

Dear *(insert name of your MP)*

### **Nationality & Borders Bill**

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposals that the above bill is intended to bring into law.

This country has always been a safe haven for people facing persecution for a number of reasons but I am very concerned that this is being lost in an effort to streamline or cut services. It suggests that there are only certain ways for someone to arrive in the UK: stating that other ways are illegal and will count against the individual. This would set this government at odds with the founding principles of the UN Geneva Convention on Refugees. These outcomes are not welcome and I urge you to ensure that the voice of the constituents and the country is heard on this matter.

Specifically I am very concerned about the following issues:

The Home Office who oversee these proposals will remain the same with no more resources and there is no indication about how existing systems will improve despite evidence that the current system is broken. I believe that additional resources to improve decision-making are needed. In this way increased confidence in the system will be the result.

The Home Office state that only designated routes will be deemed appropriate but do not state what a safe and appropriate route will be. This is disingenuous. Many people seeking asylum do so out of desperation. The Government must accept that people seeking asylum will look to secure their own route to apply here. The UNHCR agrees on this point.

Many applicants may not be successful in any claim but should be offered dignity and respect during their process. When a person or a family are desperate for help they act instinctively to protect themselves, they do not look up the appropriate route on the Internet.

I have concerns about The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAF) Thousands of people and families are living in hotels for many months. With this in mind how does that instill confidence in the new proposed system to be brought in by this bill? I, and others, respectfully suggest this matter needs urgent attention to help settle people into the communities across the country.

I am concerned that people are to be placed in large and unsuitable accommodation for long periods. Penally and Napier (former barracks sites), were used as contingency accommodation but were considered unsuitable by the Independent Chief Inspector for Borders and Immigration (ICIBI), and Public Health. However Napier continues to be used. I urge you to do as much as you can to address the significant shortfalls of unhelpful bill, as suggested in the points made above. For me, it does not reflect good practice, works against strong faith teaching and is at root unworkable.

Yours faithfully,

*( please include your full name and postal address, even if sending by email)*