**Template Letter**

**Illegal Migration Bill - New Clause 10**

I am writing regarding the Governments abhorrent plan for mass detention and deportation of thousands of refugees who have valid asylum claims.  This is particularly important to me because [I have volunteered with refugees in Calais/ volunteer with asylum seekers in the UK/ regularly donated to and supported refugee causes / have followed the development of the refugee crisis closely for some years].
***\*delete as appropriate***

I should like you to consider that the one thing that all refugees have in common is that something truly terrible has happened to them. Now they will face the further trauma of unlimited detention and forced deportation across the globe. This will cause immeasurable fear, anguish and distress.

There is a clear possibility that the Illegal Migration Bill will breach the UK’s legal obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. *UNHCR has said “The effect of the bill …undermines the very purpose for which the Refugee Convention was established. The Convention explicitly recognises that refugees may be compelled to enter a country of asylum irregularly”*.

If the Government were truly serious about tackling people smugglers and preventing dangerous Channel crossings, they would offer travel visas to other refugees in a similar way to how they do for Ukrainians. We have not seen any Ukrainians paying people smugglers nor risking their lives in small boats. This is clear evidence that safe and legal routes work.

New Clause 10 proposes an amendment to the Illegal Migration Bill to do exactly that. As currently at least 90% of people crossing on small boats claim asylum on arrival in the UK, it follows that at least that 90% would transition over to the new safe and legal route, as it would make no sense to risk their lives if there is a safe and legal alternative. People smugglers profits would be decimated, and lives would be saved.

While safe passage is a more effective way of achieving the Government’s objectives than brutal deterrence, more importantly, it will be humane and will not risk breaching international law. I am writing to strongly urge you to support New Clause 10.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.

[Your name]