



The Rt. Honourable Boris Johnson  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

11 December 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

We believe in the British values of inclusion, equality and respect, and we write to you as parties concerned. We are deeply disappointed that the tone of your campaign in this General Election has moved onto scapegoating migrants living in the UK.

On 8 December, in an interview with Sophy Ridge on Sunday, you made a statement that EU citizens have been able to "treat the UK as if it's part of their own country" for too long. This statement insinuated that EU citizens and other migrants have overstayed their welcome, and vilified them for making the UK their home, just like some UK nationals make other EU countries their home.

Only a few weeks ago, you had called EU citizens "friends, family and neighbours" and praised them for their contributions to our country.

It is not difficult to demonstrate how positively people from around the world who have made this country their home have benefited the UK economically, but more importantly, how they have enhanced our culture and society.

With Brexit on the horizon, this should be a turning point in how we welcome migrants into this country, especially if we want to continue to be a thriving society.

We are, unfortunately, all too familiar with the rise in hate crimes since the EU referendum because of the negative rhetoric on immigration. Therefore, in an era of polarisation, we would like you to realise the weight your words have — words and language matter.

They matter significantly when uttered by politicians but even more so when the current Prime Minister brazenly says them on a world stage. All politicians should be building a UK where everyone feels safe and respected, not being sacrificed for political gain.

[www.migrantsrights.org.uk](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk)

Migrants' Rights Network- The People's Place | 80-92 High St | London | E15 2NE

Tel no: 020 7424 7386 or 07534 488696

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EU citizens and migrants are interwoven in the fabric of our society, and they will continue to be so regardless of the outcome of this election and post-Brexit.

We are therefore seeking an apology for your comments and urge you not to scapegoat EU citizens and migrants now, or in the future.

Most respectfully

**Fizza Qureshi & Jilna Shah**  
**Co-CEO's- Migrants' Rights Network**

**Nicolas Hatton**  
**CEO- the3million**

Andy Gregg, CEO of Race on The Agenda  
Anna Jones, Co-founder of RefuAid!  
Beth Wilson, Director of Bristol Refugee Rights  
Celia Clarke, Director of Bail for Immigration Detainees  
Christiane Link, Founder and Chair for Disire  
Denise McDowell, CEO for Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit  
Dr Edie Friedman, Executive Director for The Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE)  
Fernanda Correia-Sefzick, Founder and Director for Respeito (NGO fighting against domestic abuse)  
Hazel Williams, National Director for NACCOM (the No Accommodation Network)  
Helen Stalford, Professor of Law and Director of the European Children's Rights Unit  
Jabeer Butt, OBE for Chief Executive, Race Equality Foundation  
James Tullett, CEO for Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London (RAMFEL) Julie Bishop, Director for Law Centres Network  
Kate Smart, Director for Asylum Welcome  
Maya Esslemont, Director for After Exploitation  
Nick Dearden, Director for Global Justice Now  
Nick Lowles, CEO for HOPE not hate  
Omar Khan, Director for Runnymede Trust  
Patrick Vernon OBE for Patron of Sante and Windrush campaigner  
Patrick Yu, Secretary for Northern Ireland Council for Racial Equality (NICRE)

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Qadeer Kiani, Chair, Arhag Housing Association

Ros Ereira, Solidarity with Refugees

Dr Ruvy Ziegler, Chair for New Europeans UK

Sabir Zazai, CEO for Scottish Refugee Council

Sainga Tony, Director-Olmec

Satbir Singh, Chief Executive for Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

Sylvia Ingmire, CEO for Roma Support Group

Tamsyn Brewster, Co-Founder for RefuAid

Wayne Myslik, Chief Executive for Consonant

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