



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

The coronavirus crisis has demonstrated that our society is kept functioning by workers whose role is often overlooked or taken for granted, from agricultural labourers to shop floor workers, and delivery drivers to nurses. A large proportion of these workers are migrants.

It should be a matter of national shame that many of the heroes and heroines of the coronavirus crisis will have been made to feel so unwelcome in this country by the tone and content of our national debate on immigration.

Millions of European migrants who live in the UK, and who are now working in hospitals and supermarkets, derive their right to be here from EU freedom of movement rules which the government is seeking to abolish. They are now being asked to apply for their right to stay in the UK via the Settled Status scheme, a process which is not guaranteed to be successful.

Although Settled Status has now been granted to many EU citizens, we are extremely concerned at the prospect of some losing their status in the UK. With much of the government and third sector having been shut down by the coronavirus crisis, the applications system has been severely disrupted, as has the support system for applicants and public awareness campaigns. Unless the government acts, many thousands of people could fall through the cracks.

The government has the power to take decisive and effective action on this matter, by replacing the Settled Status applications process with an automatic right to stay for EU citizens, guaranteed in primary legislation.

We are therefore writing to you to urge you to introduce a Bill to guarantee the rights of European citizens resident in the UK.

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Blackford MP, SNP Westminster Leader  
Alistair Carmichael MP, Lib Dem Home Affairs Spokesperson  
Adam Price AM, Plaid Cymru Leader  
Caroline Lucas MP, Green Party of England and Wales  
Colum Eastwood MP, SDLP Leader