House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Dear

I am writing to express how horrifying I find the UK Government’s plan to send people seeking asylum 4,000 miles away to Rwanda. I strongly believe that this is a shocking and disastrously ill-conceived plan, which history suggests will end badly.

I ask that you raise our concerns in writing with both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, as well as calling on them to abandon measures in the Nationality and Borders Bill which will do serious damage to the UK's asylum system.

Seven years ago, Israel struck a deal to send refugees and people seeking asylum to Rwanda. The scheme was abandoned. ​But not before people had suffered serious human rights abuses in Rwanda leaving many to embark on new journeys, controlled by smugglers and other abusers, in search of refuge.

Australia’s infamous “offshoring” schemes with Nauru, Manus Island and Papua New Guinea also provide a stark warning. The Australian authorities have spent vast sums of money to prop up a cruel project based on deliberately marooning people in isolated locations where - predictably - mental illness and cases of self-harm have been rife.

To repeat these failed schemes represents a shameful abandonment of the UK’s responsibility to refugees under the Refugee Convention.

Meanwhile, the Government’s draconian Nationality and Borders Bill is set to criminalise many people seeking asylum in the UK, and I urge you to support vital amendments to this Bill made by the House of Lords.

As we’ve seen from terrible crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine, from tragic drownings in the Mediterranean and the Channel and from numerous other zones of conflict and persecution, our world needs to provide humane and efficient means for desperate people to seek safety.

To this country’s everlasting shame, the Home Secretary’s toxic anti-refugee policies are rapidly destroying our own asylum system as well as setting a terrible example to the world.

Yours sincerely,