

DEAR [name of candidate]

I am writing to you to highlight an issue I believe is of great importance during this election. I have noticed that refugees and asylum seekers are all too often being used as scape goats and as buzzwords by politicians as a way to win votes, and so I am emailing you to ask that in your campaign for this election you do not do this, but instead promise to prioritise the rights and welfare of refugees. I cannot vote for someone who does not value human life. These are real people with real faces, real families, and real stories, not statistics to be used and exploited for party votes.

We learn so much from other cultures and they have just as much value as our own. People from across the world can contribute so much to our nation, and we are enriched as a nation by their contribution. When diversity is celebrated, we can have a country to be proud of. That is why I will be voting for a party who shares this view with me and prioritises looking after the most vulnerable in our society. We are all one race and deserve to recognise our shared humanity. The journey to the UK is difficult, dangerous and, not infrequently, deadly. No one would take that risk for themselves or their children unless they really needed help, and to turn them away is inhumane. How would you feel if it were you who was being turned away? Or your child? Or your best friend?

The words from John's Gospel, chapter 13, verse 34 feel more important now than ever: "A new commandment I give unto you: love one another as I have loved you." I encourage you to use your campaign as a chance to stand up for the rights of those most vulnerable and treat them with the same respect you expect for yourself. How many lives, exactly, is it worth sacrificing to save us from a supposed economic burden?

So many of us and our families have been refugees in the past. Without the openness of countries and people offering a new state, where would we live? That is why I encourage you this general election and if you get elected as an MP, to celebrate and protect refugees and asylum seekers, and not dehumanises them.

In friendship,

[Your name]