**An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of the UK and the Taoiseach of Ireland**

cc: UK Home Secretary and UK Health Secretary,

Irish Health Secretary and Irish Minister for Justice and Equality,

All UK MPs,

All Members of the Irish Parliament (the Oireachtas),

All Leaders and CEOs of Local Authorities and Health Services in the UK,

All CEOs of Councils and Health Services in Ireland,

Professor Neil Ferguson, Imperial College, London,

Dr. Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, Ireland

Prof Ruairi Brugha, Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, Ireland

27th March 2020 (updated 13th July 2020 to reflect additional organisational signatories)

Dear Sirs

**RE: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, HOUSING AND FOOD FOR ALL**

**We call upon the British and Irish States to act immediately so that all undocumented, destitute and migrant people in the legal process in both the UK and Ireland are granted Status Now, as in Leave to Remain. In this way every human, irrespective of their nationality or citizenship can access healthcare, housing, food and the same sources of income from the State as everyone else.**

Everyone has the right to be in an environment where they can follow the Public Health directives necessary to limit COVID19 viral transmission to the absolute minimum and to care for themselves, their loved ones and their living and working communities.

It is imperative - being in everyone’s best interests - that the basic needs of all are met.

People living in extreme poverty and/or destitution and/or without immigration status in the UK or Ireland and/or without access to the NHS or the Irish Health System:

• Are unable to socially isolate as needed

• Cannot access health care, and income and other social support

• Cannot contribute openly and without fear, to making the population as safe as possible, alongside everyone else.

**Key Points**

- Currently, migrant people who are in the legal system cannot keep physically safe on their allowances, because those allowances don’t amount to enough money to eat healthily, or buy and apply appropriate cleaning materials, and many are living in accommodation where they cannot socially isolate as they may want and need to.

- People who are destitute and/or undocumented and living in the shadows fear what will happen to them if they identify themselves, cannot access healthcare, emergency shelter and food, nor report or seek protection from domestic violence, rape, exploitation and other abuses - levels of which are already rising.

Please direct your responses, as a matter of urgency obviously, to ***admin@rapar.org.uk***

Yours sincerely,

**SIGNATORIES of organisations as at 13th July 2020**

**All African Women’s Group**

**Akwaaba**

**ATD Fourth World**

**Asylum Welcome**

**BASW Cymru - British Association of Social Workers, Cymru**

**BFAWU - Bakers’, Food & Allied Workers Union**

**Bent Bars**

**Birmingham Asylum & Refugee Association**

**Black Women’s Rape Action Project**

**Boabab Women's Project**

**Borderlands Charity**

**CARAG (Coventry Asylum and Refugee Action Group)**

**Central England Lipreading Support Trust**

**Choose Love**

**Comhlamh**

**Commonword/Cultureword**

**Communities For All**

**Coventry Against Racism**

**Croydon Refugee & New Communities Forum**

**DocsNotCops**

**Doncaster Conversation Club**

**DPAC – Disabled People Against Cuts**

**EHID - End Heathrow Immigration Detention**

**EYST Wales – Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team, Wales**

**FAF, GAF, LAFA and Feminist Fightback**

**GDWG - Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group**

**Haringey Welcome**

**Highly Skilled Migrants UK**

**Iran Socialist Alternative (London)**

**Kanlungan Filipino Consortium,**

**Kent RefugeeHelp**

**Labour Campaign for Free Movement**

**Legal Action for Women**

**Leicester Quaker Meeting of Sanctuary**

**Lichfield City of Sanctuary**

**Lichfield Quaker Meeting**

**Lichfield Refugee Aid**

**Manchester City of Sanctuary**

**MASI – Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland**

**Medical Professionals in the UK Seeking Registration**

**Middle East Solidarity Magazine**

**Migrants Organise**

**Migrant Voice**

**Migrants Rights Network**

**Migrants Rights Centre Ireland**

**MOJUK - Miscarriages of Justice UK**

**MRRC - Manchester Refugee Rights Collective**

**No-Deportations - Residence Papers for All**

**No Impunity for the Congolese State - NICS**

**Oldham Unity**

**Payday Men's Network**

**Positive Action in Housing**

**Poverty Truth Community**

**Project 17**

**Public Interest Law Centre**

**QARN - Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network**

**Race on the Agenda**

**RADAR - Rochdale Action on Destitution with Asylumseekers and Refugees**

**RAPAR - Refugee and Asylum seeker Participatory Action Research**

**Reclaim the Power**

**Regularise**

**Remodel**

**Samphire**

**Sheba Arts**

**Stand Up to Racism**

**St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church**

**The BaRE UK**

**The3Million**

**Transport Salaried Staffs’ Association**

**Undod**

**Wai Yin Society**

**Women Against Rape**

**Women of Colour/Global Women's Strike**