<*Address Line 1>*

*<Address Line 2>*

*<Address Line 3>*

*<Postcode>*

*<Date>*

Dear [*Name of your Member of Parliament*]

I am writing to you as I would like to raise my concerns over the use of indefinite detention for the purpose of immigration control, and to urge you to support a time limit on detention and other changes that would end indefinite detention. This has significant implications for how the government treats those coming to the UK to seek asylum. The UK asylum determination process for recognising refugees has many problems, as those inspecting the system have pointed out. The Home Office’s asylum statistics show that, in 2019, 41% of appeals were granted, indicating there are clear flaws in the determination process. Once refused those seeking international protection find themselves subject to a range of measures under ‘the hostile environment agenda’.

Since 2012, those individuals who have been refused asylum find themselves being made **purposefully destitute** by a number of policies and legal measures that make it ever more difficult for people to meet their basic needs, and criminalise many day-to-day activities for them. The difficulty faced by refused asylum seekers to access vital services, particularly housing and healthcare, makes it more complicated for individuals to advocate for themselves and receive international protection.

Furthermore, those seeking asylum are subjected to a perpetual fear of being detained in one of the UK’s 9 Immigration Detention Centres. Those individuals seeking international protection can be removed to these detention centres at any moment without prior warning. Once detained these individuals are faced with indefinite incarceration, as the UK is unique among European countries to have no time limit on detention. The decision to detain under immigration powers is administrative, and does not go before a judge. Immigration detention is typically a highly traumatic experience, especially for people seeking asylum, many of whom have undergone torture or other profound trauma in their countries of origin.

I hope you can support the call for the following policy changes in order to end indefinite detention:

1. Introduction of a 28-day limit on the time a person can be detained under immigrations powers, and judicial oversight of the decision to detain. **I urge you to support proposed amendments to the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU withdrawal) Bill that would effect this change.**
2. Move towards more community based alternatives to detention,
3. Abandon the hostile environment agenda.

I would be happy to arrange to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,