

Dear [Name] MP,

I am writing to you as a constituent in [constituency name] regarding the 'earned settlement' proposals.

I am deeply concerned about the proposals for a number of reasons:

Financial impact

- They will make all migrants more precarious. This will have significant financial implications, as they will have to repeatedly pay to renew their visas and the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for *at least* twice as long.
- Unrealistic salary requirements will shut people out of being able to apply for settlement
- More people will be pushed into poverty as a result of both the extended time period that someone has to pay visa fees and other associated costs of renewal for, and through people being deterred from claiming public funds that they are entitled to and need.
- The need to constantly re-apply for visas can impact migrants' ability to get jobs. Many workplaces are not able to sponsor employees, and so doubling the standard settlement period is likely to jeopardise future opportunities, as well as trap people in exploitative jobs

Social and psychological impact

- Even at the proposal stage this is causing immense stress and anxiety for migrants. Migrants are living in a situation of uncertainty about their futures, including the possibility of waiting decades before being able to receive permanent status
- The impermanence and uncertainty within the proposals is causing migrants to feel more isolated from their communities
- These changes have been taking place at a time of rising anti-migrant sentiment. These proposals worsen this environment in:
 - 1) Amplifying anti-migrant narratives from MPs, including in the Government, which in turn emboldens racists to harass and attack online and in the streets
 - 2) Making it harder for people to recover and access help following a racist attack. In Ballymena, for example, many migrants targeted by racist violence were unable to access housing assistance when they had been displaced, because of NPRF. The earned settlement proposals extend the length of ineligibility and punish people if they are able to access public funds when they need it most.

[You can also add here the particular impact on multiply-marginalised groups, such as disabled and working class people, who will be the most adversely affected by the penalties for accessing public funds and the proposed imperative to volunteer, or parents, who may not meet the income threshold if they take parental leave, for example].

As such, I ask you as my MP to publicly denounce Shabana Mahmood MP's immigration policies, to challenge the Minister in writing and raise an Urgent Question in Parliament about the harm caused to your constituents.

A society that makes people feel unwelcome or unsafe does not just harm migrants, it harms all of us. We need leadership that promotes fairness and evidence-based decision-making, not narratives that foster harm, anxiety and exclusion.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[Full name]

[Address]