



# EU CITIZENS' MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE

The EU Citizens' Campaigns Network brings together people from across the UK to build power from the ground up, making our voices heard on the issues which affect our lives. We advocate together for fair and equitable policies, to build a country where EU citizens can thrive and reach their potential.

**We are calling for change on the themes of:**

**1 Exercising rights under the EU Settlement Scheme and the Withdrawal Agreement**

**2 A Fair, Compassionate and Efficient Immigration System for All**

**3 Anti-racist Systems: Equity among EU citizens, standing against racialisation and discrimination**

**4 Promoting EU citizens' representation and participation in British society**

**Endorse this Manifesto:**



For more information, please contact Community Organiser Daphne Giachero on [daphne.giachero@the3million.org.uk](mailto:daphne.giachero@the3million.org.uk)

[www.the3million.org.uk/eu-citizens-manifesto](http://www.the3million.org.uk/eu-citizens-manifesto)



# 1 EXERCISING RIGHTS UNDER THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME AND THE WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

## We call on the next Home Secretary and Immigration Minister to:

1. Fix the digital immigration status system: the 'View & Prove' process relies on a series of web-logins which are not fit for purpose. Instead, introduce a secure QR code app and a physical back-up for vulnerable people.
2. Guarantee the rights of EUSS pre-settled status holders to access welfare support on the same footing as EU citizens with settled status by removing the 'right to reside' test imposed on them, a restriction akin to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
3. Ensure that people who are eligible for (pre-) settled status but who failed to apply can access NHS treatment without charge, by introducing secondary legislation which would allow for backdating the grant of status retrospectively to the missed EU Settlement Scheme application deadline
4. Protect the rights of pre-settled status holders, as ruled by the High Court, regardless of whether they do or do not submit a second application to the EU Settlement Scheme before their pre-settled status expires
5. Process applications by properly resourcing the EU Settlement Scheme within the first six months after the elections, with decision making prioritising compassion, fairness and justice, thereby reducing the current backlog of over 120,000 applications submitted by EU citizens and family members who are waiting in limbo for months
6. Ensure that people who are eligible under the EU Settlement Scheme but apply late are not penalised for doing so
7. Work with the Department of Education (DfE) to investigate and resolve the misclassification of students with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme as "overseas" rather than "home students", who are thereby being wrongly charged higher university fees

# 2

## A FAIR, COMPASSIONATE AND EFFICIENT IMMIGRATION SYSTEM FOR ALL

### We call on the next Home Secretary and Immigration Minister to:

8. Increase migrant voice in the Home Office's policy-making processes by appointing a new Migrants' Commissioner with statutory inquiry powers and proper resources, focussed on bringing the experience of migrants to Government, as also called for in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review
9. Reduce the extortionate cost of immigration applications and simplify pathways to settlement in the UK. Specifically, with regards to Family Reunification:
  - Gold standard: Scrap the Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) for family visa applications
  - Silver standard: if the Minimum Income Requirement must be maintained, it should be proportionate to the full-time National Minimum Wage
10. Make applications for staying in the UK and for becoming a citizen more affordable and straightforward:
  - Scrap the ten-year route settlement
  - Reduce application fees to the level required to cover the administrative cost of processing them
  - Make fee waivers accessible to all people, including adult applicants with limited financial means, not only to child applicants
11. Combat labour exploitation:
  - Strengthen protections for workers by introducing a well-resourced Single Enforcement Body for the enforcement of labour standards, with a data sharing firewall between labour and migration enforcement agencies
  - Instruct the newly appointed Migrants' Commissioner to investigate the ways in which employer-sponsored visas drive labour exploitation and to develop a Migrant Worker Welfare Strategy to enable all workers to report workplace abuse and exit exploitative situations, regardless of their immigration status

# 3 ANTI-RACIST SYSTEMS: EQUITY AMONG EU CITIZENS, STANDING AGAINST RACIALISATION AND DISCRIMINATION

## **We call on the next Home Secretary and Immigration Minister to**

12. Introduce an Equalities Monitoring system for tracking applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme and to all other visa and immigration schemes, in order to monitor the outcomes of applications on the basis of race/ethnicity

