Subject: Urgent Need for ‘Move-On’ Period Policy Change

Dear [MP’s Name],

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent of [Your Constituency] to express my concerns around the current ‘move-on’ period policy for new refugees. This policy, which allows only 28 days for individuals to secure housing, employment, and welfare support after being granted refugee status, is inadequate and places vulnerable people at a significant disadvantage.

I am sending this message during Sukkot, a Jewish holiday where welcome is a central aspect.

During the festival, we celebrate by building Sukkahs – a temporary and fragile structure exposed to the open sky – which serves as an important reminder of our own history of displacement, and the need to provide shelter and protection. I am therefore calling for this compassion to be extended to displaced people in similar circumstances today.

In sharp contrast, the ‘move-on’ period’s short timeframe leaves refugees with insufficient time to navigate the complex processes necessary to transition from Home Office support. With people seeking asylum unable to work while their claim is being processed, many new refugees find themselves in an extremely difficult financial situation. Delays in receiving essential documents, such as the Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), further compound the issue, making it more difficult for refugees to access banking services, secure jobs, find accommodation, and apply for benefits.

These challenges lead to an increased risk of homelessness and destitution, as evidenced by the growing number of rough sleepers among refugees in 2023.

I urge you to support extending the ‘move-on’ period from 28 days to 56 days, in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act. Furthermore, it is essential that the government ensures the timely delivery of BRPs and improves coordination between the Home Office and other support services. Doing so will ensure that refugees have a fair chance to begin rebuilding their lives.

A 56-day ‘move-on’ period would help refugees better integrate into society and reduce their vulnerability to destitution. I hope you will raise these issues in Parliament and advocate for a more compassionate and effective approach to supporting new refugees during this critical transition.

Thank you for your time. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]