Dear [MP’s name],

**Re: Urgent concerns over ‘Good Character’ guidance changes**

I am writing to you as a Jewish constituent who is deeply concerned about the recent changes to the ‘Good Character’ guidance. This decision, which could deny more than 70,000 refugees the chance to gain British citizenship, is troubling to both me and many within my community.

As you will be aware, the modern British Jewish story is also one of seeking and finding refuge in this country. While this has not always been an easy history, the Jewish refugees and migrants who arrived in the UK in the 19th and 20st centuries – *(including many of my own family members)* – went on to become active and valued British citizens. As a community, we are hugely proud of the meaningful contributions they made to this country.

Just as Jewish refugees did before, displaced people today can also achieve great things for the UK. But they need to be given a fair chance to do so. I find it unconscionable that the same rights to citizenship my community benefited from could now be denied to others. It is simply not right that people should be punished for the lack of safe routes available to this country.

If in a Labour seat:

*I of course fully understand and support your* *Government’s desire to end dangerous cross-Channel journeys. No-one wants to see vulnerable people forced into such perilous situations.*

If not in a Labour seat:

*The Government is of course* *absolutely right to seek an end* *dangerous cross-Channel journeys. No-one wants to see vulnerable people forced into such perilous situations.*

But this is an important moment for compassionate government and leadership. As we approach one year on since last summer’s riots – which saw appalling violence targeted at people seeking asylum – it is critical that we do not risk any move which could deepen division.

My fear is that this policy change, which effectively deems a large group of people as unworthy of citizenship, will only create a growing sense of ‘us and them’ and an increased hostility towards refugees.

The Jewish Bible, the Torah, teaches that ‘You should love the stranger, as you were strangers in Egypt’.

Within this spirit, there are two actions I would appreciate it if you could do:

1. Support Bishop Guli and her amendment to reverse the citizenship ban during the House of Lords stages of the Border Security Bill and if the amendment comes back to the Commons

2. Write to the Home Secretary to raise my concerns about this policy and its impact on refugees in our constituency

By granting refugees citizenship, we can allow our new neighbours to become full members of our communities – just as we, as British Jews, once did before.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your reply.

**Yours sincerely,**

**[Name and full address]**