Subject: We need a 56-day ‘move-on’ period to prevent refugee homelessness

Dear [MP’s Name],

(You can find your local MP’s name and contact details by visiting: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>)

I am writing to you as a concerned Jewish constituent of [Your Constituency] to express my alarm at the Government’s recent decision to return to a 28-day ‘move-on’ period for single adults, who account for a majority of people seeking asylum.

The policy will take effect without any scrutiny on September 1st, just days after the Home Office announced this change. As a British Jew, I know firsthand just how important it is that people seeking refuge here are given a fair chance to restart. But reducing the ‘move-on period’ to 28 days will likely push many new refugees into homelessness and destitution, blocking integration and placing further pressure on already stretched local authorities.

This decision will only exacerbate the challenges facing new refugees. The ban on the right to work, problems with eVisa documentation, and housing shortages already present major difficulties. I fear that this winter could see a return to the high number of refugees sleeping rough seen in 2023.

The trial 56 day move-on period, introduced in December 2024, has made a clear positive impact. Throughout the pilot, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations reported that this extra time resulted in a huge improvement in their capacity to assist refugees ‘move-on’ from Home Office support.

Refugee homelessness also diminished significantly. This is unsurprising: people need adequate time to access vital resources, find jobs and accommodation, and apply for Universal Credit.

With such clear evidence in favour of an extended ‘move-on’ period, it is distressing that the Government has chosen to reverse this policy. I therefore urge you to press ministers to reinstate a 56-day ‘move-on’ period for all new refugees, in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act.

With the far-right on the rise and hostility to refugees spreading, it is crucial that our representatives show responsibility, solidarity, and back policies that enable integration. Just as Jews once arrived in this country as strangers and found safety and opportunity, so too must we help today’s refugees by adopting pragmatic policies that give them the chance to rebuild their lives.

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

Yours sincerely,  
[Your Name]