

London, 1 May 2018

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you as representatives of EU citizens living in the UK. We are grateful for your support in these uncertain times.

We were alarmed to learn about the recent revelations that are affecting Commonwealth citizens caught up in the Windrush scandal. These reports have heightened our concern that the 'hostile environment' will have detrimental repercussions for EU citizens and their family members (some of whom will be non-EU citizens) when it comes to documenting their status.

We believe that, inevitably, a percentage of EU citizens will not apply for settled status as it will be virtually impossible to reach everyone. These undocumented citizens are likely to be treated as overstayers under the new immigration scheme. They will include children who may only experience the 'hostile environment' many years from now when they seek employment, want to open bank accounts etc. Others may be unable to apply due to lack of mental capacity, disability, language, access to the Internet, IT issues or not being able to afford legal advice.

At present, we are already seeing many instances of landlords, employers, health and social care professionals, banks etc. discriminating against, or excluding, foreign nationals from services.

As you may be aware, the3million have for some time been documenting the effects of the 'hostile environment' on non-UK citizens in the UK, as illustrated on our web page¹.

¹ <https://www.the3million.org.uk/hostile-environment>



In light of the above developments, we respectfully suggest that you and your colleagues from the other EU27 embassies follow the lead of the Commonwealth High Commissioners in asking for a meeting with the Prime Minister.

We wish to make clear that we are not expecting our embassies to interfere in the actions of the UK government. We are merely seeking a diplomatic gesture at the highest level in the form of a joint meeting of EU27 Ambassadors with the Prime Minister. This could serve to voice your concern about potential repercussions of the 'hostile environment' that EU citizens are likely to experience if they face any difficulties in either applying for or evidencing their new immigration status once the UK has left the EU.

We trust that you will give due consideration to our suggestions together with your colleagues.

Kind regards,

Nicolas Hatton

Founding co-chair of **the3million**