

Congratulations on your election as a Member of Parliament, representing everyone in your constituency including EU citizens and their family members.

There are 3.6 million EU citizens living in the UK. More than simply friends, family, neighbours and colleagues, we are part of this country - this is our home. the3million is a grassroots organisation, set up in July 2016 and campaigning ever since to secure our rights, so we can continue our lives as usual regardless of the outcome of Brexit. We look forward to working with you.

For EU citizens to stay in the UK after Brexit, they must have a new immigration status to replace their current one. Most EU citizens have to apply via the EU settlement Scheme (EUSS) to do this. If they do not, they will illegally overstay and risk their homes and jobs.

What happens next in Parliament is of the utmost importance for us. We still need changes to the EUSS to secure our and our families' future. Above all, MPs should have enough time to debate the citizens' rights parts of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill which brings about a fundamental change to our status in the UK.

You have probably heard from the Prime Minister that the EUSS is running smoothly and will give EU citizens and their families "absolute certainty" of their right to remain after Brexit. The reality is that the scheme is inadequate to protect the EU citizens in your constituency, and risks criminalising hundreds of thousands of people by leaving them without a legal status in the UK.

Before the election, Security Minister Brandon Lewis confirmed that people who fail to apply by the Scheme deadline will be subject to immigration enforcement, even if they fulfil all the legal conditions for a residence status. No comparable application scheme anywhere in the world has ever succeeded in reaching 100% of its audience, and it is next to impossible that the UK Government will manage to do so. the3million is concerned that this will expose many thousands of EU citizens to the threat of detention and removal after many years of living in the UK.

Instead of kicking the can down the road, the UK Government now has the opportunity to give EU citizens the guarantees we have been promised.

A simple change to the existing EU Settlement Scheme would be enough to secure our future in the UK: if Parliament legislates to automatically guarantee the right to remain, EU citizens will only need to register – not apply – for proof of our status. The EU/UK Withdrawal Agreement allows this change, which would be simple to make via the Withdrawal Agreement Bill - but the switch from one track to the other must be made quickly, or the current course becomes much harder to reverse.

the3million will continue to brief MPs on key debates concerning EU citizens' rights, and you are welcome to get in touch. There is more information about our proposals here: https://www.the3million.org.uk/goals.

Yours sincerely

Nicolas Hatton - CEO, the3million