



# MIGRANT CHAMPION TEMPLATE MOTION

We uphold the principles of dignity and respect for all by promoting [insert name of council]'s compassionate and welcoming response to asylum seekers, refugees and all migrants.

This is an age of growing xenophobia with the globalisation of the far right from Trump to Orban. In the UK, Hostile Environment policies have blurred the distinction between service provision and immigration enforcement, with the most vulnerable having no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and being left destitute.

This Council commits to:

- Ensuring that migrant residents have a single point of contact in the local council by appointing a Migrant Champion. The post-holder will be able to support migrant residents, and guide the council as to best practice in safeguarding migrants' rights.
- Empowering asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to exercise their rights in conjunction with organisations including [names of local migrants' rights organisations] and our advice centres, ensuring routine access to interpreters and immigration advice. The Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Vulnerable Migrant Coordination Group can play a vital role in ensuring that lived experiences are always at the forefront.
- Listening to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants by supporting existing community networks, such as [local migrant community group]

- Encouraging councillors to sign up to a “place of safety” pledge. [Check if local MP has signed the ‘MPs not border guards’ pledge, and if so, insert: [Local MP] has signed the “MPs not border guards” pledge. This commits us to not reporting residents to the Home Office for immigration enforcement, ensuring all are able to seek confidential advice and representation without fear.]
  - Ensuring none of the Council’s partners participate in maintaining the Hostile Environment by providing data used for detention and deportation to the Home Office. This includes work via advice centres, housing providers, schools, colleges, universities, arts centres, businesses and health services
  - Making sure that all residents can access voluntary and statutory services to meet their basic needs for healthcare, housing, and income. This includes investigations of landlords letting properties in poor conditions; helping EAA migrant rough sleepers to access accommodation and support services, and addressing the isolation of vulnerable migrants through a sanctuary bus pass scheme.
  - Improving access to employment. The equalities action plan committed the Council to a series of sessions aiming to improve understanding of the career paths available, as well as providing support for CV writing/interview advice focused on BAME candidates. Coordinated action with higher education colleges can meet the aims of the action plan and ensure all our residents benefit equally.
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