**Domestic Abuse Bill response: A letter to send to your MP**

**April 2021**

Dear [name of your MP],

**[Begin with an introductory paragraph, thanking your MP for their involvement in the Domestic Abuse Bill. You can see your MP’s voting record** [**here**](https://www.mysociety.org/wehelpyou/how-did-my-mp-vote/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4p2ipKf_6wIVjuJ3Ch2OYQNyEAAYASAAEgJGIfD_BwE)**. Remember to mention that you live in your MP’s constituency.]**

I am writing to you about the Domestic Abuse Bill, which you will be aware is now in its final stages, with amendments made by the second House being considered. The tragic death of Sarah Everard and the outpouring of stories that have followed it have reignited a much-needed national conversation about the immense dangers faced by women, not only on our streets but also in our homes.

Following a debate in the House of Lords on 15 March 2021, the Lord Bishop of Gloucester, with considerable cross-party support, successfully moved amendment 70 to a vote. This amendment aims to provide migrant victims of abuse temporary leave to remain and access to public funds for no less than six months, so they can access support services whilst they flee abuse and apply to resolve their immigration status.

The new clause – *Victims of domestic abuse: leave to remain and the destitution domestic violence concession (DDVC),* specifically amends the Bill to:

1. Extend eligibility for the Domestic Violence Rule (DV Rule) and the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) to all migrant victims of domestic abuse.
2. Extend the time period for the DDVC from three to at least six months.

As your constituent, I am writing to you to ask for your support for this amendment. With No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) or housing support, very few migrant victims are permitted access to refuge spaces and I’m concerned that too many women are facing an impossible choice to stay with a perpetrator or face destitution.

As a Christian, I am deeply concerned that we are neglecting our moral duty to care for the most vulnerable in our society. No woman should have to face living with an abuser or being homeless. Excluding migrant calls into question this Bill’s status as a ‘landmark Bill’.

**[Add something about why domestic abuse matters to you. Is it because of your faith? Or a personal experience? Passion shines through!]**

I look forward to hearing from you, and will be most grateful if you were to let me know whether you will be supporting this amendment.

Sincerely,

**[Add in your postal address so your MP knows you’re a constituent (this means they have to respond).]**