[Your address]

[MP’s name

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode]

[Date]

Dear [MP’s name],

I am writing to you as one of your constituents who is deeply concerned about the treatment of migrant victims of domestic violence in the UK, and the no recourse to public fund condition. I have recently seen a documentary entitled *Left Behind* (2023), and learnt that victims and survivors of domestic abuse with insecure immigration status face significant barriers to accessing the support and protection they need. The no recourse to public funds condition means they cannot claim most social security benefits and accommodation under the Homelessness Act from the local authority. As a result, many are prevented from accessing refuge as they cannot pay their rent or living costs.

I also learnt, from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s report entitled *Safety Before Status: The Solutions*, that, in line with the results of a cost-benefit research on the topic, for every £1 of cost to the Government, the gains to society are valued at over £4. There are solutions offered by experts, researchers, charities, and survivors themselves. In line with this, I would like to ask for your support and invite you to call the Government to:

* Remove the reservation on Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention, which entitles **all** migrant victims facing domestic abuse from a partner/spouse to the right to residency. This will encourage more victims to come forward and uphold migrant women’s human rights.
* Extend the Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain (2002) and the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (2012) model to **all** migrant victims of abuse, regardless of their immigration status, to prevent them from being trapped in violent relationships.
* Extend the current three-month provision to six months under the DDVC to give victims the ‘breathing space’ to resolve problems by seeking advice and recover from abuse, and to encourage more refuge providers to accept referrals and not turn victims away.
* Introduce a firewall to stop data sharing between the police and Immigration enforcement to enable victims to come forward to report abuse and seek help.
* And, overall, develop a national strategy to support migrant victims of gender-based violence.

Further information on this call for action can be found on Southall Black Sisters website www.southallblacksisters.org.uk; and in their publication: <https://southallblacksisters.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/05/da-bill-briefing-paper-2.pdf>. Also please contact them on policy@southallblacksisters.co.uk to register your support and to send copies of your letter to your MP and their response.

I would really appreciate you adding your voice to this matter, which goes to the heart of our values as a nation, irrespective of where any of us stand on the wider question of Immigration Control. I would therefore be grateful if you write to the Home Office and/or the Safeguarding Minister to raise this issue with them as a matter of urgency before more people are negatively affected by it.

Thank you for your help with this matter and I look forward to your response.