<Insert your address here>

<Insert date>

Dear <Councillor/ MP’s Name>

***Invitation to Lift the Ban Event: Give People Seeking Asylum the Right to Work***

***<Date + Location of Event>***

<Your organisation’s name here> is part of a coalition of over 190 refugee organisations, faith groups, trade unions, and businesses who have come together to call on the Government to [**Lift the Ban**](http://lifttheban.co.uk/) which currently prevents people seeking asylum in the UK from working.

Under our current system people seeking asylum can only apply to the Home Office for permission to work if they have been waiting for a decision for over 12 months and only for jobs that are on the Government’s restricted Shortage Occupation List (this is an incredibly restrictive list that includes jobs such as ballet dancer and nuclear medicine practitioner). The Lift the Ban coalition is proposing **the right to work for people seeking asylum**, and their adult dependants, after **six months** of having lodged an asylum claim or further submission, and **unconstrained by the shortage occupation list**.

We want people who have risked everything to find safety in our country to have the best chance of contributing to our society and integrating into our communities. We want a fair and effective immigration system. It is not fair to deprive people of the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families while they wait, often years, for a decision on their asylum claim. It is not effective to waste the talents of our population, or to keep people suffering in limbo. I’ve attached a briefing with more information about the campaign and our key arguments for reform.

Over the last few months, there have been indications from Ministers that the Government is listening carefully to the arguments around policy reform. In the coming weeks and months, we would like to demonstrate the extensive public and political support for change.

To that end, we are planning a series of public mobilisation events in June, to be held across the UK calling on the Government to ‘Lift the Ban’. These events will showcase the widespread support for this policy reform and ensure that the issue remains firmly on the political agenda. Here in <insert location> we are planning to hold an event on < date of event> at <location of event> and we warmly invite you to join us there. The event will bring together local refugee organisations, people in the asylum system, members of the public and local decision-makers, to show our support for the campaign, learn about the impact of the ban, and take action to call for change.

This is an opportunity to learn about the campaign and what it means to people in <your constituency/ward/city>, with a view to securing your support in raising the profile of this important issue in order to ensure a fairer, more compassionate asylum system in the UK.

We hope you will consider joining us on the day and I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Yours sincerely,