[MİLLET VEKİLİNİN ADI] MP

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**URGENT**

Dear [Mr] veya [Ms] [MİLLETVEKİLİNİZİN SOYADI],

**Re:      Urgent appeal for assistance to a disadvantaged group of Turkish Self-employed People**

I am one of your constituents.

I write regarding the problems being faced by particular groups of immigrants during the pandemic. The vast majority of immigrants’ leave to remain in the UK is subject to a condition of “No Recourse to Public Funds” (“NRPF”). These include migrant workers, spouses of British citizens and Turkish ECAA Self-employed Persons. The condition of NRPF has not been relaxed even in the face of a global health crisis.

Some of these migrants -e.g. migrant workers- may be able to benefit from the Government Coronavirus Schemes (such as the Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employed Income Support Scheme). Others -e.g. spouses of British citizens- may be able to receive some public funds through their British partners.

However, there is a particular group of immigrants who cannot benefit from any of the Government Coronavirus Schemes or any public funds. This group is Turkish ECAA Self-employed Persons, who came to the UK or established their businesses after April 2019. This group would not be able to benefit from any welfare benefits due to the NRPF condition on their leave. As they are self-employed, the only Government Coronavirus Scheme they would normally qualify for would be the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme. However, this Scheme is not open to anyone who did not submit a self-assessment tax return for 2018-19. Those who did not have a self-employed business before April 2019 could not have been able to file a self-assessment for the financial year 2018-19.

The group of people in question are a vulnerable group who have limited means. They are not rich businesspeople. They are people with a small capital to establish their small businesses with a limited leftover budget to keep them afloat while their business would start generating an income for them. Especially those who arrived in the country shortly before the outbreak have found themselves in a situation where they cannot start their business. Those who have been able to start their business are now unable to trade due to the lockdown. They cannot return to Turkey due to the travel restrictions. There are some who are finding it difficult to meet the cost of their essential needs such as food and accommodation.

What can be done for these people? I think that there are many steps that could be taken. Some of those steps could be the following:

1. The Home Office should relax the NRPF condition temporarily until the pandemic is over, with a confirmation that receiving public funds such as Universal Credit for essential needs such as food and accommodation would not adversely affect the future applications of those affected.
2. As an alternative or in addition to relaxing the NRPF condition, it would help this vulnerable group of people as well as the country if the Home Office were prepared to allow these people to work in essential services as key workers. Again, this would be a temporary arrangement to last until the end of the pandemic. (In normal circumstances, Turkish ECAA Self-employed Persons are only allowed to take up self-employed work, and are not allowed to work as employees).
3. Further or alternatively, a Coronavirus Support Scheme directly addressing the problems of this specific group could be introduced by the Government.

I am quite sure that this group of people were not intentionally left out of the Coronavirus Support Schemes. I believe that they were not thought of in the process, as they are a very small and specific group.

Adequate support should be made available to them until the outbreak is over. This is important, not just as a humanitarian approach, but it is also important in combating the Coronavirus. I would be grateful if you, as my MP, could draw Parliament and the Government’s attention to this matter urgently.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you need any further information or assistance in relation to this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,