[DATE]

Dear [Name of MP],

**Re: Standing together for a future in which everyone feels safe**

[INSERT MEMBER NAME] is a charity based in your constituency accommodating / supporting people who face homelessness because of their immigration status. [Further to our previous correspondence - DELETE IF NOT RELEVANT] **I am writing to raise our concerns about the Government’s plans to change provision for people within the immigration system, and to ask you to stand with us for a safer future for everyone.**

We are extremely concerned about the planned changes to the immigration system outlined [under the Nationality and Borders Bill](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023) and the [New Plan for Immigration](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible#chapter8). If implemented, these will drastically increase poverty and injustice for many, whilst failing to respond effectively to issues within the current system or dismantle the Hostile Environment. [Include further details / specific concerns or link to any consultation responses or statements if relevant].

We are also concerned about plans to evict people from Home Office accommodation who have not been granted status, a process which has been paused for most of the pandemic but is now restarting. By staying in the UK after a negative decision, people are exercising their right to seek protection, and with support and legal advice, many who have been refused asylum are eventually granted leave to remain. Latest Home Office figures show [that 47% asylum appeals are allowed](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987777/asylum-summary-mar-2021-tables.ods) and of the 427 people who were appeal rights exhausted and moved on from organisations in the NACCOM network in 2019/20, [53% secured refugee protection or re-engaged with statutory or asylum support](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ee42chhpyqfteuq/NACCOM-ImpactReport_2020%20FINAL.pdf?dl=0) [insert local data if you can].

However, accessing support and advice is extremely difficult when people have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) - and even harder in a pandemic. As Isabella, who faced eviction in October 2020, explained; ‘*I had nowhere to go, no food in the house, because my support had been stopped… I was not coping well. I had no support networks because everything is shut…. I had experienced a mental breakdown before, and this just added to it…. I was very worried. I don’t know what I would have done if I had been evicted.’* [Insert any other quotes/stories]

As a voluntary organisation we are extremely concerned about the human impact of Government changes as we have limited capacity and resources and cannot support everyone in need [INSERT with any local details/evidence of gaps e.g. we have XX fewer bed spaces/volunteers/hosts this year due to Covid-19]. Furthermore, the [lack of guidance or funding for councils to accommodate people regardless of immigration status](https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnpn0s/4ZAwQi5BzFbS9sl5BSeO4k/b7d590920b63595b3594d5c891d59cd6/Shelter_briefing_for_LAs_-_Ncube_v_Brighton.pdf), and changes to immigration rules around rough sleeping mean that without urgent action, homelessness amongst people with NRPF will rise in the months ahead. [Add/amend according to your local focus/knowledge, for instance if you support EU citizens, or if you are engaging with SupportDon’tDeport].

We cannot stand by and let Government action leave so many people behind. The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on [Black and minoritized people](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf), the [risks of street homelessness](https://www.crisis.org.uk/about-us/latest-news/medical-bodies-and-homelessness-organisations-sign-letter-to-prime-minister-warning-of-risk-to-life-without-action-to-protect-people-sleeping-rough-this-winter/) in the pandemic, and the barriers that people with insecure immigration status face when accessing [the vaccine](https://www.vaccineforall.co.uk/) or [medical assistance](https://neweconomics.org/2020/06/migrants-access-to-healthcare-during-the-coronavirus-crisis), are all well evidenced. As we look ahead to [the Government’s plans to overhaul the asylum system](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/30/sham-200-groups-criticise-uk-government-consultation-on-refugee-policy) and look back at the changes and challenges of the last year, one thing is clear. Everyone deserves to feel safe, regardless of their immigration status.

**Will you stand with us in calling for a better future for everyone?** Suggestions for action below (delete as appropriate)

* Will you stand against the Nationality and Borders Bill in Parliament and call for a more humane approach to people seeking protection?
* Will you write to the Home Secretary regarding current and planned changes to immigration policy, and call for safeguards against destitution and injustice in any future legislative changes?
* Will you table questions to scrutinise the Government’s actions around restarting evictions for people with a negative asylum decision, e.g. by calling for the publication of the Equality Impact Assessment / calling for an evidence review into the health impact of cessations for people who cannot leave the UK?
* Will you meet with us to discuss these concerns? We would welcome the opportunity to hear your own views on the upcoming legislation and your local perspective on routes out of destitution for people with NRPF.

We have attached a policy briefing from [NACCOM](https://naccom.org.uk/uk-faith-leaders-call-for-home-office-to-halt-asylum-evictions-open-letter-to-the-home-secretary/) with more details of current and planned changes for people seeking safety at this time. For more information or to arrange a meeting, please get in touch at the below contact details.

Yours Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME and ADDRESS INC. POSTCODE]