Organisational Logo if relevant

[DATE]

Dear [name of MP],

**Re: Protecting people seeking asylum who are at risk of eviction into homelessness**

[INSERT MEMBER NAME] is a local charity based in your constituency providing support and accommodation to people who are destitute. [Further to our previous correspondence - DELETE IF NOT RELEVANT] I am writing to raise our concerns about **pending evictions into homelessness for people who have been refused asylum.**

As you may be aware, the [Home Office restarted evictions](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-evictions-home-office-coronavirus-second-wave-b486062.html) for people in this situation across England in September, with plans to resume in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland at a later unspecified date. This was despite the clear and well evidenced risks of making people homeless in a pandemic. [Add local context e.g. numbers of people known to have received eviction letters in your constituency/area]. Currently, [legal action](http://www.asaproject.org/uploads/High_Court_interim_order_preventing_s4_evictions_2.11.20.docx) is preventing the Home Office from enacting the policy, but it is not clear when and how this might change again.

With support and advice, a large proportion of people who have been refused asylum are eventually granted leave to remain; the latest Home Office figures show that [44% of asylum appeals are allowed](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/refugee-asylum-facts/top-10-facts-about-refugees-and-people-seeking-asylum/). Of the 427 people who were appeal rights exhausted and moved on from member organisations in the NACCOM network in 2019/20, [53% secured refugee protection or were able to re-enter the asylum support system](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ee42chhpyqfteuq/NACCOM-ImpactReport_2020%20FINAL.pdf?dl=0). But to make decisions about their next steps and engage with services, people need basic things like safety and shelter. The Home Office’s approach so far has failed to safeguard against the worst-case scenario: an increase in street homelessness in a pandemic for those who are prevented from accessing services.

We know this is not the only option. In response to the threat of coronavirus, the UK and devolved governments and Local Authorities took important steps to prevent homelessness. Having made this vital progress, we cannot now return to a business as usual in which people routinely face homelessness and destitution. **In this fragile recovery phase from Covid-19**, the Home Office must retain the pause on evictions for people who have been refused asylum and must further extend protections from evictions in the devolved nations. **This is clearly the only sensible course of action in the interests of the safety of people seeking asylum and public health.**

[INSERT with further details if possible] As a local organisation, we are very concerned that there is not enough capacity to accommodate people at risk this winter. We are running at a significantly reduced capacity and anticipate that we will have XX fewer bed spaces than last year due to Covid-19. INSERT ADDITIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT COUNCIL FUNDING FOR PEOPLE WITH NRPF IF KNOWN.

[INSERT QUOTE FROM SOMEONE YOU SUPPORT] // [ALTERNATIVE QUOTE] As one person who was street homeless before being supported by the NACCOM network to access temporary accommodation explains, ‘*I was panicking, when I heard if you have an underlying health condition you are more likely to die. So I thought I was going to die, it was very worrying, very dangerous.’*

**We are asking you to write to the Home Secretary Priti Patel MP to ask them to retain the pause on evictions for people who have been refused asylum for as long as Covid-19 remains a threat [change this to ‘further extend protections from evictions’ if you are in a devolved nation],**and to commit to the necessary, cross-departmental action required to protect everyone from rough sleeping and homelessness.

[If you have already written to your MP on this issue (e.g. in Sept) you could ask them if they have written to the Home Secretary and if so what the response has been]

[INSERT IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO- As we move forward, we are keen to continue working with you to address the longer-term measures and solutions needed to protect everyone from the threat of homelessness and Covid-19 and would like to request a meeting with you to discuss this further.]

If you would like to receive a policy briefing with more detail about this issue, please contact Lucy Smith ([lucy@naccom.org.uk](mailto:lucy@naccom.org.uk)) at [NACCOM](https://naccom.org.uk/uk-faith-leaders-call-for-home-office-to-halt-asylum-evictions-open-letter-to-the-home-secretary/).

Yours Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME and ADDRESS INC. POSTCODE]