Date

Dear [Name] MP

I am asking for your help to enable people rebuilding their lives in safety in the UK, to reunite with their loved ones.

Thank you for being supportive of this issue in the past by backing the Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Private Members’ Bill at its 2nd Reading.

Family life can be wonderful. The everyday things we may take for granted, like sharing a meal, playing a game, or even just curling up on the sofa in front of the television are truly incredible moments to cherish and celebrate.

But where would we all be without our families?

Refugees in the UK often find themselves separated from their families following brutal experiences of conflict or persecution. Being reunited with family members can be a life changing moment, bringing together loved ones who had been torn apart by war and violence.

Restrictive Home Office rules prevent many families from being together just when they need each other the most. These rules risk driving people to undertake dangerous journeys, often putting their lives in the hands of people smugglers, so that they can be with their relatives.

As you may know, currently adult refugees in the UK can sponsor only their very closest relatives to join them through refugee family reunion – their partners and minor children. These strict rules don’t reflect the reality that families come in all shapes and sizes. They mean that mothers and fathers in the UK are unable to sponsor their children to join them - the moment they turn eighteen; that child refugees in the UK are forced to live apart from their parents and siblings; and that refugees are unable to bring elderly relatives to live with them in safety.

There are three significant ways that this can be changed, and I would like your support to do the following:

1. Write to the Home Secretary raising the following points:
* Allow child refugees in the UK the right to sponsor their close family, so they can rebuild their lives together and help them integrate in their new community;
* Expand who qualifies as family, so that young people who have turned 18 and elderly parents can join their family in the UK;
* Reintroduce legal aid for refugee family reunion cases so people who have lost everything have the support they need to afford and navigate the complicated process of being reunited with their families.
1. Raise the issue of refugee family reunion during the passage of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill and, if the opportunity arises, support any amendments which:
	* Expand the criteria of who qualifies as a family member for the purposes of refugee family reunion allowing adult refugees in the UK to sponsor their adult children and siblings that are under the age of 25; and their parents.
	* Give unaccompanied refugee children in the United Kingdom the right to sponsor their parents and siblings that are under the age of 25 to join them under the refugee family reunion rules;
2. Support the passage of the Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Private Members’ Bill, including by asking the Government to ensure the Bill is granted proper time for debate.

By taking these three actions you can play a crucial role in helping reunite families separated from their loved ones, just when they need them most. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Best wishes

[Your Name]

[Your Address]