



Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP
Member of Parliament for Islington North

Rt. Hon. Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
Unit 2 Marsham Street
SW1P 4DF

8 January 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to share my grave concerns over the government's proposed changes to visa rules for care workers.

In November, you announced your plans to extend the number of years that an individual must have lawfully lived in the UK before they are eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain. Under the proposals, the standard qualifying period will increase from 5 years to 10 years. For care workers on Health and Care Worker visas, the qualifying period is set to triple to 15 years.

These changes are devastating for thousands of health and social care workers, who will now find it much harder to settle in Britain. In turn, this will have a catastrophic impact on the care sector by deepening the already severe workforce crisis.

I have met several constituents in recent weeks who have come to me in distress about the proposed changes. One of my constituents arrived in the UK in September 2023 through the Health and Care Worker Visa route. She described to me the exploitation and precarity she has endured as a care worker, which forced her to take on an additional part-time job to survive. "And yet we continue to care", she said.

She wrote to me saying: "The people we support never saw the pain behind the smile. They saw a carer who held their hand. Who listened. Who reassured. Who made them feel safe. We put smiles on the faces of the nation's loved ones while our own children live with fear and uncertainty. All we ask is that our families, too, be allowed to smile."

She is one of many constituents who are terrified by the proposed changes. Carers, teachers, cleaners, you name it: people who have come to this country and contributed so much are fearful for their future in this country. The government's plans treat care workers with contempt, and exhibit the opposite of gratitude for those who have dedicated their lives to supporting people in need.



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I am writing to amplify my constituents' demands to:

1. **Protect the 5-year ILR qualifying period.**
2. **End employer-tied visas** that allow exploitation to flourish, and instead create a fair, sector-wide sponsorship model.
3. **Introduce a Fair Pay Agreement** to ensure proper pay, rights, and working conditions for care workers.

The government's proposed changes to ILR are part of a much wider assault on the rights and dignity of people who have made this country a better place. The crises we face in society are not caused by migrants and refugees. They're caused by a grotesquely unequal economic system that concentrates wealth and power in the hands of the few.

This government needs to wake up and realise that it will not defeat Reform by imitating them. It will only embolden them. A change in direction is long overdue – and it is time for this government to defend a system of immigration and asylum based on dignity, humanity and respect.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Corbyn
Independent MP for Islington North