

Dear **[MP's name]**,

My name is **[insert name here]** and as your constituent, I am writing to urge you to oppose the Home Office's 'New Plan for Immigration', dated March 2021.

Like many others, I am deeply concerned that the new plan seeks to assess people's claims to asylum based on the manner in which they entered into the UK. This would criminalise those seeking safety from violence and persecution based upon their route of entry, and be in breach of established international law.

[Here, you can personalise your letter and go into more detail explaining why this proposal is wrong. Some facts and figures you can use include:]

- This proposal expresses an intent to *'ensure those who arrive in the UK, having passed through safe countries, or who have a connection to a safe country where they could have claimed asylum, will be considered inadmissible to the UK's asylum system'*¹. But nowhere in the refugee convention does it state or imply that refugees must apply for asylum in the first country they reach which could be considered 'safe'.
- Some may argue that British infrastructure is threatened by huge amounts of arriving asylum seekers, however UNHCR statistics show very few people seeking asylum travel to the UK. 4/5 remain in the same global region and 85% are in developing countries², whilst only 0.26% of the UK population are refugees³.
- International law (Article 31, UN Refugee Convention) clearly states that those arriving irregularly may not be penalised⁴. The use of 'legal' and 'illegal' deviates from the frameworks used by international agencies including the UN which refers to 'regular' and 'irregular' routes instead.
- Chapter 5 of the report repeats the myth that those seeking asylum are commonly 'making unmeritorious claims'. In fact, more than a third (36%) of people are granted refugee status on appeal in the UK - in other words, one in three people were initially rejected unfairly and that this is where reform should be considered⁵.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/972517/CCS207_CCS0820091708-001_Sovereign_Borders_Web_Accessible.pdf

² <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/asylum-in-the-uk.html>

³ <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/about/facts-about-refugees/>

⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/4ca34be29.pdf>

⁵

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2020/list-of-tables>

[Has your MP voted in favour of refugee/asylum seeker's rights in the past? Or is there an initiative they've developed in your community that makes it more welcoming? You can use [this website](#) to quickly check and include here. This shows you acknowledge what they've already done, and will be paying attention to how they vote even after you've emailed.]

[You could include here any personal reasons why this cause matters to you.]

As my MP, I am asking you to

- a) Write to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, to oppose the new proposal and raise concerns about the dangerous effects of the 'New Plan for Immigration'.
- b) Ask the Shadow Home Secretary, Nick Thomas-Symonds, what action the Opposition frontbench will call for to address this proposal.
- c) Vote against this proposal and be on the right side of history in support of international human rights.
- d) You may also wish to speak about resettlement in your local area.**

[IF APPLICABLE:] I am also a member of (SolidariTee), an international, student-led charity fighting for long-term change in the 'refugee crisis' with more than 800 student volunteers at over 60 universities. SolidariTee have written an open letter to the Home Office regarding the New Plan, calling for a retraction of the 'one-stop' process among other things, and we would be honoured if you would consider co signing this, along with the 30 other refugee-focussed organisations who have also signed the letter. The link to the draft letter can be found [here](#), and a link to formally cosign the letter should you so choose can be found [here](#) - if you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact myself or alexa@solidaritee.org.uk.

We must see an end to the policies and attitudes that sustain the hostile immigration environment, violate human rights, and criminalise those seeking refuge in the UK.

Yours sincerely,

X