refugees**

I’m getting in touch to invite you to attend next week’s Westminster Hall Debate on **Homelessness Amongst Refugees**.

The debate is taking place on Tuesday 17th July from 2.30-4pm.

A number of organisations including NACCOM, a national network of accommodation providers for refugees and asylum seekers at risk of homelessness (of which we are a member organisation), have produced the attached briefing on the issue:

* Refugees are currently given 28 days to leave Home Office accommodation and find housing, benefits and employment. In this time, they are expected to either apply for social housing or find private rental accommodation. This time frame is too short and should be extended to at least 56 days.
* Changes under the Homelessness Reduction Act extends the period that someone can be deemed ‘threatened with homelessness’ from 28 to 56 days. Yet refugees cannot benefit from this change because of the 28 day move on period.
* There are significant obstacles to accessing essential support such as benefits/Universal Credit and Integration Loans, often caused by delays with documentation from the Home Office, problems setting up bank accounts (in many cases due to not having proof of address) and incorrect advice from the JobCentre and other services.
* The impact of procedural adjustments introduced in recent months are unclear, so a full evaluation of the Post Grant Appointment Service and the pilot that preceded it should be published urgently. Learning from this should shape the support that refugees receive around housing and benefits across various government departments.
* Asylum accommodation providers are not listed as a ‘public body with a duty to refer’ refugees to Local Housing Authorities under new Homelessness Reduction Act regulations. If listed this could reduce risks of homelessness and ensure local support for refugees.

You can find more information on the topic in the attached briefing.

**Include here any details here about the work your organisation does to support newly recognised refugees and the specific barriers or issues you have seen people encounter.**

I believe urgent action needs to be taken to prevent homelessness amongst newly recognised refugees. As such I hope you will be able to attend the debate next Tuesday, 17th July, at 2.30pm. If you have any specific questions about the debate **please contact me on the below details / or please contact NACCOM’s Communications and Advocacy Worker, Lucy Smith, on** **comms@naccom.org.uk****, 07795967396.**

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Organisation

Address