

## **An Open Letter Calling on MP Candidates to Use Humanising and Respectful language When Talking about Migrants and Refugees.**

In the run up to the 2024 General Election, immigration and the treatment of migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum and sanctuary have become focal points in our political discourse. As human rights and migrant rights and justice organisations, we call on all parliamentary candidates to stop using migrants as scapegoats for the challenges the UK faces, and to refrain from propagating hateful and inflammatory rhetoric against some of the most vulnerable people in the UK.

Whatever our background, everyone deserves to feel safe and have our dignity upheld in public, at home and in the workplace. We should all have access to health and support services, know that our personal data will be kept safe, and that our privacy will be respected. We should all be able to pursue justice, defend our rights and hold the government to account. We urge candidates to commit to upholding these rights and ensure safety for those seeking sanctuary in the UK

Our rights in the digital spaces are just as important, especially for those whose safety depends on keeping data secure from the authoritarian regimes they have fled. We call on all candidates to protect and support the concept of "Digital Sanctuary" for migrants to the UK, which includes ending the hostile digital environment, establishing robust privacy protections for migrants' data and promoting inclusive digital policies.

As candidates for public office, your words and policies carry significant weight in shaping our collective future. We urge you to lead with compassion, empathy, and a commitment to our collective and individual human rights. We hope that you recognise your duty of care and responsibility for the language you use, to not further sow fear and division but strive for a society where everyone is valued and afforded the dignity and belonging they deserve.

Signed by:

African Rainbow Family  
After Exploitation  
Association of Visitors to  
Immigration Detainees  
(AVID)

Black Activists Rising Against Cuts  
(BARAC UK)  
Community Action for Refugees and

Latin American Women's Rights  
Service (LAWRS)  
Migrant Democracy Project

Migrants Organise  
Open Rights Group  
Our Second Home

Pan-African Workers' Association

Asylum Seekers (CARAS)	(PAWA)
Care4Calais	Praxis
Choose Love	Racial Justice Network
City of Sanctuary UK	Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex
Croydon Cycle Theatre	and London (RAMFEL)
Daaro Youth Project	Refugee Action
Every Child Protected Against	Sate Passage International
Trafficking	STAR (Student Action for Refugees)
(ECPAT UK)	
Freedom United	Statewatch
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid	Student Action for Refugees
Unit	
Humans for Rights Network	Ubuntu Women Shelter
Joint Council for the Welfare of	Voices in Exile
Immigrants (JCWI)	
Jesuit Refugee Service UK	West London Welcome
JustRight Scotland	The William Gomes Podcast
Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN)	Women for Refugee Women