

[YOUR CONSTITUENCY ADDRESS]

[DATE]

Name Surname MP,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear [Title] [Surname]

I am writing to you as one of your constituents and a supporter of the Let Them Work campaign.

Since a Government policy change in 2002 people awaiting the outcome of their asylum claim have not been allowed to work in the UK. Although the Government is trying to speed up the process, thousands of people who have claimed asylum spend years on 30% less than income support waiting for their claims to be finally decided.

Many of the thousands whose claims have been refused receive no financial support or accommodation. But they cannot return for safety reasons and are forced to remain here for long periods with no opportunity to work – even though the Government accepts that in many cases they cannot return.

As a result, refugees and their families suffer extreme poverty, social isolation and deterioration in physical and mental health. Problems with community relations are exacerbated by accusations of ‘scrounger’, especially in an economic downturn.

Allowing asylum seekers to work would enable them to support themselves instead of relying on the taxpayer.

I support Let Them Work as a member of Student Action for Refugees (STAR). STAR is a national network of university groups who work to improve the lives of refugees in the UK. Let Them Work is supported by the TUC and the Refugee Council.

The Let Them Work campaign calls on the Government to grant permission to work for those who have been:

- waiting for more than 6 months on their asylum claim; or
- refused, but who cannot return home

I would be grateful if you could take up these concerns with the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, Phil Woolas MP.

I would also be grateful if you would sign the Let Them Work campaign pledge online (see the attached campaign pledge): www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/letthemwork

I look forward to hearing from you about these concerns and the Minister’s response.

Yours sincerely,
[name and STAR group here]