**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***

Please consider that the one thing all refugees have in common is that something truly terrible has happened to them. The further trauma of unlimited detention and forced deportation 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.

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. New Clause 10 proposes an amendment to the Illegal Migration Bill to do exactly that.

This is not an open borders policy. It would only apply to people who have *viable asylum claims*, and we know that the UK public want to help genuine refugees.  And it would not mean that more people would come, because right now people are coming anyway and none of the many ways the government has tried to stop them has had any effect. The difference would be that the process would be managed, controlled and, above all, safe. With the added advantage of dissuading those who do not have viable claims from coming.

We know such a scheme would stop people getting into boats as we use it for Ukrainians and 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.

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. 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]