Dear (Name of your Member of Parliament),

**Remember to include your postcode so you MP knows you are their constituent**

I hope you are well. I am writing to you to raise my concerns about the Border Security, Immigration and Asylum Bill, and ask you to support an asylum system focused on protecting refugees.

It is very positive that the Bill repeals the Safety of Rwanda Act, putting an end to the plan to forcibly and permanently send people seeking asylum to Rwanda and most of the Illegal Migration Act. However, I am troubled that the Bill continues to treat asylum as a border security issue, instead of a protection issue. In particular, it is concerning that the Bill keeps in place all of the Nationality and Borders Act, which is heavily focused on punishing refugees, and introduces new criminal penalties. Like criminal penalties introduced by the Nationality and Borders Act, these will impact people who have been forced to flee their homes and are just trying to find sanctuary in the UK. Punishing refugees for travelling the only way they are able doesn’t stop them from moving, it just makes them more vulnerable to exploitation and pushes them to take even more dangerous journeys. And alongside, these further criminal penalties surrounding asylum, the government has introduced new rules that bar refugees from becoming British citizens on the basis of how they travelled here, perpetuating parts of the Illegal Migration Act that the Bill repeals.

As it stands, this Bill follows recent legislation in punishing refugees and is a missed opportunity to build a fair and effective asylum system that does what it was intended to do: protect refugees. But it is still possible to change this. The Bill is now in the House of Lords, where many of these issues are being discussed, and after that it will return to the Commons. When it does, I urge you to support changes to the Bill to enable this. Key steps should include:

* Repeal all of the Illegal Migration Act, and the Nationality and Borders Act.
* Ensure that people seeking asylum are not criminalised for how they have travelled.
* Ensure that refugees can access citizenship.
* Create safe routes for people to come to the UK to seek asylum.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,