

Other ways to engage your MP

We are keen to secure as many local constituency meetings with MPs as possible, but you don't always have to meet with your MP to engage and influence them effectively. Indeed, often receiving a response by email that sets out the MP's position (particularly when it is supportive) is a success in itself. If they do set out their support to you, you should encourage them to take action publicly or privately to advance the issue.

These actions might include:

SHOW YOUR HEART

Whatever sign of support you are gathering as part of the SHOW YOUR HEART activity [[LINK to SHOW YOUR HEART](#)], ask your MP to join in and send theirs along to be included. MPs need local publicity so if they are at all supportive this should be attractive. And invite them to join any local events you are organising to collect signs of support or display your orange hearts.

Social media action

It is always welcome for an MP to publicly set out their support for the issue on social media, using the hashtag #TogetherWithRefugees or #WhoWeAre and calling for an alternative to the Bill. See more in the section on social media [[link to Share your activities on social media](#)].

Taking action in parliament

MPs are also able to ask questions on legislation such as the Bill, or to raise the issue for debate. This is another way of showing their support for refugees while demonstrating to the government the high level of interest in the issue. They will have staff who are experienced in drafting questions, but you can support them to do so using your expertise.

Writing to the Home Secretary

The Home Secretary has the power to change the approach on this legislation or on the wider immigration rules. Asking your MP to write a letter to the minister is a particularly effective way to do this, as by parliamentary convention a minister should reply directly to any letter from an MP - not delegate it to an official to do and sign. Personally signing letters of this kind has a powerful impact on the minister. This can be particularly useful when the MP is from the governing party.

Amplify your MP's public stance

If decision makers do agree to take a public stand against the bill, or for amendments, make plenty of noise about it in the local media. This is extremely useful in demonstrating that your community is united against these harmful proposals and is speaking out with a collective voice. You could also ask the decision makers involved if they would be willing to give any further quotes or interviews alongside experts by experience and local organisations. If they are supportive, you could suggest a picture with the MP, your local group and an orange heart for local media. See more here [[LINK to media section](#)].