<Address Line 1>

<Address Line 2>

<Address Line 3>

<Postcode>

<Date>

Dear (Name of your Member of Parliament),

I hope you are well. I am writing to you as I would like to raise my concerns about changes to the asylum system proposed in the government’s *New Plan for Immigration*.

Already, asylum claimants often struggle to get justice and are re-traumatised by the asylum process and life in the asylum system. Proposals would create further barriers to protection for those who badly need it, and an even more hostile environment for asylum seekers and refugees.

Some of my key concerns with the *New Plan For Immigration* are:

1. Plans to differentiate asylum claims on the basis of how people got here ignore the reality of seeking asylum and are deeply cruel. Refugees rarely have a choice of how they travel, and the Refugee Convention does not oblige them to seek asylum in the first safe country they come to. These plans deny the right of refugees to seek asylum, and should be abandoned.
2. The plan to house asylum claimants in ‘reception centres’ would be bad for integration and force people to live on the very margins whilst awaiting a decision on their claims. Asylum claimants should have safe and dignified accommodation within British communities.
3. Many planned reforms in the asylum determination process start from the assumption that asylum claimants are likely to be lying.In reality many people are wrongly refused asylum: in 2020, 39% of cases initially refused by the Home Office were granted on appeal to the courts. Our asylum determination process should start with an openness and willingness to listen to people seeking asylum.

Our asylum system is in urgent need of reform, but this is not it. We need to place a focus on human dignity and culture of protection at the heart of the asylum system.

For this, we need a fresh starting point. The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) UK has recently published, *Being Human in the Asylum System*, a report laying out principles for a just and person-centred system drawing on Catholic Social Thought. This report underlines the crucial importance of human dignity in the asylum system, and I would urge you to seriously consider its proposals.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to arrange to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,