<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 the Nationality and Borders Bill which is currently going through parliament**.** The Bill is a key instrument in a wider overhaul of the asylum system proposed in the government’s New Plan for Immigration. This legislation shows no respect for human dignity, justice, or the protection of human life.

Already, asylum claimants often struggle to get justice and are re-traumatised by the asylum process and life in the asylum system. Proposals in The Bill would create further barriers to protection for those who badly need it.

Some of my key concerns with the *Nationality & Borders Bill* are:

1. Plans to differentiate between refugees 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, to which the UK is a signatory does not oblige them to seek asylum in the first safe country they come to. Discriminating against refugees obliged to arrive spontaneously will not prevent desperate people from making dangerous journeys.These plans deny the right of refugees to seek asylum, and should be abandoned.
2. The Bill would allow for asylum seekers to be removed from the UK while their claims are being processed, opening the door to offshore processing of asylum claims. This would be highly impractical and costly, and has given rise to serious human rights abuses in other contexts where it has occurred. It undermines our commitment to processing claims fairly and offering sanctuary to refugees.
3. The Bill contains proposals for the creation of asylum accommodation centres. The use of such centres is cruel and bad for integration. The asylum camp at Napier barracks is being used to trial these centres. It is prison-like and isolated, and the mental health of people placed there deteriorates rapidly, as the APPG on detention recently noted.
4. This legislation does nothing to create safe routes for people seeking asylum, nor does it contain a concrete commitment to resettlement; the government indeed, has made no such commitment.

Our asylum system is in urgent need of reform, but this is not the way to go. We need to place a focus on human dignity, compassion and culture of protection at the heart of the asylum system. [Add here in your own words why this is important to you as a Christian].

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 [*You can instead, or also, explain the kind of asylum system you want to see].*

**This legislation is deeply cruel, impractical, and destructive to the common good. I ask you:**

* **Speak out against these proposed changes to the asylum system.**
* **Argue for an asylum system that strives to extend protection to those who need it, irrespective of how they got here.**
* **Commit to a clear target to resettle at least 10,000 refugees a year through resettlement schemes and to establish safe routes for people to seek asylum.**

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

Yours sincerely,