## **We call on the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) to**

13. Investigate any racial disparities emerging from the Home Office's equalities data, as well as existing data on proxy variable such as 'place of birth' or 'name', including by utilising research methods such as the dip sampling of cases of individuals whose applications for status under the EUSS scheme were rejected from the nationalities that have a disproportionate rejection rate and where racism is suspected, e.g. East-Timorese Portuguese, Somali Norwegians, etc

## **We call on all Embassies and Consulates representing EU citizens to**

14. Introduce Equalities Monitoring systems within your own processes and work with us to develop an anti-racist strategy to improve your engagement with racialised communities of your nationality

## **We call on the next Minister for Local Government and Communities and the next Minister for Women and Equalities to**

15. Develop a strategy that sets out how public institutions should meet their obligations under the Equality Act to tackle the disadvantages faced by those, such as Central and Eastern Europeans, who are discriminated primarily on the basis of their 'nationality' or 'national origin', including by issuing guidance on the collection and monitoring of data on nationality.

## **We call on third sector organisations working with EU citizens to**

16. Participate in a comprehensive anti-racism training and accountability programme in order to combat the forms of racism that remain prevalent among our communities and so as to foster greater solidarity among EU citizens of all backgrounds.

## **We, the3million and EU Citizens' Campaigns Network, commit to**

Recruit a data specialist to equip our communities with the data on race and nationality that they need to be able to illustrate the inequalities we face to funders, public institutions and policy-makers;

Recruit a Project Manager to develop and oversee the aforementioned anti-racism and accountability programme

# 4 PROMOTING EU CITIZENS' REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN BRITISH SOCIETY

## 17. We call on the next government to

- Extend residence-based voting rights to local elections in England and Northern Ireland
- Introduce residence-based voting rights in Parliamentary Elections across the UK, i.e. granting people with indefinite leave to remain the right to vote in General Elections

## 18. We call on the next Minister for Communities and Local Government to:

- Work with us to develop a community engagement strategy which identifies models of best practice for meaningfully engaging with EU citizens, especially with Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) communities
- Work with us to convene roundtables of key stakeholders from relevant public institutions - such as Local Authorities, NHS Trusts and police forces - to implementation such a community engagement strategy and thereby enable CEE communities to play a greater role in the development of the strategies and policies which affect them

## 19. We call on Local Authorities to

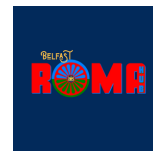
Implement initiatives aimed at increase the representation of EU citizens among their elected local Councillors and among their staff, for example by working with Migrant Democracy Project and the Social Equity Centre to roll out their “Political Leadership” and “Public Sector Inclusive Leadership” programmes.

## 20. We call on funders to

Work with us to improve their understanding of the particular position of Central and Eastern European (CEE) communities in British society, which is marked both by White privilege as well as by systemic forms of discrimination and exclusion that render them a ‘minoritised’ community that should be integrated into funders’ Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategies. As part of this, work with us to ensure that your grant applications and diversity monitoring processes allow for the recording of CEE identities by taking nationality or national origin into account.

21. We call on the next Home Secretary and Immigration Minister to meet with the 3million and the EU Citizens' Campaigns Network at least twice a year in a spirit of collaboration and accountability in order to monitor progress against the policy proposals outlined in this Manifesto.

This Manifesto has been produced thanks to the participation of hundreds of people as part of over 50 'listening sessions' held with grassroots communities throughout the UK and thanks to the input and expertise of organisations across the migration sector, whose own reports and policy recommendations have informed ours:



Latvian Saturday School, Peterborough  
 Consulate General of Romania  
 Polish Saturday School in Dungannon  
 European Somali Community in the Midlands  
 Hungarian Saturday Schools in Woking and Omagh  
 Hungarian Association of British Alumni

German-speaking Congregations in Scotland and North-East England  
 French Saturday School La Récré, Southampton  
 Allemann Fun German Saturday School  
 Edinburgh Lusofonias Oficinas de Português  
 Asociación Española Alba