**Re: Protecting women seeking asylum from evictions into homelessness**

Dear [your MP’s name – you can find your MP here <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>]

I am writing as a constituent who believes that everyone should be kept safe during a deadly pandemic.

On 15th September, the Home Office resumed evictions from accommodation for people who have been refused asylum. **If this decision is not immediately halted, vulnerable women and men will be made homeless and placed at higher risk from COVID-19.**

As winter approaches, we seem to be entering a second wave of the pandemic, with chief medical officers warning that cases are “rising rapidly and probably exponentially…in all four nations”. In light of these reports, the government’s decision to evict shows a complete disregard for the life of people seeking asylum. As you are no doubt aware, people who have been refused asylum are banned from working and accessing welfare support. As a result, once they are evicted from Home Office accommodation they will have very few options, forcing many onto the streets, with resulting risks to health and safety.

[Research](https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/not-safe/) released this year has found that a third of asylum-seeking women who were sexually abused in their country of origin experienced sexual violence once again in the UK after they were forced into destitution. The failures of our asylum system have been well-documented over the years, such that many asylum-seeking women – who have suffered rape and forced prostitution, among other forms of horrific abuse - have been unfairly denied refugee protection in this country.

I believe that all of us should be protected from this pandemic – no matter who we are and where we are from.

For that reason, I’m asking whether you will urge Home Secretary Priti Patel to **immediately halt the evictions** and **ensure that people who have been refused asylum are protected from homelessness and destitution.**

Will you help keep our sisters safe?

Awaiting your response,

[Your name and address]